

Town of Isle La Motte  
Select Board Meeting  
01 August 2022  
5:00 pm @Isle La Motte School

Present : Rusty Spaulding, Mary Catherine Graziano, Paul Zera (by Zoom), Mary LaBrecque, Sarah Noble, Debbie Spaulding, David Osborne, Lee Osborne, Mary Centrella, Carmine Centrella, Barbara Callahan, Sylvia Jensen, Ann Jobin-Picard, Selby Turner, Peter Brzozowy, Sidney Martinez, Gail Rafferty, David Beckett, Cathy Tudhope, Kathie Balutansky, Lucinda Varga, Robert Varga, Anthony Fowler, Charlie Andrews, Erin Gilligan, Cary Sandvig, Patrick Helman, Douglas DiSabito, Pat Saylor, Thomas Saylor

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Rusty Spaulding at 5:00 pm. Additions to agenda : S. Jensen asked to discuss Zoom recording being placed on the website on the next day. Comment by Chair Spaulding to C. Andrews that any additions to agenda are to be communicated to the Select Board Chair.
2. Executive Session : Not needed,
3. Approve minutes of meeting of 05 July 2022 Liquor Control: motion made by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.  
Approve minutes of 05 July 2022 select board meeting: motion made by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.
4. Warrants for payroll \$1,918.72 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.  
EFT of 07/19/2022 \$319.50 (IRS) Ratification of P. Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.  
Payables 08/01/22 \$ 6,505.56 Motion to approve by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.  
Payables 07/19/22 \$20,803.21 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by M. Graziano, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor. M. Graziano indicated that the invoice from H.W. Webb had not been received, bill was paid through the credit card.
5. Monthly budget and balance sheet: M. Graziano inquired if the current highway grant was listed. Treasurer S. Noble replied that she has to submit for reimbursement before the money will be received.
6. Island Vandalism : Chair Spaulding commented that vandalism is a national issue and invited the residents in attendance to speak. Gail Rafferty commented that she hopes to have an Island discussion. She feels that the vandalism is too targeted to have been committed by "kids" and that there is video evidence otherwise, and feels that the town's response to the issue is important.  
Chair Spaulding replied that the Select Board cannot form a "Neighborhood Watch" due to liability issues.  
A. Fowler read a written statement (see attachments for text).  
R. Spaulding commented on an instance of vandalism on his property. He wrote an article for Front Porch Forum which they refused to print. K. Balutansky mentioned reporting just as a report and other attendees suggested posting on social media. Constable Lyle Andrews discussed the social media sites.  
B. Varga commented " I am sad for the Peacock family, I am sad for my wife, I am sad for myself, I am sad for this town, I am sad for this state, and I am sad for this country". S. Jensen inquired if Chair Spaulding had notified the authorities about vandalism. Sheriff Ray Allen indicated that they would appreciate being contacted by phone or by a message on their website. The Commander of the State Police barracks in St. Albans recommended that residents contact the State Police with any information they have, which helps the police to build a case. The more information provided the better. C. Andrews commented that Main St needs to be protected, he

has been the victim of a burglary.

D. Osborne commented that he and his family have been part time residents for 60 years, and although this issue is global it needs to be solved locally. Doug Di Sabito, Grand Isle State's Attorney, stated " I'm not gonna put up with this crap". Investigations take time, and he feels that eventually these people will be found, charged, and held accountable. C. Varga commented on the vandalism directed at them.

