# 08-03-2026 Selectboard Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

**August 3, 2026, 6:00 PM**

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jennifer Morway called the Grand Isle Selectboard Meeting to order on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM at 9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, Vermont, and via Zoom.

### a. Board Members Present:

Present: Jennifer Morway (Chair), Aimee Cochran (Vice Chair), Jeff Parizo, Ron Bushway, Ellen Howrigan

### b. Board Members via Zoom:

None.

### c. Community Members Present:

Sharyn Layfield, Sally Picard, Colleen Bushway, Melissa Howes, Jeanne Prouty, Lucille Campbell, Amy Thompson, Rachael Griggs, Sue Lawrence, Sara Santor.

### d. Community Members via Zoom:

Esther Blow and Emily Clark.

## II. Amend Agenda for Matters NOT Listed

Chair Morway opened the floor for amendments to the agenda.

Board Member Ron Bushway stated that, on the advice of the town attorney, he needed to make a public disclosure regarding a possible conflict of interest. After brief discussion, it was agreed this item would be addressed under the Highway Department Update.

Emily Clark, participating via Zoom, advised the Board that the Planning Commission intended to apply for a municipal planning grant to help design the landscaping and town green area around the new library. She noted the application deadline was approximately mid-September and that the Planning Commission expected to apply for the maximum amount of approximately $30,000, with a ten percent match. She indicated a draft summary statement would be presented at the Board's next meeting. Chair Morway acknowledged the announcement and encouraged Ms. Clark to remain on the call for the community garden guest presentation, noting that the two efforts would complement one another as part of a broader master plan for the town green.

Community member Amy Thompson also noted that a prior discussion had raised the idea of planting a community Christmas tree for the holidays. Chair Morway indicated that she believed library board member Diana Arfine was working on something in that regard and encouraged the participant to reach out to Ms. Arfine directly.

Community member Melissa Howes indicated she wished to speak during Public Comment, and Chair Morway directed her to that portion of the agenda.

Chair Morway noted that the grant amendment approval under Library Update (Item X.b.) would be tabled, as the Board did not yet have everything needed to act on it. She also noted that at least three

Board members would be attending a Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Selectboard roundtable scheduled for August 20th, advising the full Board of the event.

## III. Public Comment

Community member Melissa Howes addressed the Board at length regarding the proposed Town Charter and the recurring question of appointing the town treasurer. The speaker referenced Webster's definition of a mandate as "an authorization to act given to a representative," and proceeded to outline the history of voter sentiment on the issue. Ms. Howes noted that a ballot question authorizing the electorate to appoint a town treasurer had been voted down the prior year, that the Grand Isle Charter dated January 2026—which included an appointed treasurer provision—had also been voted down at the ballot, and that the subsequent town-wide survey produced a majority against on every question posed, including the treasurer question.

Ms. Howes read the specific survey results into the record: 43 respondents voted "1" (do not support at all) on the question of changing the treasurer to an appointed position; 5 voted "2"; 6 voted "3"; 17 voted "4"; and 25 voted "5" (strongly support), yielding, in the speaker's calculation, 48 against and 42 in favor, with 6 ambivalent. Ms. Howes challenged the Board's prior characterization that a score of "3" should be read as being in favor, stating that many voters would interpret a middle score as ambivalence rather than support. Ms. Howes also took issue with a prior Board statement in which respondents at the extreme ends of the scale were described as falling into identifiable factions, and questioned the methodology of focusing on a median score.

Ms. Howes expressed personal offense that the Board did not appear to be listening to the voters, acknowledged having served on boards at various levels including the federal level, and stated firmly: "This is not how to keep this from being divisive. This action will further divide the town, frankly." She emphasized having no personal animosity toward any Board member or toward the current town treasurer, and urged the Board to take more time before proceeding.

