

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE  
SELECTBOARD  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
December 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:** Sheriff Ray Allen, Grand Isle County Sheriff, Colleen Bushway, Grand Isle Library

**Community Members Present:** Sheriff Ray Allen, Diane Cota, Linda Effel, Jeff Parizo, Brian Elbrader, Ron Bushway and Colleen Bushway

**Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed:**

**Sheriff Ray Allen:** Sheriff Allen reported on the Grand Isle Sheriff Departments budget for the FY 2016/2017.

1. Grand Isle County Sheriff Department level funded last year. Another way to look at it is (over two years) an increase of \$0.70 per year.
2. Health insurance has increased this year.
3. One deputy is leaving and the department plans to hire one or two part-timers.
4. It's been over 4 years and counting in (Grand Isle) County with no fatalities due to alcohol, drugs or speed.
5. Crashes are down and the ones that happen are not that severe.

Sheriff Allen explained the Law Enforcement Challenge. The highest score able to be achieved on the Law Enforcement Challenge is 190; Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department's score for this year was 186, a VT State record and took first place. Information was sent to Nationals and GI came in second. He got a call to go to Chicago and was one of two who received a National Safety Award. It was quite an honor. Sheriff Allen said it all goes to the guys doing the work and comes back to you (Selectboard) with your support.

The Sheriff discussed the drug problem.

1. First overdose death in the County this year.
2. Grand Isle has the heaviest caseload at 27% of the departments' responses.
3. VT CARES has a drop needle program with no questions asked.
4. Mark said there are housing issues with users and that people don't feel safe.
5. Sheriff Allen would like to see more people assist us (Sheriff's Department).
6. He brought what he called the "Mercurial Drug" Naloxone used for opiate overdoses and explained when properly used can save lives.
7. Mark spoke of the drug problem here in Grand Isle and if the Sheriff's Department could follow South Burlington Police where they get proof of

drug users and are able to knock on doors and let the landlords to what is going on

8. The K-9 unit has been retired and there are no plans in the near future to replace him.
9. If marijuana becomes legal in VT all present K-9 units will become obsolete at that point. It is hard to un-train a dog to locate drugs.
10. There was a discussion of traffic on the roads, the rumble strips, no place to safely pass a slow moving vehicle and speeding.
11. Sheriff Allen said they have a web site where you can report anonymously the time, location and description of the vehicle.

Adam said last year the Selectboard asked for two additional hours per week for coverage and asked the Board if they want to increase hours again this year. This will be discussed at a later Selectboard meeting.  
The Board thanked Sheriff Allen for coming.

**Library:** Colleen Bushway said the Grand Isle Library would like the Selectboard to have an article put on the March ballot for a non-binding vote to see if the Town would support a survey to look into where the taxpayers would like to go with the library and if there is support for a joint venture with neighboring Towns to share a library with shared expenses. She said South Hero Library has a person willing to donate money to help with a new library. If there is not enough interest then the survey would not be done.

The Selectboard agreed it would be a good idea to put it on the Town Meeting article.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:** Mark makes a motion to approve December 7, 2015 minutes with corrections. Bill Seconds. All in favor.

Motion Passes.

Bill makes a motion to approve December 14, 2015 minutes with corrections. John seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

**IV. FIRE STATION UPDATE:** None held.

**V. PORATTI PROPERTY UPDATE:** None held.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS: Appointed positions expiring 12/31/2015:**

>**ZAO-Jeff Parixo-3 year term:** The Planning Commission nominated Jeff Parizo as ZAO. Bill makes a motion to reappoint Jeff Parizo as ZAO for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and work with the Selectboard to form a performance plan. John seconds. Four in favor, (Adam votes in favor after reviewing the Town Bylaws and Vermont State Statues as to procedure of appointment), Mark abstains. Motion passes.

>**Appoint Acting ZAO:** Mark makes a motion to appoint Andy Paradee as acting ZAO for a 1 year term beginning January 1, 2016. Bill seconds. All in favor.  
Motion passes.

