**Town of Isle La Motte**

**Special Select Board Meeting Agenda**

**Aug.15, 2022**

**5:30 p.m. Town Office @ School**

**Agenda.**

1. Additions/ deletions to the agenda
2. Petition
3. Statement for mailing – vandalism.
4. Adjourn.

Topic: August 15, 2022 Special Selectboard Agenda

Time: Aug 15, 2022 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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**Special Select Board Meeting Minutes**

Isle La Motte School

15 Aug 2022 @5:30 pm

Present : Rusty Spaulding, Paul Zera, Mary Catherine Graziano, Mary Labrecque, Sarah Noble, Cary Sandvig, Bob Varga, Cindi Varga, Sylvia Jensen, Cathy Tudhope

Meeting called to order by Chair R. Spaulding at 5:33 pm.

1. Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None
2. Petition: Chair Spaulding read the Petition: “We the registered voters of Isle La Motte petition the Select Board to place the following question per consideration on the next Australian Ballot election: “Shall the legal voters of the town authorize the mailing of the annual Town Reports ten days before the annual meeting “He asked if that means we mail one to each household which would be 283 books, it will cost around $2,000. S. Jensen asked why isn’t this being sent to the Secretary of State’s office. Clerk S. Noble replied that it will be after it is approved at this meeting, and the Secretary of State will unlock portion of the website. So, the ballot question can be added. S. Jensen, asked if there were 42 more households than in March, and what the procedure is with the postcards. Town Clerk S. Noble replied that she tries to send them out by household, they are sent out 30 days before the meeting, and that all of the address labels for each household are placed on the same postcard. The practice will remain the same for the Town Report books. Motion to accept petition made by M. Graziano, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
3. Statement for mailing (vandalism): Chair Spaulding confirmed that the cost to mail the postcards is $.44 each. Discussion between Chair Spaulding, M. Graziano, and S. Noble concerning who to mail the postcards to and how to effectively print the labels. Chair Spaulding felt it unnecessary to mail to the individual campers at the campgrounds. C. Tudhope suggested the campgrounds post the information in their offices. S. Jensen commented this has brought negative attention to Isle La Motte and that this mailing will be a clear statement that this is not what our community stands for. M. Graziano added that the main point is “If you see something, say something.” M. Graziano suggested maximizing number of people to send post cards to without spending ridiculous amounts of money on post cards. Board Clerk M. LaBrecque suggested sending the postcards to the residential homeowners in the grand list. S. Noble agreed and there was further discussion about also looking through the nonresidential homeowners as some business owners are listed as nonresidents on the Grand List. M. Graziano offered that several people have offered to help with the mailing. M. Graziano read the following proposed letter:

Dear Community Members,

It has come to the Isle La Motte Selectboard’s attention that Isle La Motte homeowners who have hung pride flags have had their flags destroyed and stolen, some have also had their vehicles vandalized and mailboxes damaged and stolen.

In one case, a flag was set on fire on a resident’s property. We have had nine known incidents over the course of the month of July.

The Selectboard states clearly and firmly that such acts are not tolerated in our community. These crimes are against everything this community stands for- human dignity, freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom to live unmolested on our own property and in our own community.

Currently these incidents are being investigated by authorities as possible hate crimes. The Grand Isle Sherriff and Vermont State Police are actively exploring leads, and have stated at our Selectboard meeting on 8/1/22 that when citizens report suspicious activity or crimes that have been committed, it helps them to collect the data needed to bring this to a close.

If you see any suspicious activity, please contact the Vermont State Police at their non-emergency line: (802)-524-5993 or the Grand Isle Sheriff’s department at 802-372-4482, or anonymously on the homepage of Grandislesheriffvt.org.

Sincerely,

Isle La Motte Selectboard

Motion to approve made by P. Zera, second by M. Graziano, all in favor.

S. Jensen commented that that although the minutes of the 08/01 meeting are not on the agenda, that in a particular section of the minutes, an individual whose property was vandalized was named. Normal practice is for a summary of people’s comments to be included. Board Clerk M. Labrecque replied that she was told that she had to by Selectboard Chair R. Spaulding, who added that the Town attorney told him that any names mentioned at the meeting must be in the minutes. M. Labrecque stated that she relistened to that portion of the tape and that she quoted B. Vargas directly, and reiterated that she edited the minutes to reflect her instruction from Chair Spaulding.

Chair Spaulding indicated that this discussion wasn’t on the agenda and made a motion to adjourn, seconded by P. Zera, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary LaBrecque

Selectboard Clerk

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Rusty Spaulding

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Paul Zera

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Mary Catherine Graziano