

Grand Isle Select Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting

Monday, July 26th, 2021 at 6:00pm at Grand Isle Town Office and via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Select Board Members Present: Jeff Parizo – Chair; AnnaMarie DeMars – Vice-Chair; Adam White; Eric Godin

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway; Joe Longo; Mary Parizo; Mitchel Richardson; Mike Donoghue; Rachael Griggs; Tonya Poutry; Melissa Boutin; Esther Blow

Select Board to Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: None

II. GUEST OPEN COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM MEETING OF JUNE 21ST

AnnaMarie Demars moves to approve the minutes of the June 21st meeting. Adam White seconds with 1 discussion item. Adam says that he had made a comment during the meeting, while discussing the July 5th meeting that the recreation department had hired two people without coming to the Select Board for approval. Adam says that while the recreation committee did attempt to hire two people, and put out a posting on Front Porch Forum, they did not receive any candidates, but have gotten two volunteers. ***No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes with four 'ayes'***

NEW BUSINESS

Fill Vacant Select Board Seat – Letters of Interest: Jeff Parizo cites Vermont State statutes 24 V.S.A. § 963 :

(a) When a vacancy occurs in any town office, the selectboard forthwith by appointment in writing shall fill such vacancy until an election is had; except that in the event of vacancies in a majority of the selectboard at the same time, such vacancies shall be filled by a special town meeting called for that purpose.

(b) The selectboard shall file an appointment made under this section in the office of the town clerk and the town clerk shall duly record it in the book of town records.

and 24 V.S.A. § 961:

(a) When a town officer resigns his or her office, or has been removed therefrom, or dies, or becomes unable to perform his or her duties due to a mental condition or psychiatric disability, or removes from town, such office shall become vacant. Notice of this vacancy shall be posted by the legislative body in at least two public places in the town, and in and near the town clerk's office, within 10 days of the creation of the vacancy.

Jeff states that the reason for tonight's meeting was because at the last meeting, Diane Cota had quit. Adam White cites VLCT, saying that it is advised not to go by a verbal resignation, as it could be something said in haste, and we should get a written

resignation. Adam then asks if the Board has received a written resignation. Jeff says that we have not, but per the town attorney, a written resignation is not required, but if there is any doubt, someone should reach out to Diane to ask. Jeff says that this meeting was warned, and Diane had the ability to attend, but didn't. Jeff says he feels we need to move forward with posting the opening in two public places and on the website and front porch forum and in the Islander. Rachael Griggs asks if anyone let Diane know about the meeting tonight, saying that not everyone checks the website. Rachael says she thinks reaching out to Diane would be a good courtesy, and says after reading the VLCT handbook, the board should give Diane a chance to respond, rather than just jumping in. Jeff says that per the state statute, the board has 10 days from a resignation to act. Town Clerk Melissa Boutin says she has not received a formal letter of resignation at the town office. Eric Godin says that in looking at the state statute and the town attorney's advice, a written resignation is NOT required, and the Board had to take action, as the ten-day deadline was swiftly approaching, so the issue couldn't be pushed to the next meeting. AnnaMarie Demars says she thinks the board should go with the town attorney's advice. Adam White says he isn't sure of the reasoning behind the ten-day deadline, and says that the town has no policies on membership of a board. Adam says that the agenda for tonight's meeting was sent to the present Board members, but not to Diane, and that nobody had reached out to Diane about confirming her resignation. AnnaMarie asks what the Board should do about the ten-day deadline. Adam cites the last time the Board had to replace a member, when John Lawrence had resigned, saying that the town had violated that statute, as Mr. Lawrence's seat was vacant for months. There is more discussion about how this issue has been handled in the past for a few minutes, with it being confirmed that John Lawrence's seat was vacant for a long period and the John Lafayette's resignation was handled with a formal letter. ***Eric Godin suggests that he reach out to Diane to request a confirmation of her resignation, saying that there were still three days left before the states 10 day deadline. If Diane confirms her resignation or doesn't respond at all within those three days, the Board would move forward with posting the vacancy, per state statute. To be posted in 3 public places, on the town website, Front Porch Forum and in the Islander. Jeff asks if that is a motion and says he will second it. Eric responds 'so moved'. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes with four 'ayes'. Discussion moves on to clarify a deadline for letters of interest, and it is determined that August 10th would be the deadline.*** Discussion continues about times and deadlines, and it is determined that people can bring their letter of interest to the town office for the August 10th meeting and still be considered for the Board position.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

AnnaMarie Demars moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:19pm. Adam White seconds. No discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes with four 'ayes'