

Grand Isle Select Board

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, September 20th, 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; Ron Bushway

Community Members Present: Esther Blow; Joe Longo; Rachael Griggs; Denise Abbott-Douglas; Colleen Bushway; Melissa Boutin; Josie Leavitt, Sue Lawrence, Lucille Campbell, Bianca Adams, Charles Hollan, Emily Clark, Shannon Bundy, Tonya Poutry, Mike Donoghue, Mitchel Richardson, Jean Prouty, Mary Parizo

Board Members to Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: Ron Bushway says the executive session for the public health issue will be discussed in the open meeting.

II. GUEST OPEN COMMENT

III. GUESTS

Grand Isle Listers – Errors and Omissions Certificate: Sue Lawrence says that they have 3 errors and omissions. The first one was because people bought a piece of land that was adjacent to their existing property, and the Listers office forgot to eliminate one of the records, so the taxpayer got two tax bills. The second was Nancy Badger, who had a camper in the Champlain Adult Campground. Sue says there was a camper parked in her lot even though it wasn't hers. Susan says the camper was removed. The third one was due to an inactivation of a camper in Champlain Adult Campground. The gentleman had sold the camper and got a tax bill for it inadvertently. Sue says that she would like the Select Board to sign the errors and omissions list. ***Adam White moves to approve and execute the errors and omissions certificates for the Sendroff, Badger, and Parker properties. Ron Bushway seconds. No discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 30TH MEETING

Ron Bushway moves to approve the minutes of August 30th. AnnaMarie Demars seconds. No discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

V. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/BUILDINGS FACILITIES MANAGER UPDATE

Generator Quotes: Ron says that this generator is propane, rather than diesel. Adam asks if they need their own tank or if they are stand alone. Ron says the generator for the town office would need it's own tank, but that the garage already has a propane tank. The quotes are both from Brookfield service. The generator for the town office is for \$8,055, and the quote for the town garage is \$33,000 for 48 kilowats, or 60 kilowats for \$38,560. Adam asks if there are any grants available. Ron suggests discussing this at a future meeting, so grants can be looked into. AnnaMarie DeMars asks if the fire department has it's own generator. Adam answers that it does, and it was paid for using a grant. Denise Abbott-Douglas asks if the generator will automatically turn on if the power goes out. Ron confirms this is true. Josie Leavitt asks why only one company was consulted. Jeff says that getting quotes will continue before any decision is made.

Sealed Bids for Used Items: Old Garage: Ron says the bids are for the garage doors and the water heater from the old garage. There is only 1 bid that came in for the two garage doors from Carl Cobb for \$500 for both doors. ***Jeff Parizo moves to accept Carl Cobbs bid for \$500 for both garage doors. AnnaMarie Demars seconds. No discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

Ron says that roadside mowing continues. Ron says that one of the tractor's had a seal that was leaking and it was sent in for repair. Ron says that the repair shop called and said they had to replace the seals, the front axle, and the drive shaft, at a cost of \$22,000. These repairs were not approved by anyone from the town. Ron says that there was going to be a meeting to address the issue today. Ron says that we have to wait until we hear from the shop about what they can do to reduce the price.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Curb Cut 27 Lover's Lane: Jeff reads the application and conditions for curb cut at parcel ID 030254-1. ***Adam White moves to approve the curb cut for 27 Lover's Lane with the conditions as set forth by the road foreman in the application. Ron Bushway seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

Permit for Laying Pipes and Wires 33 Reynolds Rd: Jeff reads the permit and conditions on the application. Adam White asks when the work will be done. Jeff responds the work is scheduled to take place between August 23rd and 27th, but says that he doesn't think any of the work has been done. Adam asks if the form should be amended, as the form indicates the work has already be done. Town Clerk Melissa Boutin says that she doesn't believe the work has been done either. ***Adam White moves to approve the permit for laying pipes and wires for Burbo Homes, altering the date the work will be done to say it must be completed in the month of September, 2021, with conditions as put forth by the road foreman. Ron Bushway seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

Permit for Laying Pipes and Wires 98 Pearl St: Jeff says the applicant is James Plancke and it's Bullock Excavation doing the work. Jeff reads the application and conditions. Jeff says that this is the same issue as the last permit, as it is unknown if the work has been done yet. Ron says that he doesn't believe any of the work has been completed as of yet. ***Adam White moves to approve the application for laying of pipes and wires for James Plancke for the property located at 98 Pearl St with the work date amended to 'must be completed by the end of September, 2021' with conditions set forth by the road commissioner. AnnaMarie Demars seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

PACIF Inspection: Ron Bushway says that during the PACIF inspection, a few issues were uncovered. The Digital Video Recorder in the fire department needs to be locked up, rather than being on a desk. Ron asks if the fire suppression system was sprinklers. Adam answers that it is dry chem. The eyewash station at the new garage is not legal and needs to be replaced. There is discussion about the acquisition of the eyewash station at the garage and what is legal. Jeff asks if the fire alarm system at the Annex was tagged. Ron confirms that it

was. The handrails at the town office need to be reinforced. Ron says that there a few other issues that need to be addressed and several of the issues have already been dealt with.