Chair Morway responded at length. She noted the survey was an imperfect instrument—she had asked her own large family not to participate in order to try to hear from those not usually heard from—and acknowledged that, in hindsight, the Board should have asked respondents how they learned about the survey, suspecting that most responses came through Front Porch Forum. She then explained the reason the Board had continued to return to this issue: "The reason you continue to see this presented has nothing to do with the town treasurer. It has to do with a very serious situation this town is currently in, and this is kind of the last ditch effort before budgeting season." She elaborated that a November vote would land before the budget finalization in December and the March ballot, giving the Board the ability to act on the results in time to include any funding changes in the next budget cycle. Placing items on the March ballot without prior budgeting would, she explained, leave the town approving something for which there was no money.

Vice Chair Aimee Cochran offered a personal disclosure, noting that before joining the Board she had voted against changing the treasurer to an appointed position because she believed the prior Board was trying to take away the current treasurer's job. Now that she was on the Board, she said she understood that was not what was happening, and that the intent was really to plan for the future and to provide the treasurer—and whoever might hold that position going forward—with greater job security and appropriate compensation. She also clarified that that under the current elected structure, the treasurer must stand for re-election every three years.

Board Member Jeff Parizo raised a point of order, suggesting the Board move the substantive Old Business item (XIII.a., Proposed Town Charter Language) up on the agenda to facilitate more structured discussion. After brief deliberation, the Board agreed to move that item to follow the Library Update.

Lucille Campbell, present as a representative of the Grand Isle Historical Society, requested that her public comment be deferred to the discussion of Old Business Item XIII.b. (future use of the current library building), which the Board accommodated.

Sally Picard, representing the historical society requested similar accommodation to speak during the library building discussion, which was also granted.

# IV. Review and Approve Minutes

## a. 07/20/26 Minutes

Board Member Ellen Howrigan moved to approve the July 20, 2026 minutes with corrections. Board Member Jeff Parizo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

# V. Guests

## a. Sharyn Layfield regarding community garden at new library to honor Jane Pomykala

Sharyn Layfield addressed the Board, explaining that she had been thinking about how to honor the memory of Jane Pomykala—a community member she described as having been deeply important to the town—and that several people had responded to a Front Porch Forum post she made, expressing interest in creating a small garden at the new library in Jane's memory. Ms. Layfield said she was not a highly experienced gardener herself and would welcome the participation of skilled gardeners from the community. She floated the idea of a rose garden with a bench and mentioned she would consider asking Jane's family about her favorite flowers.

Board Members Ellen Howrigan and Jeff Parizo expressed enthusiasm, and Mr. Parizo noted the idea tied naturally into the work Emily Clark and the Planning Commission were already doing regarding a master plan for the town green funded by the anticipated municipal planning grant. Chair Morway expanded on this, explaining that the Planning Commission had been working to incorporate a range of earlier community ideas—walking paths, green space design, and similar concepts—into a cohesive master plan, and encouraged Ms. Layfield to reach out to the Planning Commission, which meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at the same location, including via Zoom.

Chair Morway also noted that the effort might connect with programs such as WCAX's "Plant an Extra Row" initiative, and suggested reaching out to the food shelf as well. Emily Clark, via Zoom, affirmed that a memorial garden concept had been raised before alongside ideas for community food gardens, and that these would be among the ideas the Planning Commission would compile in its master plan framework.

# VI. Review and Sign Warrants

Select Board Member Jeff Parizo moved that the Chair sign the warrants with possible corrections. Board Member Ron Bushway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

# VII. Financials

Chair Morway noted that the full financial report remained in very early draft form and would not be presented at this meeting. She did provide an update on delinquent taxes: as of the prior meeting, the figure had stood at approximately $226,000. As of the preceding Friday, that figure had been reduced to $214,678, representing approximately $12,000 collected over the two-week period. Chair Morway acknowledged the number remained far too high but expressed that Town Treasurer Melissa Boutin and others were actively working to address it, and the Board would continue to provide updates.

## VIII. Highway Department Update

Board Member Ron Bushway, serving as road commissioner, reported on current highway department activities in the absence of Road Foreman Steve More. He noted the department was still engaged in highway mowing and that a new mowing tractor had been expected to arrive that day, though he had not yet confirmed its receipt. Work was also continuing on graveling at Marycrest Beach following recent paving, and a significant amount of highway department labor had been directed toward the new library construction site, though that work was described as nearing completion for the time being.

