

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES
Monday January 7, 2019
Town Office Community Room
9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Jeff Parizo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Board Members Present: Jeff Parizo-Chair, Diane Cota-Vice Chair, AnnaMarie DeMars, Eric Godin and Rachael Griggs

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway, Sue Lawrence, William LeClair, Donna LeClair, Denise Abbott Douglass, Melissa Boutin and Glenda Leake

Amend Agenda For Matters Not Listed:
Old Business – EAB Tree Cutting

II. GUESTS: Sue Lawrence – Discuss Retirement Event for Janice Arnold:

Sue Lawrence said there is a retirement event planned to celebrate Janice Arnold's retirement after 37+ years of service to the Town of Grand Isle.

- Date and time set for Sunday afternoon, January 20, 2019 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Location – GIVFD Building's training/community room
- Light refreshments consisting of a cake, cookies, brownies, fruit, coffee, tea and soft drinks.
- There will be a money tree at the event
- Sue will place an announcement in the Islander

Diane Cota motions the we ask each of the five departments; Selectboard, Transfer Station, Listers, Town Clerk and Highway Department to contribute a minimum of \$100 each toward the gift cards for Janice Arnold's retirement party. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. Melissa Boutin suggested other departments donate and could give more if they feel they could and put it on the money tree. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Jeff Parizo motions to allot up to \$200 to use for Janice's party. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: December 17, 2018: Diane Cota motions to accept the minutes of December 17, 2018. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the passes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Lawn Care Bids: Jeff read the 2017 bid requirements for lawn care and discussed additions which included:

- Add the new fire station
- Lawn (string) trimming at each mowing
- Historical Society Buildings – no mowing on Thursdays through Sundays
- Town Office – no mowing during operating hours
- Annex – include the play yard and no mowing afternoons
- Donaldson Park – depending on the ball games which are usually held in the evenings

Ron Bushway will update the lawn care requirements and present them at the next Selectboard meeting on January 21, 2019.

Budgets: Melissa Boutin had given the Board copies of budget requests she has received so far. The Selectboard will meet with Melissa on Thursday January 24, 2019 at 6:30 to discuss just the budgets and invite any department we would need to include in the discussion.

Website: Eric Godin discussed looking into the website and getting in touch with departments to see if they have any ideas. He said we could continue with Go Daddy making any changes needed or make our own, which would need a web master and would be expensive. It was decided Eric would continue using Go Daddy tools. He will contact Adam White, who originally designed the current website with Go Daddy and was put together by a grant from the State of Vermont. Eric will report back to the Selectboard.

Review & Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage: Jeff reported this is a mileage of our highways so we can get State aid and is something we need to do every year.

Eric Godin motioned to have Jeff Parizo sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

County of Grand Isle Annual Budget Hearing: Jeff said this is a breakdown from the State of VT, Office of the Assistant Judges of the budget for 2020. For the Grand Isle budget of 2020 our obligation is \$135,141.41, which has gone up again this year.

The Selectboard discussed asking the Sheriff's Department for a stipend, like the PILOT program. Jeff would like clarification to see if the Sheriff's Department owns the building. Sue said she hasn't seen the deed yet. AnnaMarie is going to contact Sheriff Allen to get answers to these questions and report at our next meeting.

Jeff Parizo motions to approve the Grand Isle County Budget, Grand Isle's portion of \$135,141.41 for the year 2020. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Town Employee Benefits/Vacation/Health Insurance: Rachael Griggs said the last time the benefits package was approved was in 1998. One change to consider is the 25-hour workweek for an employee to be full time and eligible for benefits. Ron Bushway suggested 35 hours and Diane suggested 32 hours. AnnaMarie said most businesses require employees to work more than 25 hours. Jeff said the whole benefits package would need to be discussed. Glenda Leake said most employees in the workforce have to pay for some part of their insurance benefits. It was decided each Board member pick a town to contact, get information on their benefits packages and get the information to Eric who will put it all on a spreadsheet. Eric will report back at a future meeting and the Board will continue this discussion.

NWRP Appointment: Jeff Parizo motioned to appoint Howard DeMars to North West Regional Planning to represent the Town of Grand Isle with Barclay Morse. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. AnnaMarie DeMars recused herself, four in favor and the motion passes.

EAB Tree Cutting: Diane Cota suggested if someone was willing to cut the trees down, only in the Town right-of-way in Grand Isle they would not charge the Town and they would be allowed keep the wood. Jeff said they would need to have insurance. Eric asked if this discussion could wait until after the next EAB meeting on January 17, 2019.

VI. Highway Department Update:

Hyde Road and Moccasin Avenue Culverts: Jeff read the engineering proposal (in the amount of \$12,000) from East Engineering for replacement of two big railroad crossings culverts, at Hyde Road and Moccasin Avenue. The one on Moccasin Avenue has failed. When we did the Hazard Mitigation Plan for FEMA, all three-railroad crossings were a part of it. The one at Pearl Street isn't that bad but will need to be changed eventually. This is an engineering proposal for the permits and engineering aspects only for Hyde Road and Moccasin Avenue and does not include replacing the culverts. The permits last 3-5 years and if the permits need to be replaced it isn't that hard to do or costly. Jeff suggested approving this so when FEMA is ready with structure grants the Highway Department would be able to apply right away.

Diane Cota motions to approve the East Engineering quote for \$12,000 for the design and permitting for Moccasin Ave. and Hyde Road culverts. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Ditch Behind New Fire Station: Bill Baron sent an email regarding seeding of the ditch behind the new fire station. Nate Hayward, Hayward Design Build felt because he had seeded the ditch twice he would not be responsible to reseed it or put down stone. After a discussion Jeff suggested having the Highway Department lay stone in the ditch as soon as they had time.

Jeff Parizo motions to ask the Highway Department to put 1 or 1+1/2 inch stone in the ditch so the wastewater permit could be signed off. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Brush Cutting: Ron Bushway reported brush has been cut along East Shore South Road.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway reported that the (emergency) exit door at the Annex building has been installed.

VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: Diane Cota motions that Jeff Parizo signs the warrants. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Legal Discussion – Drawbridge: Jeff Parizo motions to go into executive session at 8:20pm to discuss legal decision on the drawbridge. Eric seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Diane Cota motions to come out of executive session at 8:37 with the decision made not to pursue the State drawbridge lawsuit. Eric seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn at 8:37pm. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

Jeff Parizo, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____