Equipment Purchase – Display: Jeff says that the display Eric Godin picked to use for town meetings was an Insignia display on Amazon with a price tag of \$239.99. Jeff says that this display would stay in the town office. Shannon Bundy says that she has a display that the town can use. Shannon says she will drop the display off at the town. Jeff says the issue will be tabled until the new display is evaluated.

Garage – Louko’s Excavation: Jeff Parizo says he had sent an email in April or May asking all vendors to bring all of their invoices to the board to finalize all the expenses associated with the town garage. Jeff says that the town knows about the \$5,000 for the punch list being completed at the garage. Jeff says he got a text from Louko’s, who did the excavation and some side work, saying that the cost for the flaggers for that work was \$850. Jeff says he asked for an invoice to be sent to his email or to the town to be paid on June 6th. Jeff says that the town received an invoice dated 11/22/2020, and Jeff says he received it on September 8th. Jeff says that the invoice for considerably more than what was indicated in the text. Jeff says that he sent the invoice to Randy and Brad to see if the work was actually completed. Adam says that the initial text says \$875, and that the new invoice contains many more items and is considerably more expensive. Jeff says that he doesn’t want to make any decisions until he hears from Brad or Randy.

Public Health Issue: Ron Bushway says that two months ago that he received a call from a tenant at the round barn apartments. Ron says that he inspected the apartment and said that the apartment was full of mold and that the vent hadn’t been working for over two years. Ron says he sent a certified letter to Champlain Housing Trust to fix the apartment within 30 days, and that he would re-inspect on September 7th. Ron says that when he went for the follow up inspection, several of the items had not been taken care of. Ron says that he spoke to someone named Shaun Thomas with Housing and Urban Development with the federal government. Ron says that Shaun indicated the issues needed to be repaired, or Champlain Housing could lose their federal funding. Ron says that the vent cover still needed to be replaced. Ron says he then received a call from Champlain Housing trust to inspect a different apartment. Ron went to the apartment and found that it was very cluttered and there was mold all over the toilet and the bathroom. Ron says that the two people from Champlain Housing expected the Health Officer to take care of the issue, and Ron explained that typically it is the tenant and the landlord who take care of the issue. Ron says that the gentlemen from Champlain Housing then said that they would be speaking to their lawyers. Ron says that given that statement, he felt he should bring the issue up to the Board. Ron says that he is going to write an inspection report that will go to both the tenant and Champlain Housing Trust, giving them 15 days to rectify the issue. Adam asks if the tenant is aware of the situation. Ron says that she is, but when he was scheduled to visit the apartment again, the patient had a medical emergency and went to the hospital.

Reimbursement of Sales Tax – Melissa: Melissa Boutin says that there were some items for town items purchased using someone’s personal credit card at Lowe’s and on Amazon. Melissa

points out that the town is tax exempt and doesn't have to pay the sales tax. Melissa says both of those locations have the sales tax exemption is on file for the town of Grand Isle. Melissa says that the cost of the purchases less the sales tax has already been reimbursed, but she wanted the Board to be aware of the remaining amount for the sales tax, which is \$68.45, and for a decision to be made as to whether the sales tax should be reimbursed or not. Ron says that the items were purchased for the new garage. Jeff asks why a different means of payment was used. Ron says that Brad was not in that day. Ron says that he was aware of the purchases before they were made, but wasn't aware that we could use tax exemption at Lowe's. Ron says that he feels Randy shouldn't be out the sales tax money. Jeff says that he wants to make it known that nobody should be making purchases for town items on a personal credit card moving forward. **Jeff Parizo moves to refund the \$68.45 one time to Randy Gover. AnnaMarie Demars seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VTRANS Update at 81A Allen Rd.: Ron Bushway says that VTRANS wants the town to move guardrails back 2-3 feet. Ron says that he has contacted Jim Cota about replacing the guardrails within 90 days, saying that the guardrails were obstructing view leaving the Annex. Ron received an email from the permitting office saying that the permit had been amended to allow removal of the guardrails. Ron says that the day the permit information was received, the road crew removed the guardrails.