Chair Spaulding commented on how the town had contracted for more hours from the Sheriff, this year, however they are unable to provide more services due to a staff shortage. Sheriff Allen responded that they now have 3 Sheriff's deputies and a fourth due to start in September. Sid Martinez commented that he has lived here for 4 years and has been stopped by law enforcement 7 times since he has been here. He shared his experiences with law enforcement, and stated that he is scared. Ann- Jobin Picard commented on the number of beer bottles she picks up that indicates there is a lot of drunk driving going on, which worries her. State Trooper Peterson indicated that this investigation is in the information gathering stage. M. Graziano thanked the State Police and the Sheriff's department for their hard work. D. DiSabito agreed with the State Police that investigations take time and are a tremendous amount of work. Chair Spaulding commented on how it looks like people have some good ideas and that the old Town Hall is available as a meeting place. S. Jensen feels that there should be a strong statement in the minutes condemning the behavior. P. Helman thanked law enforcement, and feels that if the Select Board does nothing, it is tacit acceptance. D. Beckett commented that he feels the Select Board should go on record stating that the vandalism is wrong. M. Graziano commented that scare tactics, vandalism, etc is unacceptable and that people should contact law enforcement if they see anything. P. Helman requested that the select board publish a statement in the Islander and mail a copy to the residents. Clerk Noble offered to put statements from residents as attachments to the minutes. M. Graziano offered to craft the statement and made a motion to publish said statement in Islander, Front Porch Forum and mail individually to property owners. Motion seconded by R. Spaulding, all in favor.

7. Advertise for animal control officer : J. Benson sent a letter of resignation effective 27 July 2022. Motion to advertise for Animal Control Officer made by M. Graziano, seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

8. Review Town Right of Way policy: Policy was adopted in 2014 and states that any permanent work done in town right of way must have a permit, which must be approved by Select Board The policy was reviewed. Board Clerk M. LaBrecque inquired has to how new property owners would know this. Chair Spaulding replied that he hoped they would check with the town before doing anything. Discussion about special circumstances between Chair Spaulding and M. Graziano. C. Andrews requested the town update the website. Chair Spaulding stated that the policy appears fine, just the compliance is lacking. Select Board will look at possible penalties for noncompliance.

9. Road Commissioners Report : S. Turner stated that he has been read the riot act about 18 inch culverts. A truck ran over the culvert at the corner of West Shore road and West Ridge road where a new house is under construction. The culvert was 15 inches and it was stated that if an 18 inch culvert had to be installed, the next several down the road will need to be replaced and the ditches are not deep enough. His idea is to repair it. C. Bohannon inquired as to who would pay for it, and Selby felt although it is the homeowners responsibility, the town will complete that repair as part of a larger job. The culvert at the 4 corners is complete, and came out very well, there is a good size shoulder. The grant that was received from the state after a 3 year delay and will allow the town to do about 9000 ft of paving, mostly on West Shore Rd, and on Main St. from the 4 corners until just north of Ed Lockerb's barn. Shoulders on both sides will be paved for about \$16,000. The shoulders where the caution stakes will be paved however the ditching is extremely deep and there are wetlands on the west side which are protected. Getting into the environmental impact of repairing the issues would cost millions of dollars per the Army Corp of Engineers

Increasing the footprint of a road around a wetland requires a permit. The paving will cost around \$170,000, but will see if some more money can be found in the budget to complete some additional projects. There is money in the budget to fix the culvert on New road and some additional work on Bruley Rd.

C. Andrews was wondering why the speed sign is not up. Selby responded that he had spoken with both Rusty and John about how to mount the sign. Some discussion about the poles between S. Jensen S. Turner. M. Graziano asked about dates for paving, Selby replied around the end of August. M. Graziano also inquired about a pothole on Church St. and the reply was that the town is out of cold patch but will purchase some hot patch when the big paving job is done. She also inquired about getting a "bump" sign for where the new culvert is. Selby replied that once we get rain it should start to settle and that any new sign should say "Slow Down". Agreement on all sides.

10. Late Homestead Penalty : Treasurer S. Noble shared that 2 taxpayers : Angela Gaboriault and Martin Jensen were charged a homestead penalty however did not receive a rebate. R. Spaulding moved that the penalty be removed, second by M. Graziano, all in favor. S. Turner mentioned as an addendum to the road commissioner report that all of the speed limit signs on New Road have been stolen. They are expensive to replace and there is nobody to put them up. The thefts were not reported to the police, but M. Graziano offered to call the police and make a report if the information is provided to her.

