

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Monday April 20, 2020
Via Zoom**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Diane Cota – Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

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

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway, Ben Ingalls, Melissa Boutin and Mike Donoghue

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: Route 2 Flags - Under Old Business

II. GUESTS: Ben Ingalls – EMD: Ben was present to update the Emergency Management Plan. He mentioned everything involving COVID-19 information would be through the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Department doesn't have a generator yet so the school would be the central shelter location, next would be the church and the fire station. Cots are stored in the Red Cross trailer on the Sheriff's Office property and would be taken to the school. The church has a generator if this location is needed as well.

After changes were noted in the Emergency Management Plan the Board agreed Ben would work with Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk to make the changes and post it in the proper places. Ben said this year no signatures are needed due to COVID-19.

Rachael Griggs makes a motion to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan for (Grand Isle) with changes we discussed. Ben Ingalls and Melissa Boutin will go through the changes and put them in. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

Ben wanted to talk about COVID information and said from an EMD standpoint in cooperation with Shelburne dispatch we have a contingency plan in place in case something happens in dispatch where they have to be closed down. Everything would be routed through the Sheriff's Office so we can keep the County running.

Sheriff Department members are doing a self-checkup every day. Taking their temperatures daily and they have all the PPE they need and are all wearing masks. They are still out there full force. EMS is following all the district 3 guidelines. Every patient is being treated as a positive COVID until determined otherwise at the hospital. The Fire Department is working with rescue members to figure out how they can protect themselves.

Ben said he is thankful for closing the park. Regarding burn permits he said coming from him as a fire department member he thinks there isn't enough public knowledge letting the public know they need a burn permit. Ron said he has put it on FPF stating a permit is required. Ron said that only small fires are allowed without a permit. It is imperative that if anyone is planning to have a fire outdoors, they contact Ron for a burn permit. If anyone has a fire without a burn permit, they would get a warning and a fine

for a second offence. If they don't follow the guide lines they would not be getting a permit for a while. Ron also said he tries to send Adam the information when he issues a permit so the fire department knows if a person has a permit.

Ben Ingalls was thanked for joining the Selectboard meeting.

- III. Highway Department Update:** Ron Bushway, Road Commissioner reported the highway department has started cold patching some roads but due to cold weather the patching doesn't work so they have had to put this off until the weather warms up. He said they have been cutting brush and dead trees along the roadsides on Adams School Road.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway, BFM said Alan Landry wasn't able to do the work needed at the Annex building due to COVID-19 restrictions. Now that some restrictions have been lifted, he plans to start replacing the windows and repairing the chimney at the Annex.

- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: April 6, 2020** Adam White motions to approve the minutes of April 6, 2020. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

- V. NEW BUSINESS: Property Tax Agenda:** Diane said the State is looking at extending the due date for Town taxes for FY 20/21 and it will not be effecting us at this time. Adam said if this passes, we will have a discussion to decide if the Town of Grand Isle would consider an extension for FY 20/21. This is something we will continue to monitor. Rachael said we only have ten days left before the tax deadline and hopefully most people have planned for paying their taxes.

Melissa Boutin, Town Treasurer said everybody has the ability to come before the Board of Tax Abatement (BTA) and that has not changed. Based on what she is seeing for collection of taxes it's steady and similar to what she's seen and witnessed in the past. The outstanding Town taxes are comparable to other years. Currently the outstanding amount is \$1.2 million. We have people who are consistently on this list and we will not be seeing this money. It's not unusual to collect a million dollars in taxes in the last ten days of this month.

Adam said the BTA has strict guidelines that need to be filed for abatements and the Selectboard will continue to monitor the State on this.

Melissa asked Chuck, the IT person to post on the website, Front Porch Forum and FaceBook that taxes are due by April 30, 2020.

Annex Lease: Jeff said he thought it might be in good gesture to forgo one month's rent for Elaine Chasse at Learning Center. Adam said the way the Governor's order was is for those that are currently enrolled if they are going keep their child enrolled, they pay 50% of their current tuition and the state pays the other 50%. If a family decides to remove their child from enrollment the State pays 100%. So, when it comes to tuition payments, they should be remaining the same. Therefore, it was decided not to forgo one month's rent. Ron said there are a lot of cars there during the week.

Rachael mentioned the lease for Learning Center is up on July 1, 2020 and suggested inviting Elaine Chasse to the June 1, 2020 Selectboard meeting. Rachael will contact Elaine.

YOGI Update: Rachael had contacted Dylan Degree about YOGI's plans for this summer. Dylan said they are discussing it right now and will most likely be cancelling the 2020 season. At some point they hope to still do regular field maintenance and have the fence repair finished. They may do some pickup baseball at some point but not exactly sure. Dylan said he would keep us informed.

Road and Bridge Standards: After everyone said they received and reviewed the Road and Bridge Standards the Selectboard members will sign it and Melissa will do the proper postings.

Adam White motioned to accept the Road and Bridge Standards (for the Town of Grand Isle). Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all voted in favor and the motion passes.

Listers Request for Extended Time: Diane said due to COVID-19 the Listers are unable to get into homes and they are requesting an extension to August 15, 2020.

Adam White motions to extend inspections time, due to COVID-19 to August 15, 2020. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

UVM's Request to put VT Horse Council Research on GI Town's FPF: Rachael had received a request from UVM to post on Front Porch Forum in Grand Isle information on a VT Equine Economic Impact Survey. It was agreed Rachael would post it on FPF.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Old Fire Station Building: Jeff said we need to start thinking about getting bids to have the old fire station building taken down. The Selectboard has previously voted that it should go out for bids. Jeff will contact a couple people to get an idea of its value and then the Board will decide on a minimum bid amount. It will include only the steel structure, not the back room or concrete floor. It is to be a sealed bid with a reserved amount and will request proof of insurance of at least one million dollars. The Selectboard will continue this discussion at the May 4 meeting, decide who would write it up as well as set a deadline for a completion date.

Bank Requirements in Anticipation of Bond Permits: Melissa said the timeline for bids on the new garage building has been pushed out so this will be discussed at the May 4 meeting as well.

Donaldson Park Update: Diane said she and her husband put signs up at Donaldson Park that playground equipment use is off limits and that Ron had put caution tape around the equipment and Port-A-Let as well.

Town Office Closing: Melissa said the Town Offices doors are still not open to the public. She has been extremely busy with phone and email contacts and making appointments with those who need to get into the office to look up land records and the like. She has kept it to one person and herself and wipes everything down after each person leaves. She plans to continue doing so for now.

Update on Junk Vehicles: Diane asked Ron if he has talked with Scott Brown, Zoning Administrator about the junk vehicles in Town. Ron said he has and that Scott is the one who would be contacting the State because it's up to the State to step in.

Route 2 Flags: Jeff said he has been getting the new flags ready for Route 2. He has 16 done and will have 19 total. He has contacted Ryan Bullis who will be helping put them up with his extended lift, hopefully by the end of this week. Jeff said the flags are usually put up in late May and thinks it will help as a good sign of hope during this difficult time.

VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: Jeff Parizo motions to allow the Chair of the Selectboard (Diane Cota) to sign warrants via email. Rachael Griggs seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Jeff Parizo motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:00PM. Adam White seconds the motion. No further discussion, all vote in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs
Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

Date: May 4, 2020

Diane Cota
Diane Cota, Selectboard Chair

Date: May 5, 2020