Mr. Bushway then informed the Board that Hyde Road would be closed to through traffic the following Monday for a culvert replacement, with a second culvert to be addressed the week after. He indicated the closure would run from the present location to Reynolds Road, with local resident access maintained. He noted he would post notice on Front Porch Forum.

Community member Jeanne Prouty raised a concern about a stop sign that had been found on the ground over the weekend. Mr. Bushway acknowledged the report and indicated it would be addressed.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure — Ron Bushway

Mr. Bushway then addressed the conflict of interest matter he had flagged at the beginning of the meeting. He read a letter into the record addressed to all Grand Isle Selectboard members, stating the following in substance:

Approximately ten months prior, during the hiring process for a highway department employee, Mr. Bushway had participated in the interview of five candidates. One of those candidates was, at the time, a tenant of his. Mr. Bushway stated he should have left the room during that individual's interview but did not, though he believed he did not ask any questions during it. When the candidate was ultimately hired, Mr. Bushway did recuse himself from the vote, and he also recused himself from a subsequent vote to grant the employee a raise. However, on both occasions, he recused himself without publicly stating his reason—specifically, that the employee was his tenant—which he acknowledged did not comply with the statewide municipal code of ethics that took effect January 1, 2025. He had contacted the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for initial guidance, and also received a detailed letter from the town attorney on the matter, which he reviewed on the Saturday prior to the meeting. He expressed regret for the oversight and stated it was being disclosed publicly as required. No Board action was taken.

## IX. Buildings Facilities Manager Update

Board Member Ron Bushway, who also serves as facilities manager, provided the following building updates:

The lock on the old library building had recently failed and had been replaced. A window sash on the east side of the Town Office building had been falling apart and was repaired. Mr. Bushway reported that he had inspected all fire extinguishers across all town buildings and found them all up to date. He noted that the bottom filters on the air handling units at the fire station—four units in total—needed replacement, which he hoped to complete that week.

Mr. Bushway also flagged that the bulkhead at the Town Office building was rotting out and in need of replacement. Board Member Parizo suggested the Board explore whether, instead of a standard bulkhead replacement, an enclosure with a door might be more practical—easier to access and better at shedding rain away from the basement opening. He also noted that historically, heavy salt use may have caused the deterioration and that ice melt was now being used instead. Mr. Parizo requested that a price be obtained for an enclosure option. Mr. Bushway agreed to follow up.

# X. Library Update

## a. Engineering and permit approval

Board Member Jeff Parizo provided an update on the library construction project. He reported that the solar installation was complete. The HVAC work inside the building was continuing, with three of Bernie Gages' vehicles on site that day. The electrician (MEI) was also progressing, and Mr. Parizo anticipated that foam insulation would begin later in the week if conditions allowed.

Mr. Parizo reported that following a Thursday meeting involving himself, Road Foreman Steve More, and the civil engineer, it was confirmed that existing pavement needed to be removed and the sidewalk extended as shown on site, due to the storm water permit requirements. He stated he had pushed back on this as much as possible but that compliance was required.

During the same meeting, discussion turned to the pavilion and the generator, both of which would now require a return to storm water permitting for approval, as well as an Act 250 amendment. In connection with the Act 250 permit amendment, Mr. Parizo requested that the EV charger be removed from the project scope. He explained that while the infrastructure for the EV charger had been installed, he was not comfortable committing town residents to paying for electricity for public vehicle charging without written documentation on metering arrangements. He noted that if the EV charger were successfully removed from the scope, it would represent a $20,000 savings. Regardless of the EV charger outcome, engineering for the generator and pavilion would be required and would cost up to $5,000.

Mr. Parizo formally requested Board approval for up to $5,000 in engineering expenditures for the generator and pavilion components of the project.

Chair Morway presented updated project financial figures: total spent to date and to be billed to the library grant, including a large recent payment, stood at $939,345. Library grant balance available: $741,542. MERP grant balance available: $77,000. Library contribution balance: approximately $100,000. Total funding still available: $918,913. Approximate outstanding construction balance: $854,735. This yielded a current surplus of approximately $64,177 without drawing on any additional formerly ARPA designated funds and excluding architect's fees from the outset that were not grant-reimbursable.

