

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES
Monday February 4, 2019
Town Office Community Room
9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway, Denise Abbott Douglass and Sue Lawrence

Amend Agenda For Matters Not Listed:

Guest: Sue Lawrence

New Business: Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

- II. GUESTS: Sue Lawrence – Lister Vacancy:** Sue Lawrence wants to have it on record that we need a Lister person. If anyone is interested they can come into the office or call 372-5233. This person would be appointed from now until March 2020 elections. This is to fill the position left vacant when Janice (Arnold) retired. We will be advertising in the Islander, on FPF, on the Town web site and postings around Town. They must be a resident of Grand Isle.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: January 21, Jan. 24 & Jan. 28, 2019.

Eric Godin moved to approve the minutes of January 21, January 24 and January 28, 2019 as written. Diane Cota seconds the motion. All in favor, no further discussion and the motion passes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Selectboard Report for Town Report: AnnaMarie said even though we have not said it (the old fire station) is definitely not going to be a library, she wished there was some way we could put in there in hopes the building would be a library. Eric said there would be a whole presentation about a new library at Town Meeting.

Diane Cota made a motion to accept the draft of the Selectboard Report for the 2018 to go into the Town Report. Eric seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Vermont Liquor License Applications: Jeff read the applications from The Grand Isle Lake House for VT Liquor Licenses:

AnnaMarie motions to sign the two liquor licenses for the Grand Isle Lake House. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont: AnnaMarie read the letter asking for the Town to take part in the fundraiser for Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. We would spend \$100, receive 100 pinwheels and put them in front of town buildings to show our support.

AnnaMarie DeMars motions that we agree to spend \$100 to buy 100 pinwheels to set up a pinwheel garden for Prevent Child Abuse Vermont in the month of April. Diane Cota seconds the motion. They will be put around Town at various spots. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Town Web Site – Eric said he had contacted GoDaddy who originally set up the web site. He also called Adam White who originally set up the website utilizing a grant. GoDaddy said they think the problem people are having when posting onto the web site a scripting issue. He will talk to Adam about this as well.

Benefits Package Discussion:

Jeff said benefits package review is going to be an ongoing discussion. Rachael said as a Board we have the authority to change any personal policy as we see fit. AnnaMarie asked if this is something that should wait until after the elections. Jeff said the best thing to do is contact VLCT to see about putting together a comprehensive plan and find out about the cost. AnnaMarie said she has been suggesting reviewing this for a couple years. Rachael said we would need to start looking at these now so we will have the information ready to input it into the plan if we decide to use VLCT.

The Library can have a separate personal policy from the Town, except those related to employee insurance. If Grand Isle's Library doesn't have their own separate policy (we don't know if they do) they would need to follow the Selectboard's policies. Rachael read the ad that was posted last summer for a new Library Director. It stated the position is part time, which means they are not eligible for benefits. The new Librarian started out at the same pay rate as the previous Librarian. AnnaMarie said she thought all Town employees started at a previous employee's rates. Sue Lawrence confirmed this is not the case. Diane said when someone starts a new position they need to go through the learning curve. After a while they would become familiar with the work and those extra hours wouldn't be needed. AnnaMarie said the new Librarian, Rhonda has added more programs. AnnaMarie mentioned (the Trustees relayed to her) that more people are attending the Library.

Rachael said her problem with the increase in the hours of the new Librarian is that when she was hired she knew it was a part time position without benefits. A few months later the Library Trustees decided to add three more hours of closed-door time onto the three hours stated in the ad. Doing so makes this part time position eligible for full time benefits. This increased the Library's budget request on the March ballot by approximately \$15,500 just for the Librarian's insurance benefits and three extra hours per week and she wanted this on the record so the voters are aware. AnnaMarie said she knows how hard it is to not have benefits. Ron Bushway said you can't change the hours now. The voters are going to be looking at that budget at Town Meeting and they may vote the budget down. Rachael said the voters should review the budgets before voting.

Denise Abbott Douglass asked why we are discussing the Librarian and not other part time employees. The answer is at present the Librarian is the only part time employee who works 23 hours per week. All other part-time employees work approximately 12 hours per week.

Eric said we are looking at other town's policies but we can't compare apples to apples. It's hard for people to make ends meet but we can't blow up the Town budget to try to make ends meet for everybody who may apply for positions here.

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Jeff said it's a discussion we have to have and we should wait until after Town Meeting to begin working on the Town policies.

VI. Highway Department Update:

Winter Plowing Policy: Ron Bushway, Road commissioner said the winter plowing policy has not been completed yet. He hopes to have it finished by the February 18 Selectboard meeting.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update:

Annex Maintenance List: Chinking of Chimney and Locking Upstairs Window: Rachael asked if these two items that were on the list of improvements for the Annex building were completed. Ron said the chimney will be repaired in the spring and the window was nailed shut.

Jeff asked about the three windows that need replacing. Ron said they will be on the schedule to be replaced this year.

Old Fire Station: Ron reported the floor was starting to buckle so the furnace at the old fire station had to be started up again. The thermostat is set at 45 degrees for the rest of the winter.

Generator at the School: Ron said the generator needs a new fuel pump, which has been ordered. The part will be installed when it comes in. The Highway department will take charge of test starting the generator monthly. Diane suggested having a check start list on the generator and add the date each time it is test started.

VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: AnnaMarie DeMars motions to have Jeff Parizo sign the warrants. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn at 8:00pm. Rachael Griggs 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: _____