

Grand Isle Select Board Notice of Public Hearing

Monday, May 16th, 2022 at 6:00pm at Grand Isle Town Office and via Zoom

Board Members Present: Adam White, Jeff Parizo, Josie Leavitt, Couper Shaw, Eric Godin

I. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

The Official Warning for Grand Isle Select Board's Special Town Meeting for May, 16th 2022 was read by Adam.

<https://www.grandislevt.org/official-warning-for-grand-isle-special-town-meeting/>

He mentioned a letter was sent the previous week to Grand Isle residents to inform them about the informational hearing and the subsequent vote for May 17th 2022 containing:

- 1.) The Highway Department budget was initially was warned incorrectly as a budget of \$514,000. The error was discovered and the budget was corrected to \$554,000.
- 2.) The words 'Public information hearing' was not explicitly used on the warning to address this error.
- 3.) Because Grand Isle does not have elected auditors, it is the Select Board's responsibility to notify voters of the availability of the hired accountants report at least 30 days prior to Town Meeting, in 2022, this notification was instead released 10 days prior.

A 'yes' vote would ratify the election

A 'no' vote could invalidate the election, and further investigation would need to be made on the course to take afterwards.

Josie mentioned that the actual ballot was correct so the actual vote itself would stand.

Adam stated that the March 1st results for budgets and public office officials would stand.

II. DISCUSSION OF WARNED ARTICLE

A towns person asked if a 'no' vote would only put the 3 items in question. Adam stated it puts all of the ballot items in question. The towns person then asked if there would have to be another vote on all of the items. Eric stated no, the results would be entered with a comment such as 'not validated/ratified'.

Ron Bushway asked if a 'no' vote could be used to challenge the election, and Jeff stated that this is correct the town could end up in court. Ron then asked if the budget would go back to an austerity budget similar to one in 2003. Eric described that it would depend on what was challenged, the article or the entire vote.

Josie mentioned people have the opportunity to challenge results up to 30 days after the election.

Racheal Griggs brought up the incurred expenses from this process, and the potential use of more money from the general fund for another election.

Dave Capen asked how the select board became aware of the errors and how it was determined they were significant enough to contact the town attorney. Jeff replied that he had never encountered this before and the Select Board discussed and decided that contacting an attorney was necessary to resolve how to proceed. Adam stated that Melissa Boutin informed the Select Board of the budget error, and the correct language in the warning has been missing for years.

Adam reminded everyone to vote on the items discussed above 5/17/22 from 7 am to 7 pm at the Town Office. He asked that the Select Board remain after the meeting to set up voting booths. He stated the results will be posted on the town website main page after 7 pm tomorrow.

III. ADJOURNMENT at 620 p.m. on 5/16/22.