> Board Member Ellen Howrigan moved to approve an expenditure of up to $5,000 for engineering for the generator and pavilion, to come out of funds allocated to the project. Board Member Ron Bushway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## b. Grant amendment approval

This item was tabled, as the Board did not yet have the necessary documentation to act.

# XI. IT Update

## a. IT service provider – discuss options ahead of contract renewal/RFP process

Chair Morway reported that Selectboard Administrator Sara Santor had initiated a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for IT services. She noted that the current IT contract—originally held with SNS and now held by Thrive following a corporate acquisition—does not expire until the end of 2027. The Board discussed whether there was value in pursuing an early exit from that contract given service quality concerns since the acquisition.

Chair Morway described a significant security incident that had occurred the prior week, which she did not wish to detail in open session, but which she characterized as serious—particularly troubling because Thrive could not identify how the incident occurred and maintained logs for only thirty days. She also described ongoing difficulties with the 1-800 support line, including communication barriers with support staff, and a protracted, unresolved effort to transfer website domain ownership to the Town from SNS's legacy systems.

Mr. Parizo suggested reaching out directly to the former owner of SNS, who resides in Grand Isle, to see if he could assist in expediting the domain transfer. Chair Morway noted she had tried to reach one of the former SNS principals approximately ten times without a response on related matters, but agreed it was worth attempting.

Sue Lawrence noted that calling Thrive's support line required callers to identify the municipality they were calling from and that language barriers and routing issues frequently delayed resolution.

Board Member Ellen Howrigan expressed that the Board should assess what it would gain and lose from an early exit, acknowledging that the service issues and the security incident were real concerns. Board Member Jeff Parizo asked whether there had been identifiable service problems, stating he had not personally observed them; Chair Morway confirmed the issues were real and provided specifics she had been tracking.

The Board agreed that the most logical path forward would be for Chair Morway to first contact Thrive directly to explore whether an early exit from the contract was possible and on what terms, with the backup plan of sending the contract to the town attorney for review if necessary. The Board expressed consensus that there was no point in launching a formal RFP—which took approximately six months the last time—unless they could first confirm the ability to exit the current contract.

Vice Chair Cochran emphasized that before any transition, the website domain issue needed to be resolved so that the town would not lose control of its web presence.

# XIII. Old Business

[Note: Per Board agreement at the outset of the meeting, Old Business Item XIII.a. was moved up and addressed prior to New Business.]

## a. Proposed Town Charter Language - possible action

Chair Morway introduced the revised town charter language, which had been sent to the town attorney for review and redrafting since the last meeting. She noted the language would need to be read aloud at public hearings if the Board chose to move forward.

She summarized the document's scope: much of the language from earlier versions remained, providing governance rules for the Selectboard as well as establishing a framework for newly proposed appointed positions. She noted that unlike the prior charter draft, this version contained no local option tax provisions. The current version also included a new provision—added at the attorney's suggestion and subject to removal—requiring that members of the Planning Commission and Development Review Board (DRB) be town voters.

Mr. Parizo expressed support for the voter residency requirement, stating that people making decisions about subdivisions and land use should be neighbors and residents of Grand Isle.

Chair Morway then addressed the transition language the attorney had drafted for elected officials moving into appointed roles. The relevant provision stated that any official previously elected to a position that would now become appointed shall continue to serve until the end of their elected term, at which point they may apply to the Selectboard for appointment. Chair Morway had asked the attorney whether this could be modified to provide for automatic appointment upon term expiration rather than requiring an application process. The attorney's response, she relayed, was that this was not advisable: an appointed position carries different legal obligations than a hired position, and the town would need to go through an official appointment process—including public notice—rather than simply converting an elected official directly into an appointed one.

