

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES of
Monday November 16, 2020 via Zoom**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Jeff Parizo, Vice Chair calls 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: Sue Lawrence, Lucille Campbell, Ilyo McCray, Ron Bushway, Melissa Boutin Joe Longo and Emily Clark. Amy Thompson joined the meeting later.

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: New Business: Mice Issue and Cost of Living Increase; Under Guests: Town Garage Building Budget:

II. **GUESTS: David Roy-Wiemann & Lamphere Architects: Update on Town Garage Building Cost:**

- Jeff said David Roy had sent an email stating he had no updates because there is no requisition yet. They were due on the 15th so Jeff told him if he didn't have anything new there was no need for him to attend.
- Adam said we haven't seen a budget of any sort for this. We don't know where we are and asked if there is a breakdown of what we have spent so far.
- Jeff said Melissa has the numbers and is doing a better job than the people we hired. She is likely to have an update in a day or so and will send it out to David Roy and the Board.
- Jeff said we will have David Roy attend our December 7th meeting and we should be able to figure out exactly where we are at.

III. **Highway Department Update:** Ron Bushway reported:

- Hauled two or three more loads of sand
- Worked on moving some of the materials out of the new garage site to make room for working on the salt shed
- Installed plows and sanders and had to use them because it had snowed
- Hauling newspaper container and others from the Transfer Station
- Fixed the culvert header on the corner of West Shore Road and 314. It use to belong to the State but seems they turned it over to the Town.
- Graded Lovers Lane and Adams Landing Road

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway reported:

- Ron said he installed Decon at the Annex and will get some for the Library.
- Alarm went off at the Hyde Log Cabin. DC Energy said they are very sensitive and a spider moving across the screen will set it off. They will keep an eye on it and may need to set up a second system so if the first one goes off the second one would still work.
- **Fire Station Furnace Cleaning:** Ron said he isn't sure where they are at. He doesn't know who installed it. Jeff said there should be a maintenance manual at the station. Ron will talk with Todd and see what he has.
- Melissa said she reached out to Portland Glass about the broken glass on the Fire Station door and the table glass at the Town Clerks Office . Portland Glass will be here Friday to fix both.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: November 2 & November 5, 2020:

Adam White makes a motion to accept the November 2, 2020 minutes as written. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Diane Cota approves the November 5, 2020 minutes with changes. Adam White seconds the motion. Discussion; Rachael read the changes and Diane said she misspoke at this meeting about the Rescue building having a heated floor. They do not have a heated floor and do not have a problem. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion: COVID-19 Cases Surging and Impact on Town Office and Town Employees:** Adam read the Governors executive order and he is looking for an update on what our Town offices are doing. Melissa said they are at full capacity now and hasn't discussed it with the other Town employees in the building. The office has been making appointments and letting people in. She said there are a lot of people who go home to others and she worries about that. In March they started to not let anyone into the office. She needs to think about it and will let the Board know what she decides. Jeff said there will be more information tomorrow with the Governors weekly broadcast. We should wait and see what he says.
- **COLA - Cost of Living Increase:** Adam said Joe Longo contacted him and Jeff and asked for a 3% cost of living increase.

Joe sent an this note and asked that it be read at a meeting.
Honoring Melissa:

I hope you'll consider a 3% COLA for essential workers this year. There is no question in my mind that you'll recognize the importance of that. Thank goodness we have incredible people in all boards/committees who took the challenge to keep our community running as smoothly as it could!! Upon other reflections I believe the town clerk needs to be duly compensated for her incredible efforts to keep this community thriving and on all pistons running!
Her performance has shown her commitment is unprecedented. We also need to thank her for all the hard work she did to obtain the grant money we received on behalf of our town! With that,
I feel Melissa Boutin should be nominated for the person of the year in the upcoming town report. while we have ALL worked hard to get through this I can't think of another person most deserving.

Indeed, the Selectboard deserves much needed thanks as well for the commitment you have displayed!!!! Thank you!

I wish this to be read aloud and recorded in the minutes.
With utmost respect,
Joe Longo
Transfer Station Attendant

Adam said he agrees and asked if we have come up with a COLA amount for this year. Diane said the Federal Government's is 1.3%. All agree it's too low. Jeff said he has been advocating 3% all along no matter where we are with the

Government as they tend to be low. Adam said all the work our essential workers have been done, especially our Town Clerk Melissa who has done an amazing job coming in during the whole shutdown in the beginning of all this.

Ron said Melissa has work hard at the Town Office and he wants to mention the Transfer Station employees have worked hard. Without them we would not have been able to keep the station open. Without hazard pay to municipalities he feels it's right to extend something to our employees. Adam said he and Rachael have discussed this and feel the Transfer Station workers deserve some sort of hazard pay and hope this is discussed during the personnel matter in executive session. Jeff said it will be brought up.