County Courthouse Update: Jeff lists the attendees of the meeting at the Sheriff's station. Jeff then summarizes the contents of the meeting, saying the discussion moved from the need for armed security at the courthouse to issues with the ventilation system during a pandemic, with Jeff saying that even if there was an armed security guard, the courthouse would remain closed due to the outdated ventilation system in the building. Jeff says that there are 7 other judicial buildings with ventilation issues. Jeff points out inconsistencies between the stated policy of armed guards and emails received by states attorney Doug DiSabito from court administrator Pat Gable. Jeff says in his opinion that the judiciary will be moving to close the courthouse permanently. Ron Bushway says he heard them say that it would cost \$1 million to update the ventilation in each building affected. Ron goes on to say that he agrees with Jeff's assessment that the courthouse may be closed. AnnaMarie DeMars says she is sick of Grand Isle County being lumped in with other counties, as Grand Isle is it's own county and is entitled to the same benefits as other counties in the state. Jeff points out that the only reason the judiciary held the meeting at the Sheriff's station was because the residents of Grand Isle were making noise about the issue. Denise says that she is very upset about this issue, noting that the county has been losing more and more services at the courthouse over the years. Josie Leavitt says that she understands the need for a courthouse in the county and wonders if our state representatives are championing this issue hard enough. Josie says she wonders if the courthouse services could be modified to still be able to have services at the building without having trials and other events that the ventilation system poses an issue for. Shannon Bundy agrees with Josie and asks about the costs to run the courthouse and statistics about use. Jeff points out that Doug DiSabito was at one time a pepper spray certified court officer at the Grand Isle courthouse. Jeff says he asked when the policy was changed to need armed guards, and says he was told 2015. Jeff suggests independently checking with contractors to see what it

would cost to update the ventilation in the courthouse, to see if the county could take care of the issue without judicial intervention. Josie Leavitt asks via chat if ARPA funding could be put towards the courthouse, to which Adam White responds he doesn't see why not. Sue Lawrence says that in the 1990's the courthouse administrator decided no trials would take place in Grand Isle, as the courthouse was too small, and everyone involved in jury trials had to drive to Franklin County to participate. Sue says that this was a huge inconvenience for everyone involved, compounded by the fact that this change happened in the wintertime. Sue says the end result was the judiciary building an addition on the Grand Isle County courthouse so jury trials could resume in the county. Ron asks about current maintenance at the building, saying he's concerned that with the building closed up, mold could grow and provide another reason to not open the courthouse. Jeff says he will check with the side judges to make sure the building is being maintained. Denise points out that during the meeting at the Sheriff's office that even if the judiciary focused on opening the courthouse right now, it would be at least 8 months before a security officer would be trained to do the job.

NESWD Update: Adam White has advertised on Front Porch Forum for the past three weeks and there have been zero applicants so far. Jeff Parizo says the issue will be tabled for a future meeting.

NEMRC Training: Jeff Parizo asks what date would be good to do a 2-3 hour NEMRC training. Adam White suggests having it during one of the Board's off weeks. Jeff suggests October 11th as a good date. Adam says that date would work. Jeff says that he will check with the NEMRC rep to see when a good date would be.

ARPA Funding: Jeff Parizo says that county monies have been received by the town in the amount of \$207,446.49. This brings the total ARPA funds received by the town to around \$319,000. Jeff says that the Planning Commission is still working with state agencies to make sure the money is spent correctly. Adam White asks if there will be a form for town residents and organizations to fill out to request funds for projects being worked on. Emily Clark from the Planning Commission says that the state agencies are still working on putting together a template or model to assist in allocating the funds. Emily says that she asked state representative Morgan if he had any further information, which he did not. Emily says that she thinks prudence is best, as there will be infrastructure funds available soon, and we don't want to spend ARPA funds on projects that would be covered by infrastructure money. Jeff says that VLCT will be holding trainings about ARPA funds.