This prompted discussion about section 8 of the draft charter, which was read into the record by community member Melissa Howes: "All those serving in appointed positions, either as member of a board or commission or separate office, shall be removed for any or no cause upon majority vote and written notice from the select board." Several present questioned whether this "for any or no cause" language conflicted with state statute governing appointed positions. Chair Morway acknowledged she had not caught that provision in her review and committed to raising it specifically with the town attorney, noting that per a prior attorney communication, removing an appointed official required just cause, due notice, and a hearing under 17 V.S.A. § 2651, which is a higher bar than simple at-will termination.

Discussion then turned to the financial implications of making the town treasurer a full time position. Chair Morway presented the current budget figures for context: the town clerk and assistant clerk budget for the fiscal year that ended in June was $80,000 for two people (one full-time, one part-time); the treasurer and assistant treasurer budget was $37,000. Health and dental benefits were provided for one person—the town clerk—but not the treasurer.

Chair Morway explained that the current arrangement effectively required the town treasurer to also serve as town clerk simply to earn a living wage, but that the treasurer's workload had grown to the point where it was no longer feasible for one person to perform both jobs at the level the town required. She referenced multiple prior open meeting statements by Town Treasurer Melissa Boutin herself to the effect that the treasurer position needed to become full-time. Mr. Parizo confirmed he recalled Ms. Boutin stating in an open meeting that the treasurer's job should be full time and that she had indicated she would eventually need to discuss splitting the jobs. He noted: "The job has outgrown a part time elected position. It really has."

Vice Chair Cochran noted that the issue of the listers also factored into the urgency, as the lister situation carried a 45-day statutory response period if placed on a ballot, creating a tight timeline. Chair Morway added that the charter was now essentially the only mechanism that would allow the Board to address both the treasurer and lister/assessor situations within the current budget planning cycle.

A community member asked what full-time treasurer compensation would look like and where the money would come from. Chair Morway acknowledged these were questions that would be worked out as part of the budget process if the November vote succeeded, noting the timing was specifically chosen to land before budget finalization in December. She added that online research suggested certified tax assessor salaries in Vermont ranged between $80,000 and $110,000 before benefits.

Mr. Parizo and Chair Morway both emphasized that one of the most important functions of appointing rather than electing the treasurer was the ability to set qualifications for the position. Under the current elected structure, anyone can appear on the ballot regardless of qualifications. Mr. Parizo stated: "We don't know if a new elected person would be doing that job with no qualifications. It could be me. It could be Jeanne. But that's the problem. We don't get to decide. And the voters, you're right—you would get to decide. But what if we pick the wrong person? And we have no recourse for 3 years."

Emily Clark, via Zoom, offered a broader historical observation, noting that in many small Vermont towns, the practice of one person holding the town clerk, town treasurer, and other part-time titles simultaneously had developed as a way to assemble a living wage from a collection of small part-time positions. She suggested that as the Board moved toward creating genuinely full-time salaried professional positions, it might be worth including provisions in the charter or job descriptions that restrict those full-time employees from also holding paid positions for other town entities or committees, to avoid a continuation of that historical pattern. Chair Morway acknowledged this as a good point and said it was something to incorporate into draft job descriptions.

Melissa Howes continued to push back, arguing that the voters were capable of electing a qualified candidate and questioning whether a Selectboard was better positioned than the electorate to judge qualifications. Board Member Howrigan responded by noting that as an elected position, there are currently no legal qualifications that can be imposed on candidates, meaning a highly unqualified person could be elected and the town would have no recourse for three years. She framed the charter as a protection for the town against that risk.

Mrs. Howes asked whether the motion would be to move forward with the charter language as currently drafted. Chair Morway confirmed that moving forward would mean initiating the two public hearing process, during which revisions—including addressing the section 8 language—could be made. She added that at the conclusion of the public hearings, the Board would decide whether to place the charter on the November ballot, and that nothing was irreversible at this stage: "We may come out of a public hearing and say, you know what, we're just not gonna do it."

Chair Morway noted this was the last regular meeting before the deadline to initiate the process for a November ballot, referencing the adjusted schedule due to Labor Day moving the previously planned September 7th hearing to August 31st.

