

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE
SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
February 15, 2016**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Adam White called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

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

Board Members Not Present:

II. **GUESTS:**

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway, Brad Sheridan and Melissa Boutin

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed:

III. **REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:** Bill makes a motion to approve minutes of February 1, 2016 with corrections. Mark seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Liquor License - Grand Isle Lake House: Mark makes a motion to approve the 2016 malt liquor and vinous beverages license. John seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Outside Consumption Permit - Grand Isle Lake House: Bill makes a motion to approve the 2016 outside consumption license allowing drinking outside for a selected time and date range. Mark seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Recreation Committee Grant: Adam read a letter from the State of VT, Governor Shumlin, VT Gen Assembly and the Recreation Facilities Grant Community announcing an award for the Recreation Committee in the amount of \$6,000 to be used toward a mile-long walking trail around the (Donaldson) park.

H.249 - Regional Council of Government Discussion: Adam read a letter from Milton explaining why they are opposed to the bill H.249. After discussion the Board agreed this bill would mean a complete loss of local control. Bill makes a motion to adopt language similar to the Town of Milton's resolution and opposition to H.249 Regional Council of Government. Mark seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Adam will reach out to Milton asking if it's ok to borrow some of their language in writing their own letter.

BDE-Grand Isle Solar – Rt. 314 Solar Project Public Service Board Meeting Update:
Adam attended a Public Service Board meeting last week for people who are for or against the project, not for questions and answers.

1. Attending were the landowner, one adjacent landowner and the person who plows the field, all support the project.
2. Five adjacent landowners who appose the project.
3. Concerns of the opposition:
 - a) Historical factor. VT Historical Society Association supports the project.
 - b) Stated no historical impact concerning old buildings.
4. Construction hours 7:00AM – 7:00PM weekdays and 7:00AM-2:00PM Saturdays.
5. Noise from solar panels.
6. There is information available by calling Andrea at VT Electric or BED.
7. Information is also available to the public at (Grand Isle) Town office.
8. The Public Service Board has authority to make the decision.
9. Adam will keep the Selectboard updated.

No information on the Round Barn 1.5 acre solar project.

Nothing is happening right now regarding solar project at the Fish Hatchery. They and their company met with the (Grand Isle) School Board who completely okayed the project before the project was presented to the Selectboard in September.

Poratti Property Vote Review:

1. Adam reported that the (Feb. 2, 2016) Poratti Property vote passed 239-132.
2. Mark is working with the Town Attorney on how to proceed and move forward.
3. Closing date is March 14, 2016
4. Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk/Treasurer has already started the process and explained the bonding options available.
5. VT Municipal Bond Bank options are for one year at a time.
6. For a two year bond the tax would be approximately \$35 based on a \$250,000 home.
7. To date the unrestricted general fund balance is \$76,913.00.

Mark makes a motion to bond the Poratti Property purchase for two years and use \$25,000 from the unrestricted general fund. John seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Cooper Bay Mobil Home Park Abatements:

1. Two properties at Cooper Bay Mobil Home Park were deemed uninhabitable.
2. Per the State the delinquent taxes have to be abated.
3. One tax amount is \$444.02 and the other is \$2875.43.
4. The two properties were abandoned.
5. Several attempts were made to contact the owners with no answers.
6. Try to legally get the money would be too expensive.

Bill makes a motion to abate the property taxes on the two unites at Cooper Bay Mobil Home Park as described by Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk. John seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Access Permit Number 2883 Town of Grand Isle:

1. Adam read a letter from Peter Pochop, VT State Permit Coordinator regarding use of an access from the Gravel Pit to the lot South of the Gravel Pit location that is part of the Island Industrial Park.
2. Bill would like to review this first before making a decision.
3. Mark would like to hear from the landowner.
4. Adam will make copies for the Board and also give one to Jeff Parizo, Zoning Administrator for his opinion.
5. Jay Beurmann will be invited to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss this.

Shared Services Discussion: Bill said late last fall the Selectboard went to South Hero to talk about forming a committee to talk about shared services.

1. Bill would like to move forward but doesn't want to put a lot of time into it if there isn't any interest.
2. South Hero Selectboard was for it.
3. Adam said it is important that this is a nonbinding report if we go forward putting it on paper to see what it looks like.
4. The Planning Commission should have a member or two on the committee.
5. Discussed the type of grant available.
6. An outside third party that would look at it.
7. The Board agreed this is something worth looking into.
8. Bill agreed to keep looking into this.

Highway Department Accountability-email from South Hero Selectboard Chair: Bill mentioned he received an email from the South Hero Selectboard Chair with a concern regarding the cooperation between South Hero and Grand Isle Highway Departments. Their concern was they don't want to account for each little thing they do for each other. They feel the cooperation between the towns is going well and balances out. Bill read a letter he prepared to send to South Hero stating Grand Isle is happy with the co-optative relationship between the two town Highway Departments. Grand Isle Selectboard is trying to implement accountability across many Town department functions and programs. The highway department is just one of them. He said in his opinion hopes to continue the broader shared functions.

Net Metering Opportunity: The Board discussed a letter received from VEC regarding net metering opportunity. The Board will take more time to review it.

Audit: The Board decided to pass on the audit review until they have a more time to review it.

V. OLD BUSINESS: None

VI. REVIEW ORDERS and PAY BILLS: Mark makes a motion to review orders and pay bills. AnnaMarie seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mark makes a motion to go into executive session at 8:15PM (for a personnel matter). John seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
AnnaMarie makes a motion to come out of executive session at 9:25PM with no action taken. John seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** AnnaMarie makes a motion to adjourn at 9:25PM. John seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Secretary

Date: _____

Adam White, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____