Town Sign Update: AnnaMarie Demars says that a painting was received from Linda Effel, and that she has discussed with Karen McCloud about making the sign. Anna says that Karen will be working on the design with Linda Effel. AnnaMarie says that she will be reaching out to the property owners where the current town signs are to get permission to make alterations. AnnaMarie says she would like to show a finished design at town meeting this year, to be installed later. Adam White asks if the contest should be opened back up, as only one entry was received. AnnaMarie said that she floated the idea, but feels that it wouldn't be fair to the one applicant. Adam White asks about the cost. AnnaMarie says a cost hasn't been worked out yet. Rachael Griggs says that she had taken the flowers out at the town signs and thought that the signs were in fairly good shape. Rachael says that she thinks the town residents should have a voice in the process, and that handing out pamphlets at town meeting would be a good idea. Rachael says that she doesn't want to put her name on changing the signs until the town

residents have a say in the process. Joe Longo says that the town sign contest flyer is still displayed on the town website and will have to be removed, and asks AnnaMarie if there is a picture available of the proposed design. AnnaMarie says that she doesn't have a copy of the painting, as it was given to Karen McCloud. Shannon Bundy says that she had concerns about town involvement in the process, and says she would have liked to see the town's students involved. Shannon says that per Karen McCloud said the signs will cost no less than \$5,000, and says that she feels that the current signs could be refurbished. Rachael says that per Karen, the lifespan of her signs is around 15 years. Rachael points out that the current signs are over 30 years old and still look good. Rachael says that Karen could be contacted to provide a photo of the painting. Joe Longo asks if that image could be put on the website and have a non-binding vote to see what option residents would prefer between getting new signs or repairing the old signs. Issue is tabled for a later meeting.

Reminder: Rescue meeting 09/27: Jeff Parizo mentions the Grand Isle Rescue meeting on Monday September 27th, at 6:00pm. Jeff says that members of the North Hero Select Board will be present and he would like the meeting to be broadcast on Zoom.

Reminder: Budgets: Jeff Parizo says he knows that the town does not have data on a COLA raise or on health insurance premiums yet, but he would like to remind the various boards to start working on their budgets. Adam White agrees, saying that it would be nice to get the issue taken care of early. Melissa Boutin says that she is working with the town departments to get the budgeting taken care of. Adam White asks if Jeff or Melissa will send a friendly reminder to the department heads. Melissa says that she has a template that she will be sending out.

Zoning Bylaws/Public Hearing: Jeff says that the Board will shoot for a meeting October 11th or 25th. Melissa says the 25th would work better to allow for the 15 days necessary for the hearing to be warned.

Annex Update: Jeff says that there was a meeting of the Planning Commission, and there is a person who is actively looking to open a daycare in the Islands. Jeff says that this person already operates a daycare/ pre-k center in Milton and she loves the Annex building. Jeff says that Planning gave the individual until January to look at the plan. Jeff asks Ron Bushway to make sure that the heat stays on at acceptable levels in the meantime. AnnaMarie points out that the library stores extra books on the second floor in the Annex and wants to make sure that they are able to continue doing so. Adam White asks if Jeff had directed the daycare provider to the School Board to find out information on numbers of children. Jeff says that he did, and the person also reached out to the Parent Child center in South Hero for more data.

Fuel Tank – Old Fire Station: Ron Bushway says that the fuel tank that was in the old fire station was put out for open bid, which was bid on by a town member. The gentleman who purchased the fuel tank stopped at the site and told Goodhue construction that he purchased the tank and would be taking it. Goodhue construction took the tank and said they will not be bringing it back. Ron says that the gentleman who had bid on the tank is upset and wants a refund on his roughly \$600 bid for the tank. Jeff says that this happened due to a lack of communication, and things have been smoothed over with the town resident. Ron says that the state stopped the building from being torn down due to an old donated sink having asbestos in it. Ron says that the needed paperwork was filled out by the contractor and the tear down has continued. Ron asks if the money from the bid was put into the Highway Department Account. Melissa confirms. ***Ron Bushway moves to reimburse John Bolak \$600 for his bid on the fuel tank at the***

old fire station. AnnaMarie Demars seconds. No discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS

Ron Bushway moves to have the chair sign the warrants. Adam White seconds. No discussion. Jeff calls the vote which passes unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: HIGHWAY DEPT NEW HIRE

Jeff Parizo moves for the Board to go into executive session to discuss personnel matter, citing state statute. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Adam White moves to come out of executive session at 8:30pm with the decision to hire Michael Gover as a town laborer at \$21 per hour. In 90 days time, Ron Bushway as road commissioner will come back with an evaluation of Michaels performance. Ron Bushway seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

X. ADJOURNEMNT

AnnaMarie Demars moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm. Adam White seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Select Board Scribe: _____
Eric Godin

Select Board Chair: _____
Jeff Parizo