> Board Member Jeff Parizo moved to move forward with the proposed town charter language and proceed to public hearings. Board Member Ellen Howrigan seconded the motion.

Board Member Howrigan added a comment before the vote, thanking the community member (Melissa Howes) for her remarks and clarifying that the survey was distributed in the spirit of gathering feedback, was not scientific, was not completed by any Board members, and that its results were not binding or "set in stone."

Chair Morway added: "Besides this town charter, nobody shows up to these meetings. Nobody gives any feedback to this town. Nobody shows up when they're asking for help over and over again. And I don't think anyone else really knows what to do. So when you've elected a board that's saying, we don't know what else to do—this is really what we got for you guys."

The vote was called.

> The motion carried 4-0-1, with Board Member Ron Bushway abstaining, stating he was unsure about all of the language and wished to see how the public hearing process unfolded.

# XII. New Business

## a. Permit for laying pipes and wires under roadway between 36 and 33 Griswold Road

Board Member Ron Bushway presented the permit application for laying pipes and wires under the roadway between 36 and 33 Griswold Road. He noted that Road Foreman Steve More had specified that the work is to be completed by jack-and-bore or directional drill—no open road cut—and that no wet material is to be backfilled on the road shoulder; if material is backfilled on the shoulder, it must be 1.5 plant mix.

> Board Member Jeff Parizo moved to approve the permit for laying pipes and wires under the roadway between 36 and 33 Griswold Road as presented. Board Member Ron Bushway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## b. November ballot - approve use of back side for Justices of the Peace

Chair Morway explained that Town Clerk Melissa Boutin had requested a Board motion to approve the use of the back side of the November ballot for the Justice of the Peace section, in order to accommodate all necessary content on a single sheet of paper. Chair Morway noted the practical concern that some voters in March had not realized there was content on the back of the ballot, and the Board agreed that poll workers should explicitly inform voters of the two-sided ballot when handing them out.

> Board Member Jeff Parizo moved to approve the use of the back side of the ballot for the Justices of the Peace for the November ballot. Board Member Ron Bushway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

# XIII. Old Business (continued)

## b. Results from town wide survey and proposed future use of current Library building - possible action

Chair Morway introduced this item and recognized Lucille Campbell to deliver her previously deferred public comment on behalf of the Grand Isle Historical Society.

Ms. Campbell stated she was speaking on behalf of the full Historical Society board, including Jeanne Prouty, Colleen Bushway, Judi Reposa, and Suzanne Moquin, all of whom had approved her remarks. She posed a series of questions to the Selectboard for consideration rather than immediate response: whether the Board had received any serious inquiries about the use of the space from anyone other than the Historical Society; whether Board members had visited the South Hero Museum, which occupies a former library building of similar age and size and has been successfully converted into a display space for South Hero's history; and whether Board members had visited the Historical Society's current buildings in Grand Isle to appreciate the quality of the history displays already created there.

Ms. Campbell explained that the Historical Society had financial resources and a sizable donation of artifacts to bring to bear, and that using the current library building as a museum would allow the Corner School to refocus on its original educational purpose rather than serving as a catch-all for historical items. She also offered a historical note: approximately 100 years prior, on July 9, 1926, the library trustees formally handed the then-new library building over to the Selectboard chairman, who accepted it on behalf of the town. She remarked: "So 100 years later, you're still talking about that."

Discussion followed regarding the Historical Society's needs and vision. Chair Morway noted that up until this meeting she had believed a shared-use arrangement for the building might satisfy all parties, but Ms. Campbell indicated the Society's position had shifted: the offer of a substantial donation of artifacts from community member Sally Picard —including large historical newspapers, collections of period eyeglasses, baskets, atlases, and other irreplaceable items—had led the Society to conclude they would likely need the full building.

Sally Picard, the community member offering the artifact donation, brought several items to the meeting to illustrate the scale and nature of the collection, including a large-format Burlington Free Press from December 20, 1878, a second publication printed on cloth, and a collection of antique eyeglasses of various styles and eras, donated by a Plattsburgh, New York optometrist. She noted the items were fragile and could not remain in her basement indefinitely, and that a climate-controlled display environment was needed. She encouraged Board members to visit her home to see the full scope of the collection. She cited the South Hero Museum as a successful model: "There's really isn't room to meet. So it's almost the same size building—go to South Hero, walk in, and just enjoy it. But I don't think it's an appropriate place to have a Boy Scout meeting or a 4-H meeting."