11. Errors and Omissions : Lister Chair M. LaBrecque listed 9 campers from Sunset Rock which have been removed (see attached list). The total assessed value is \$163,200 to be removed. The listers added over \$2,000,000 to the Grand List this year. Lister D. Spaulding stated that although the listers requested a customer list from Sunset Rock in March or April, we did not receive the list until June. R. Spaulding also commented that the campground is not required to provide this list. Motion made by M. Graziano to make these changes to the Grand List. Second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

12. Training for Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer: R. Spaulding stated that any training is great. Treasurer S. Noble stated that Assistant Treasurer M. LaBrecque had spoken with NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center) about getting some on-site training. NEMRC quoted a price of \$145 per hour, however with a commitment to 10 or more hours the price would lower to \$110 per hour. M. LaBrecque stated that learning a more efficient way to deal with the credit card payments is important. R. Spaulding responded that NEMRC is an important tool and that the security of the system is important. Motion made by M. Graziano to support training, second by R. Spaulding, all in favor.

13. Ann Marcoux property discussion : Delinquent Tax Collector M. LaBrecque discussed that Ann Marcoux's Estate owns a piece of marshland near Cathy Tudhope's camps. The taxes have been delinquent since 2017, a tax sale was attempted in 2019, however the sale did not go through. At this point there is \$2208.20 in back taxes due along with \$1100 in interest and penalties. She is proposing that the town consider buying it and incorporating it into the town property as it seems to be a lost cause.

14. Other Business : S. Jensen would like the Zoom link put on the front page of the web site within 24 hours of the meeting. Clerk Noble responded she has been sending the link to those that request it. R. Spaulding read a statement :

"It has been brought to my attention by a few people that a person in town has alleged that "The Board" is skimming. They will not specify how. We take this allegation very seriously. We strongly encourage anyone with either the proof or the method by which this is happening to please bring it to us so that it can be taken to the proper authorities."

He also stated that he has been advised not to mention this person who is spreading this rumor, for now. But, it's out there. If this is something solid, we would love to hear it. I assume they are talking about myself and Paul. You weren't on the board long (to P. Brzozowy) but Selby probably was. You're pretty safe ( to M. Graziano), it would be between Selby, myself, and the

rich guy over there at home (P. Zera).

He reiterated that they take this seriously and are very interested to know where this is coming from as they have no access to the money or the bank account, and that he gets copies once a year and pays by check so nobody can say I don't pay for my copies. He also mentioned that another individual in town commented how they felt it was OK because the tax rate was kept low. C. Bohannon mentioned that since the embezzlement, and using NEMRC, it would be impossible for this to happen. M. LaBrecque commented how it made no sense, and S. Jensen commented that NEMRC has made everything more secure.

There was discussion between R. Spaulding and M. Graziano about the deadline for additions for the Select Board meeting. The deadline is 4:00 pm Thursday, but sometimes the agenda is posted by then. D. Spaulding commented that Chair Spaulding should be contacted for agenda items, not the Clerk. M. Graziano moved that the agenda deadline be changed to 12 pm the Thursday before the meeting, second by R. Spaulding, all in favor.

A. Picard commented on Rec Park activities. There will be a mindfulness walk at the Goodsell reserve this Sunday. R. Casey called attention to the new paint job on the pickle ball court, as the sport is becoming very popular. The Island Pickleball Association paid \$3700 while Isle La Motte paid \$1000. They would like to fence it in to protect the investment. There was some discussion about signs and security of the Rec park. Also, a beginners Pickleball course has been offered on Friday evenings and has been well attended. There was some discussion about availability of Town owned tent for 20 August. S. Jensen thanked the town for the use of the town tent and Rec Park for ILMCO function in the park.

Motion to adjourn by M. Graziano at 7:05, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary LaBrecque  
Select board Clerk  
Town of Isle La Motte

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Rustam Spaulding

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Paul Zera

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Mary Catherine Graziano