AnnaMarie DeMars makes a motion that this year we do a three percent cost of living raise for all the (Town) employees. Rachael Griggs seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

- **Mice Issue:** Adam said he received a complaint from a resident that there is an overabundance of mice this year. It was mentioned that there are a lot of other animals as well, such as chipmunks and even seagulls. Properly storing feed and food outside homes in a locked container and buying traps would help. Ron, as health officer, was asked to mention this on FPF.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Budgets:**

1. **Cemetery Commission:** Sue Lawrence explained how the appropriation money is spent and what is needed in the future. The Cemetery Committee presented a FY2020/2021 Budget with the Town Appropriation amount of \$18,000.00. She answered questions about what they plan to do with the reserve fund of \$216,425.25. Some of it was put into a CD and some in a Money Market. They used some of the Money Market funds to put in a new road. Rachael asked why they were asking previously for a lot of money in the budget items and every year there are thousands of dollars left over from the budgets. This is money from the taxpayers and budgets shouldn't be used as a saving account. They should list how the funds are intended in the expenditures in the budgets so tax payers would know what it is for. Sue explained all the needs in the future. Melissa explained any funds left over each FY goes into the fund account which the Cemetery can use as needed for future projects. Sue said they were planning to use some of the money to repair grave stones and listed other plans for the reserve fund.

Jeff said it's a great budget and is nice to see they are budgeting their revenues as they haven't in the past. What we are trying to do is at the end of the year getting all departments to zero and break even. With that we are ready to vote on it.

Diane Cota makes a motion to approve the Cemetery Commission budget for FY 2022 in the amount of \$18,000.00. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

2. Recreation Committee Budget: Amy Thompson, Recreation Committee Chair reported on the improvements made to the Recreation Park and the plans for the future. She said the budget for this year is the same as last year. The reason they had a balance was they had plans to repave the floor of the pavilion but couldn't get anyone to do it this summer. She said there next big project is expanding the pickle-ball court.

Amy said they are looking at a couple grants to improve or expand the park. That will give us nine more pickle-ball courts and three more basketball courts or have multiuse courts. AnnaMarie said if children want to go to camps or swim programs we don't have that available here. Amy said North Hero has great programs and we have partnered with them. They offer them to Grand Isle. Rachael said the problem with this is it's very expensive to participate in these programs and asked if Grand Isle Rec. Dept. could make some funds available to help pay for children from Grand Isle to participate. Amy said they advertise these programs. Rachael said they are spending a lot of money fixing up the park but need to have some funds available for children to attend swim lessons and attend day camp. She suggested putting it in their minutes and to be sure the word is out there so parents know they can apply for funds to help pay as the swim program is quite expensive. If you are putting in more courts why can't you put money into kid's programs such as swimming lessons and summer camps? You don't have a program to let people know there is money out there to help kids learn to swim or go to camp. Amy said that if any family request tuition we do it. She will let people know if tuition is needed we will help.

Melissa explained how the fund balance has changed and where the excess money goes. She said we are supposed to operate net zero. Melissa let Amy know that the Rec. Dept. has \$18,878.01 in the Rec. Dept's fund. Amy said she has a lot of ideas to use that money.

Joe Longo said the Rec. Dept. should utilize the use of Grand Isle's IT person for this and also they need to send their minutes to be posted on the Town website and FPF.

Jeff thanks Amy for level funding and hopefully they come out net zero. He asks if anyone any more questions regarding the Rec. Dept. budget.

Adam White makes a motion to accept the Recreation Department Budget for FY 2022 for \$16,120.00. Rachael Griggs seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

- **Trash at Mary Crest Beach:** Amy asked why there is a trash can at the beach, we have a trash in-trash out policy and a sign at the beach stating this. It was reported to the Selectboard that the trash container for dog waste at the beach is overflowing. Ron said the trash container will be taken out. He said some people allow their dogs to do their business on the beach. They usually pick it up but he has an issue with that because people walk on the beach. To discourage people from leaving trash Ron is going to take the dog waste container out and return it to the Rec. Dept. Amy is going to look into purchasing signs for the beach.

VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS: Diane Cota makes a motion that we approve Jeff Parizo to sign the warrants via email for November 16, 2020. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel Matter: Joe Longo wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion at 7:36PM to go into executive session to discuss a personal matter citing 1 V.S.A. state statute 313(a)(2) that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Rachael Griggs seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Adam White makes a motion to come out of executive session regarding a personnel matter at 7:48 PM with the personnel discussion regarding the three Transfer Station employees, Don, Ron and Joe in their compacity in the hazard environment due to COVID-19 to give each of them a onetime additional payment of \$500. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: AnnaMarie DeMars makes a motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:49. Adam White seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

Diane Cota, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____