Board Member Ron Bushway confirmed he had visited the South Hero Museum and agreed with that characterization.

Community member Rachael Griggs expressed enthusiasm for the idea, describing it as a potential tourist attraction. Community member Amy Thompson suggested that high school students from the island—who attend schools off-island and are required to complete community service hours—could be engaged as volunteers, and proposed a fall festival or open house event as a way to generate community investment. Colleen Bushway, a former librarian, confirmed that when she was in that role she had successfully contacted guidance offices at South Burlington and Essex high schools and had secured Grand Isle students as volunteers who, she noted, often exceeded their required hours voluntarily.

A community member noted that the Historical Society had previously been told—before COVID—that they would be first in consideration for the building once it became available, and expressed some frustration that the process had been slow. Ms. Campbell confirmed the Society had no permanent home and was the only historical society on the islands without one, which severely constrained their ability to host visitors, conduct research, or hold programs in the winter months when their other buildings lacked heat.

Chair Morway suggested the matter may warranta town vote before any formal decision was made to dedicate the building exclusively to the Historical Society, noting that there were other community needs—including the Recreation Committee and other groups—that had not yet formally presented proposals.

The item was not formally acted upon and will be carried forward to a future meeting.

### c. Review speed study results

Vice Chair Aimee Cochran presented the results of the speed study conducted near the Emmons Store area, where the posted speed limit is 35 mph. She explained that the standard methodology for speed studies looks at the 85th percentile of observed speeds; to qualify for a permit to install speed feedback signs, the 85th percentile must exceed the posted limit by at least 5 mph. The Grand Isle study showed the 85th percentile speed at 14 mph over the limit, meaning observed speeds in that range were approximately 49 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Ms. Cochran noted this result makes the town eligible to apply for a Vermont Agency of Transportation BT-111 permit for speed feedback signage. She had researched vendors and received quotes: an online cart she assembled came to approximately $10,300, and a follow-up quote from All Traffic Solutions came in at approximately $7,500. She stated she would pursue grant funding before proceeding to procurement.

Rachael Griggs raised concerns about speeding on Lovers Lane, particularly given its narrow width and visibility limitations. Ms. Cochran noted a speed study would first be required for that location. Mr. Parizo stated he had personally observed vehicles becoming airborne over a rise in that road and agreed something needed to be done. The Board discussed signage options for that and other roads—including Hanson Lane—noting that not all locations require a state permit. The Board directed Ms. Cochran to look into grants for the BT-111 sign and to coordinate with Road Foreman Steve More on interim signage options for other roads.

### d. Community information outreach options and brainstorm session

This item was tabled. Chair Morway noted she intended to continue work on a community newsletter concept that had been discussed at the prior meeting, referencing tax bill inserts and informational mailers from neighboring towns as models. She indicated she hoped to include information on topics such as town hall hours, upcoming tax payment deadlines, how to enroll in automatic tax payments, upcoming elections, and highway department updates such as easement mowing schedules. She suggested a focused initial effort tied to the upcoming tax bills, which were expected to go out within approximately one month. The broader brainstorm session will be carried to a future meeting.

## XIV. Executive Session

> Chair Jennifer Morway moved to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter citing 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2), that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Board Member Jeff Parizo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at approximately 8:19 PM.

The Board returned from executive session at approximately 8:45 PM.

> Board Member Jeff Parizo moved to appoint Steve More as interim Co-Road Commissioner. Board Member Ellen Howrigan seconded the motion. Board Member Ron Bushway abstained from the vote as a precautionary measure given the disclosed conflict of interest. The motion carried 4-0-1.

## XV. Administrative Check-In

No administrative check-in items were recorded.

## XVI. Adjournment

Board Member Jeff Parizo moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Cochran and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.