

Minutes of The Grand Isle Select Board
Special Meeting Held March 2, 2020
Minutes taken by Eric Godin

Anna Marie opened the meeting at 7:01pm, noting that the meeting was being held in the community room at the Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department because the voting booths were set up in the town office.

Jeff Parizo, Diane Cota, Eric Godin and AnnaMarie DeMars were present. Rachael Griggs was absent.

Community members present were: Denise Abbott Douglas, Colleen Bushway, Ronnie Bushway, Glenda Leake, David Leake, Jean Prouty, Lucille Campbell, Melissa Boutin and Emily Clark.

Jeff indicates he would like an agenda item under the Stowe Special Event Ordinance to discuss the upcoming meeting about the bike tours scheduled to take place at the sheriff's station. The chair agrees.

Jeff also indicates he'd like to discuss bringing up changing the times of the Select Board meetings at the organizational meeting. Placed under new business.

Jean Prouty would like to discuss the meeting minutes. Put under new business.

Ronnie Bushway gives the highway department update. He made the Board aware that one of our plow trucks was involved in an accident at the intersection of US Route 2 and Hyde Rd. A car struck the rear of a plow truck as it crossed the intersection. No injuries were reported. Ron said the incident was still being investigated by VLCT. Ron says it seems unlikely the driver of the car couldn't see the plow, as they are very prominently lit.

Ronnie said they had also dug out the pad for the bricks. Ronnie said Half Moon Landscaping was handling the job.

For the Buildings Facilities update, Ron said that Alan Landry had measured up the windows for repair at the Annex. Said we will be getting the chimney repaired. He said Alan was working on the molding at the Block Schoolhouse as well. Denise Abbott Douglas asked Ronnie about the timeline to repair the intersection of East Shore South and US Route 2. Ron said they had to wait until it warmed up to see what the road did. Ron also pointed out that part of that is the state right of way.

Ron acknowledged that the roads are all posted currently.

Diane makes a motion that the board approve the minutes of the February 24th Select Board Meeting. Eric seconds the motion and discussion ensued, with Jean Prouty pointing out that the minutes from the previous select board meeting had misquoted her during a discussion regarding a budget for the historical society. Jeff Parizo and Melissa Boutin addressed the misunderstanding regarding the budget timeline and the proposed wages for the historical society docents. The vote is called and the motion passes with 3 ayes, with Jeff Parizo abstaining.

03-02-2020

Anna brings up the child abuse prevention pinwheels, and Jeff said that the town will be purchasing 100 of them. It was pointed out that some people still had some from last year.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion that the town purchase 100 pinwheels to promote child abuse prevention. Diane seconds. Glenda Leake asks that the town ask people to store or return the pinwheels at the end of the season. Denise Abbott Douglas suggests bringing a few of the pinwheels to the courthouse, and Jeff suggests some to the Sheriff's station. The vote passes unanimously.

Jeff brings up the idea of changing the Select Board meeting time at the organizational meeting. Eric points out that part of the organizational meeting is determining the time of the meetings. It is agreed to discuss it at the organizational meeting.

Jeff lets everyone know that the informational meeting between the towns of Grand Isle County and the representatives from the companies sponsoring the bike tours will take place at the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department on March 30th, 2020 at 6pm. He says the chair of the South Hero Select Board would be there. He says the attitude about the meeting has been positive. Anna points out this will help make sure any rules are applied consistently across the county.

Jeff presents a model ordinance to get organizations to come to the Select Board before holding their events on town roads. He says there have been difficulties getting some of the groups to come to the board meetings to address the town's concerns. Jeff says the permit would have a minimal charge of around \$10. Jean Prouty brings up the lack of law enforcement during the last tour. Jeff points out that this is one of the items to discuss at the meeting on March 30th. There is spirited discussion about the pros and cons of bike tours. It is agreed to discuss the adoption of an ordinance, and the timing of a public hearing at a future Select Board Meeting

Anna brings up the VLCT benefit package information. Anna and Eric had been working on the template. Eric said the template was mostly complete, with only few edits needed for the town to adopt it. It was pointed out there were some sections that were redundant, but that was acceptable. Some terms needed to be redefined or added for a final copy. A few different sections were highlighted to be reviewed again, as the circumstances in the town had changed since Anna and Eric had reviewed the template. Jeff suggests having a Select Board meeting dedicated to going through the template and finalizing it. It is agreed to discuss it at the Select Board Meeting on April 6th.

Jeff says we have received a bid for \$14,800 to have all the design and blueprint work for the proposed Library/Town Office/Community Space. Melissa asks where the funds would come from. Diane says she would like a chance to read the proposal over. It is agreed to discuss at the next meeting. Jeff summarizes what the money would be paying for. Jeff says we have to move forward on getting these plans. Emily asks about the money spent for civil engineering, and if it's typical to move forward this quickly. Jeff says the civil engineer already indicated there shouldn't be problems, and the permitting process is lengthy. He says he wanted to aim for a bond vote in November, during the presidential election, to get as many town voices in on the project as possible. Melissa points out the correct address for this project should be 11 Hyde Road. She also voices her concerns about how the town can pay for this expense, not having budgeted for it, and not having asked the voters for authorization to do so. Jeff suggests that if the Library paid this cost, on the condition of repayment if a bond vote passes.

Anna voices concerns that if a bond vote fails, the library would be out the \$14,800. Ronnie Bushway says the library should be reimbursed if the Town Office is involved, and there is general agreement. It is suggested that we could put an article on the ballot for August to approve the money for the blueprints. The library trustees agreed to take the issue up at their next meeting. Discussion is tabled until the Select Board meeting on the 16th. Diane asks if we know how much the tax rate will increase with the bond for the town garage. Jeff says we don't yet. Diane says she's nervous about going for a second bond, and Jeff responds that we should let the voters of the town decide. Jeff says there should be shovels in the ground on the town garage in June. Jeff indicates we did not get the grant for the salt shed, but says we can move forward with the pavement in the meantime. He says we have \$125,00 for that project, which should cover the excavation and the concrete for the salt shed.

Diane brought up the term of the Emergency Management Director. Diane reads from a letter from VLCT saying that statute does not dictate a length of term for the EMD. They say we should be able to change the term. Diane said she had contacted Emergency Management Director Ben Ingalls to talk to his contacts at the state about it. It is determined to discuss at the next meeting after Ben has received a response.

Diane makes a motion to have Anna sign the warrants for the week. Jeff seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Jeff makes a motion "to go into executive session citing 1 VSA 313a to discuss a contract settlement. Eric seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Jeff exits the executive session at 8:56 with a motion to approve the Town of Grand Isle Starting Wage Policy. Diane seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Eric moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:00. Diane seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Eric Godin

AMD

Taken by Eric Godin, Vice Chair

Date: 5-5-2020

AnnaMarie DeMars 4-9-20

AnnaMarie DeMars, Chair

Date: 4-9-20