

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
September 21, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Adam White called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

Board Members Present: Adam White-Chair, Mark Cobb-Vice Chair, AnnaMarie DeMars, John Lawrence and Bill Baron

Board Members Not Present:

II. Guests: Adam Miller from VT Fish and Wildlife Department and Martha Staskvs from Vermont Environmental Research Associates to discuss the Solar Project at the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery in Grand Isle.

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway and David Brothwick-Leslie

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed:

Ed Weed Fish Hatchery Solar Panels: Adam Miller talked about the background of the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery at the Grand Isle station. He explained in a power point presentation the location and specifics of installing a 500KW system with approximately 5 acres of solar panels at the fish culture station in Grand Isle.

Martha Staskvs said the Agency of Natural Resources is looking to use solar trackers verses a fixed array. She explained where the trackers would go, the permit process and timelines. The panels will go on land that is already cleared, no trees will be cut down and the land will still be kept open for public uses such as bird watching, hiking and hunting. This is a net meter project and all electricity generated will be used by the Fish Hatchery. A letter will be going out to the Grand Isle Selectboard, Planning Commission and adjoining property owners explaining all the details for the project.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: For the minutes of August 31, 2015 Mark noted that the discussion on the Poratti Property should not have been discussed under the Fire Station update. This property is to be listed as a separate matter. Bill makes a motion to accept the minutes of August 31, 2015. John seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

The minutes of August 17 and 24 will be rewritten and sent to the Selectboard for review and approval at a later meeting.

IV. FIRE STATION UPDATE: Mark explained the anticipated cost increase on the fire station. He has asked Dore and Whittier Architects to move forward with design changes approved earlier this summer which include a change in the roof pitch, removal of the third bay wall, adding the third bay and using the

Poratti property site. These are structural and cosmetic designs at this point and they are working around the site work and will end up with a station design but the foundation design will not be done at this point, as the Town does not own this property.

Going forward, Dore and Whittier will present a figure, which is expected to be in excess of 1.75 million dollars. At this point, in November, the voters will be asked for the authority to finish the transaction on the Poratti property as well as for additional funds for the fire station building. The Selectboard agreed to do this concurrently.

- V. PORATTI PROPERTY UPDATE:** After getting Dore and Whittier and Engineering Ventures reports a November vote date will be set for the purchase of the Poratti property. The Selectboard will be holding two informational meetings for discussions regarding this and additional funds for the fire station as two separate discussions at each meeting as the two items should not be connected.

Bill and Mark discuss what was on the Dore and Whittier report regarding the State mandated (septic capacity) employee and visitor estimates which states the Highway Department has 5 employees and the fire station 1 employee and 30 visitors per day. The report is talking about 695 gallons (waste water) per day. Based on the State figures we have an 11-gallon shortfall. Mark said one of the suggestions to mitigate that is to move the Highway facility to another part of the town.

Discussions included the existing waste water system and if it can be used in the future. This system will be grandfathered in until such time this building (Town Office) is modified. Also apparatus wash water can sheet flow into a catch basin or greens space verses putting it into some sort of storage capacity. Mark will check into this and clarify it. A depression area looks like it will be for the storm water runoff.

Mark explained the mitigation agreement. Initially of the 4.8 acres there is 3.52 acres of prime agriculture soil located on the property. The agreement between Vermont Housing and the Agency of Agriculture for offsite mitigation is a onetime \$12,000 payment with a 3% increase allowed for inflation. Or, the swapping of 8.21 acres to offset the 3.52 acres being used for building. "This mitigation agreement or any provision here of may be wavered, changed, discharged or terminated only by an instrument in writing signed by the party or parties against which the enforcement of the change, waver, discharge or termination may be sought."

Lastly they talked about some of the site limitations such as sprinkler water, wash water holding and the amounts of times the fire trucks are washed. Adam said they are not washed from about November to April and maybe once a month the rest of the time.

- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**
November Election Date: Around the first of November there will be a post card mailing to town residence regarding the informational meetings on the proposed

purchase of the Poratti property, the increase in cost for the new fire station and the upcoming November vote. The dates for the two meetings were tentatively set for Saturday, November 7, 1:00PM and Tuesday evening, November 10th at 7:PM. Adam will contact the school to see if the meetings can be held there. The date for voting on these two separate yes or no ballots are November 17th and will be held at the Town Office.

Lovers Lane Permit: A permit submitted to lay pipe and wires in the Town right of way to 25 Lovers Lane was discussed. A change was made in the permit stating that the Town is not responsible for identifying and locating the right of way. Locating and identifying is the responsibility of the property owner. AnnaMarie makes a motion to grant the application for the permit for laying pipes and wires on 25 Lovers Lane with the change and conditions set by Brad Sheridan, G.I. Road Foreman and the Selectboard. Bill seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Business Forum: Adam suggests a forum with area businesses to get ideas to attract new businesses to Grand Isle and expand current businesses. Ideas and differences were discussed.

Town Survey/Mailing: Adam will send the Board copies of the surveys completed in 2005-2006 to review. The Selectboard will discuss the idea of revising and sending out a town survey.

Transfer Station Stickers/Survey: AnnaMarie said new Transfer Stickers were sent out last week with the tax bills. Mark thinks the Transfer Station survey should be done or decide if the rates should be raised. Some residents of South Hero didn't know they could use our Transfer Station. There is a fee of \$25/year for non-residents. Mark will contact John Leddy from Northwest Solid Waste District to see if he can come to the next meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

Shared Services: After the meeting with the South Hero Selectboard on September 14, Bill sent out a request to the seven members of the working group and all Grand Isle Selectboard members to list the top three programs for shared services. He reported the findings and stated that South Hero will have to apply for the grant. He also plans to visit the South Hero Selectboard next week to give them information he received.

Development Review Board Computer: Adam reports the DRB computer has been installed.

Point of Sale System: The Town Clerks' Office is looking into using the Point of Sale System starting with people being able to pay property taxes, either on line or with a debit or credit card. Then going forward, people may be able to pay

other payments to the Town in this manner. Melissa Boutin, G.I. Town Clerk, will keep the Selectboard updated.

Marycrest Beach: Mark reported there are a lot of dogs on the beach and the owners are not cleaning up after their dogs. Suggestions include education, new signage and checking with South Hero to see how they handle this situation on their town beach.

Parking and Line Striping: The Selectboard discussed the Town Office parking spaces. It was suggested utilizing the Methodist Church parking lot and keeping the spaces in front of the Town Office free for people who would find it difficult to walk across the road. In December 2013 there was a grant to be used for striping the parking lot but no striping occurred.

VIII. REVIEW ORDERS and PAY BILLS: AnnaMarie makes a motion to review orders and pay bills. Bill Seconds. All in favor. Motion passes. Mark makes a motion to table orders and pay bills until questions are answered regarding a couple items from the Town Treasurer. Bill seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None held.

X. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie made a motion to adjourn at 9:27PM. John Seconds. All in favor. Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Secretary

Adam White, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____