>**PC-Dwight Bullis-2 year term:** Mark makes a motion to reappoint Dwight Bullis for a 2-year term as PC starting January 1, 2016. John seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

**>PC-David Graham-2 year term:** Mark makes a motion to reappoint David Graham for a 2-year term as PC starting January 1, 2016. AnnaMarie seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

**>PC-New Appointment-Shawn Mercy:** Tabled until next Selectboard meeting. The Board decided that for a new appointment Boards should advertise in the Islander for two consecutive weeks as well as put notice of the opening on the Towns website, Front Porch Forum and at the three locations in Town that notices are to be posted.

**Planning Budget Review:**

1. Jeff Parizo submitted two budgets, one with and one without benefits.
2. Jeff won't be using the Town's health insurance therefore saving \$5,000.
3. Reduced seminar costs by attending free webinar's when available.
4. Requested a larger computer monitor.
5. Permits are slow right now and should pick up in January/February, 2016.

**Liquor License Renewals:**

**Grand Isle Art Works:** Bill makes a motion to approve Grand Isle Art Works' Vineous and Liquor License for one year: Mark seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Ladd's Landing Marina:** Mark makes a motion to renew Ladd's Landing Marina's second-class license to sell Vineous, Malt Beverage License. AnnaMarie seconds.

All in favor. Motion passes.

**A&B:** Mark makes a motion to renew A&B's second-class license to sell Vineous, Malt Beverage License.

John seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Poratti Property Reconsider Vote:** A petition to reconsider the vote to purchase the Poratti Property was submitted to the Town Office on December 14, 2015.

The Selectboard has 60 days to hold another vote.

1. Adam will contact the Town Attorney regarding wording because it was a bond question on the ballot and ask about the warning.
2. Bill asked the difference between a rescind vote and a reconsider vote.
3. Adam explained that with a rescind vote the wording on the ballot is reversed. Vote no to purchase the property. Vote yes to rescind the vote and not purchased the property.
4. For a reconsider vote the wording stays the same as the original ballot. A yes vote to purchase the property. A no vote to not purchase the property.
5. The reconsider vote is scheduled for Tuesday February 2, 2016 (at the Town Office).
6. The Selectboard discussed how to get the word out to the voters.
7. Will send out a postcard mailing.
8. Do a power point explanation at Selectboard meeting to broadcast it on LCATV.
9. Put up a vision board in the Town Office with information and a suggestion box.
10. Cost to do a re-consider vote and a mailing was questioned. Adam will check with Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk, to get the cost.

11. Also find out how the increase in the Grand List would affect (lower the tax rate for 1 year). Also there are 5 or 6 new homes not on the grand list now but will be when the vote comes out.

**County Budget Review:** Insurance costs; maintenance increase and the need of a new furnace are the biggest part of the increase. Doug DiSabito, Grand Isle County State's Attorney is fighting to keep the Court House in North Hero and he will keep Adam updated.

**Proposed Changes to Town Plan and By-Laws:**

1. Adam received pages with changes.
2. Selectboard will have a hearing on January 18 @ 6:00PM then a regular Selectboard meeting at 7:00.
3. Each Board member is assigned 20 pages to review. Adam pgs. 1-20, Mark 21-40, AnnaMarie 41-60, John 61-80 and Bill 81 to finish.

**Community Survey:** Mark said this survey was done in 2005 by the Planning Commission. He would like to resubmit it and get it out to the public. It will be on December 28 agenda.

**Utility Permits:** Jeff Parizo will be asked to create a generic permit and get copies out to the following utilities; FairPoint Communications, Comcast, Fire District 4, Consolidated Water District and VT Electric Co-Op.

**Roadside Update:** Ron Bushway, Road Commissioner reported on the roadwork that has been completed.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**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 9:17PM. Mark seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Secretary

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Adam White, Selectboard Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_