

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES**

**Monday February 18, 2019
Town Office Community Room
9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Jeff Parizo opened the Grand Isle Selectboard meeting of February 18, 2019 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, Donna LeClair, Denise Abbott Douglass, Glenda Leake, Karen Allen, John Ellis-Monaghan, Frankie Ellis-Monaghan and Melissa Boutin

Amend Agenda For Matters Not Listed: Under New Business – Liquor License Renewal Application for GIAW Holdings LLC

- II. GUESTS: Library Board Trustees:** Karen Allen spoke for the Library Board Trustees. Karen said she is concerned no mention of the library discussion was on the February 4th agenda. Without knowledge of the library being referenced the library trustees saw no reason to attend. She believed that Rachael came armed with documents concerning the Library Director. After watching the Selectboard meeting of February 4th, Karen said it seemed targeted when Rachael said she wanted to talk about the library. Rachael said we talked about other items as well.

Eric said he has been doing a lot of thinking over the last couple of weeks where he stands on this. When we as a Board discuss certain subjects we tend to grab more than what we should necessarily discuss a lot of the time. That is not how we should be doing things. We should be trying our best to be sure the agenda items are specific and we are sticking to those points. We should try to be sure the agenda items are followed more closely. All five of us need to work a little harder to keep our discussions on topic. More than anything we want to avoid animosity between boards. We are all coequal branches of Town government. There is no cut and dry way to define exactly where the borders of that discussion should be.

Jeff said the agenda is sent to the Board members for review and he gives the final approval before they are posted. Karen said her concern was that Rachael came armed with documents to raise the issue. Rachael said, everything she had mentioned she already had the information from the night we went over the budgets. She did not contact an attorney (as Karen said) as she had all this information in her records. She said she has read the (Selectboard) Handbook and checked VLCT over the entire year that she has been on the Board and she had this information from the night the Board went over the benefits policy. This item was on the agenda under discussion of the benefits policy.

Diane said that is what the topic was, benefits package and like Eric said the conversation sort of spun off. I don't believe there was any intention of not allowing the library trustees to talk at all. It's difficult when we are talking about the benefits

policy. It's been since 1998 since we have looked at the benefits policy and all of a sudden it's in our face.

Rachael said often three or four people could construe things in three or four different ways. One item in the library minutes about increasing the hours of the Library Director by 3 hours and offering benefits is one example.

Karen wants to correct comments, assumptions from the February 4th meeting. The Library Director was not started at the same salary as the previous director and that they did not add 3 hours of closed door time. She said they had a lot of thoughtful discussion about the (Library) budget.

Karen asked if the (February 4) minutes were done. Jeff said yes, the edits have been made. The final draft minutes were sent to be reviewed by the entire Board before the meeting. He also stated that before agenda's and minutes are posted the entire Selectboard gets draft copies and have time to make edits before they are posted.

Denise Abbott Douglass said she feels the solution is for more of the public to attend meetings.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: February 4, 2019: Diane Cota motions to approve the minutes of February 4, 2019 with changes. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion and the motion passes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

New Shed for Library's Trash and Recycling: Rachael said after reading the Library minutes of November 12, 2018 there was mention of an approved placement of a new shed for trash and recycling at the library. AnnaMarie said she didn't know why the word shed was used in the minutes because it is actually a Rubber Made bin to be placed outside the building.

Certificate – No Appeal or Suit Pending Form: Jeff said there are no appeals or suits pending for property taxes. The form is from the Listers' office and the Selectboard members need to sign it then Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk verifies and signs it as well. All Board members signed the form.

Town Meeting Preparations: After a discussion the date of Friday, March 1, 2019 was set to meet and finalize the presentation for Town Meeting.

Diane said as this Town is coming together, working together for the safety of the Town she would like to introduce two people at the Town Meeting. One of them is Angie Robinson. She is on the Disaster Action Team. She is the leader for that for the Red Cross. She wants to let people know what we do, what the DAT team does and what the Red Cross does in emergencies. Sheriff Allen is working with her to have cots and blankets on the Island, at his facility, ready in case the Island gets cut off like when we were in 1998. She would like the people to know what is happening in this town and that we are working together to make it a safe place.

Diane will contact LCATV to get someone to videotape Town Meeting.

Denise Abbott Douglass thought it would be a good time to bring up the cooling center.

Liquor License Renewal Applications for GIAW Holdings LLC: Jeff read the application for the liquor license renewal for GIAW Holdings LLC, Grand Isle Artworks.

Eric Godin motions to approve the 2019 Liquor License renewal for Grand Isle Artworks to sell malt and vinous beverages. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

V. **OLD BUSINESS:** No old business to report.

VI. **Highway Department Update:**

Discussion: Proposed Town Garage and Sprinkler System: Jeff said there were communications with the architect who is reviewing the plans from 2008 of the Swanton garage to look at the codes. Any (municipal) building over 5,000 square feet has to have a sprinkler system. What we need to do is make a motion stating we only store our trucks and do not repair any vehicles there. Ron Bushway said they send out all commercial repairs to be done.

Diane Cota motions that the new Town Garage will be a storage space for Town equipment. There will be no repairs made. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Winter Plowing Policy: Ron Bushway passed out and read the new Winter Plowing Policy for Town roads. A discussion followed.

Eric Godin motions to approve the Town of Grand Isle Winter Plowing Policy as written. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Eric said he would like to mention the danger of kids digging tunnels in snow banks on the sides of roads. Two children have been killed this year in Minnesota when the snowplow hit the snow bank they were playing in.

Tree Removal: Ron Bushway, Road Commissioner wanted to talk about the tree that we needed to cut down at the corner of Hyde Road and Adams School Road. Island Tree Service came on February 6 to remove the tree but the contractor parked his truck under the tree deliberately so we couldn't cut it. The Sheriff's Department had to be called and Ron, Brad and Jeff went as well. The tree service had to leave. When we got things straightened out the tree service came back and removed the tree. There was a requirement in the curb cut we had approved that the tree had to be cut down. Ron said he tried to explain to the local contractor that the tree was completely rotten.

Town Sand: Ron was asked about town's people getting sand from the sand pile. He said residents are allowed a pail of sand but some are abusing this by taking truckloads, which is not allowed. With the weather we are having we are running out of sand.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update:

Generator at Grand Isle School: Ron Bushway, BFM reported:

The generator at the Grand Isle School has been fully serviced and switched over. The fuel pump was replaced and the fuel tank has been filled. Diane asked if there would be a

checklist of each time a service is complete. Ron said yes, the Highway Department is going to do the checklist.

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Jeff asked if anyone else such as the Emergency Manager has a key to the generator. Ron is going to have some keys made.

REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: Diane Cota motions to review and sign warrants. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

Jeffrey Parizo, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____

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