

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 16, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Adam White called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

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

Board Members Not Present: None

**II. GUESTS: Tim Parizo from Island Industrial Park, Jay Buremann representing Island Industrial Park.
Jan Marinelli from Lake Champlain Economic Development Corporation.**

Community Members Present: Diane Cota, Don Cota, Denise Abbott Douglass, Timothy Parizo, Jan Marinelli and Ron Bushway

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed:

Island Industrial Park: Jay Buremann is representing Island Industrial Park asking if the Town would consider taking the (Park) road over as a Town road verses a private road.

1. Benefit to the Town to have ownership (of park road) vs. relying on private ownership to keep access down through (park) as some of the other lots get developed.
2. One large vacant lot in back center is in the process of marketing and permitting.
3. A small vacant lot they feel may be built on fairly soon.
4. Reduce the Towns liability if there is fire, Town failure or road maintenance failure on someone else's part if they can't get in there.
5. Road is about 1200 feet long with two existing culverts.
6. Streetlights will remain under and be maintained by the Association.
7. Would be brought up to the Town road standards, paving and strips would be done before asking the Town to take it over.
8. Would reduce the cost of Association fees.
9. Has presented to DRB for a propane fueling facility.

Tim Parizo, owner of Island Industrial Park, said he is just planting a seed right now. Adam and Mark suggest that Brad Sheridan, Road Forman, look at this and get back to the Selectboard with his suggestions. Mark will ask Brad to contact Jay.

Lake Champlain Economic Development Corporation: Jan Marinelli, New Executive Director of the Lake Champlain Economic Development Corp. She explains how she hopes to help get new businesses to locate in Grand Isle.

1. Has 5 towns and her job is to create, support, retain and grow jobs and businesses.
2. State gives her a small amount of money to do this and she is to seek support from our municipalities. She asked for \$1000 from the Town of Grand Isle.
3. Will come to us as much as needed and talk about what she is doing.
4. Is working with the Parazos and Nut Free Chocolates to sell (Island) Industrial Park to others.
5. Transportation infrastructure in the Islands and (US) Route 2 corridor and a park and ride are the first steps.
6. Will work very hard to make businesses want to come here and stay here.
7. No good database in the Islands and she plans to create one.
8. Discussed park and ride locations in the Islands and Representative Dick Mazza, Chair of Transportations, is willing to help where he can.
9. Help with grant writing.

Adam thanks Jan for coming.

Received two budgets, Planning and Listers and will put on the next agenda:

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: Bill makes a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2015. John seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

IV. FIRE STATION UPDATE: No update at this time.

V. PORATTI PROPERTY UPDATE: Adam reminded everyone there is a vote (Tuesday, November 17) and the Board held two (informational) meetings explaining the vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: Tax appeal letters:

Adam read a letter from a resident requesting the 1% late fee be dropped and that his name not be on the (delinquent) taxes list. Taxes were due October 31, 2015 and his taxes were paid on November 3rd.

Mark made a motion to decline the request to wave the 1% late fee for this individual. Bill seconds and adds that when they (Selectboard) respond to indicate his name will not appear on the delinquent tax list in the Town Report.

All in favor. Motion passes.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Process: AnnaMarie explains that the Selectboard needs to talk with department heads when reviewing budgets so they can explain the budget.

1. Selectboard would like to have a representative of each department come to the Selectboard meeting for their budget review.
2. Melissa Boutin, Grand Isle Town Clerk was asked to give each Board Member a list of previous years budgets to review before the next meeting.

Financial Questions with Melissa Boutin: Adam sent Melissa a list of questions and gave copies to the Board:

1. List of reserved funds and how much is added each year. These funds we would have to go to the voters for.

a) Reappraisal of the Salt Shed:

- The state is not going to require a salt shed and now there is \$82,000 surplus as well as \$10,000 every year.
- Do we keep adding to it or go to the voters and ask for approval to use that money elsewhere?
- The Selectboard would have to go to the voters to move \$82,000

b) Transfer Station:

- \$10,000 per year was added to the Transfer Station budget that was not voter approved. It is described as a funded un-mandate.
- \$10,000 was put into this budget every year.
- The Transfer Station Fund is from whatever funds are left over (after expenditures) go into this fund.
- Around 2008 the Salt Shed Reserve was voted in and \$10,000 was then added to the Transfer Station Fund as well, without voter approval and nothing on the records from the Selectboard.
- Adam will look into this to see what was decided last year when it was looked into to see what was actual profit and what was added to, separating the funds.
- The \$10,000 could possibly be moved because it was never voter approved.
- The concisions were that the \$82,000 would have to go to the voters to be moved.

c) Capital Equipment:

Highway department funds, \$28,593 plus \$30,000 a year going forward.

d) Revenue Funds:

The revenue funds were discussed for other (Town) departments.

Melissa explained that each department knows how much revenue has been received and how it has been spent in expenditures. The difference between the two is if they have an excess of revenue it goes into their (revenue) fund. If they have over spent there will be a decrease in the fund balance.

Shared Services: The Board discussed with Melissa if shared services would work in the (Town Clerks Office) and other departments.

US Route 2 Residence Tax appeal: The Selectboard discussed the request from Derek Fersing, regarding his (late) father's estate who passed away last May. Mr. Fersing is asking to wave the penalty and interest in the amount of \$628.06 for these late taxes. Adam had read the letter at the last meeting stating his father died due to a brain tumor. This is a hardship situation. Bill makes a motion to abate the penalty and interest as requested by Mr. Fersing. Mark seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

West Shore Road Residents Tax Appeal: Mr. Keith requested that interest and property taxes for an entire tax period for 2012/2013 in the amount of \$2,523.23 be waved due to a crisis (a divorce) as his household went from a two person to a one-person household. The taxes for 2013/2014 have been paid in whole. Mark makes a motion not to wave the back taxes or interest due and payable. Bill seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Annex Update: Mark met with Greg Polowsky from AES North East Serving Services on November 9, 2015.

1. They walked the property.
2. The Annex Property is to be kept to a 1.1-acre property, approximately 150 feet wide by about 266 feet deep.
3. Greg is going to plot all the buildings and mound system etc on the piece of property.
4. (Grand Isle) Town will retain ownership of the ballpark and parking area and playground.
5. Will deed the school access and use of the playground area and parking area as well as access to the mound septic system in the event they will have to work on it.
5. Balance of the property will remain Grand Isles.
6. Greg will start this week or next week and should be back (to the Board) early next year.
7. Mark advised him not to go beyond the estimate of \$3,500 without discussing with the Selectboard first.

VIII. REVIEW ORDERS and PAY BILLS: AnnaMarie makes a motion to review orders and pay bills. Bill seconds. All in favor. Motion passes

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None held.

X. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie makes a motion to adjourn at 8:53PM. Bill seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Secretary

Date: _____

Adam White, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____