

Selectboard Budget Meeting  
25 January 2024  
6:31 PM  
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Mary-Catherine Graziano, Cary Sandvig, Joseph Deller, Bill Johnson, Bill Baron, Sylvia Jensen, Cathy Tudhope, Vickie Buswell, Pat Treckman (via Zoom), Erin Gilligan (via Zoom), Marie D'Angelo (via Zoom), Marie D'Angelo (via Zoom), Jason Wright (via Zoom), Andrea Carbone, and others via Zoom who did not provide full names or sign the attendee list

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Board Chair Mary-Catherine Graziano.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** A request was made for an update regarding the individuals reported to have fallen through the ice on Wednesday, as well as to follow up on the reported injury to an Isle La Motte firefighter. Isle La Motte Fire Chief Bill Johnson was present to announce that the ice report was made in error - there was not an incident of individuals falling through the ice. Regarding the injured firefighter, an update could not be provided due to health privacy regulations. A request to briefly discuss the food shelf was requested at the end of the meeting and Sylvia Jensen said she would bring up a dedication request during the Budget review portion of the meeting.
3. **Administration**
  - *Grand Isle Fire Department - Bill Baron, county assistance request* - Bill Baron, Grand Isle Fire Assistant Chief, and Bill Johnson were present on behalf of the Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association (GICMAA), a combined fire and rescue organization representing Alburgh, Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, North Hero, and South Hero. The group is considering the creation of a County Coordinator position to handle budgets, insurance, relationships between the members, and pursue grant opportunities, among other duties. Cost-sharing to cover the salary would be based on population and Isle La Motte is currently allocated at 10% the area population; the position potentially may be funded, for a period of time, through grant opportunities. GICMAA hopes to have a proposal ready to share for the next budget cycle. A motion for Isle La Motte's support of exploring the initiative was made by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor.
  - *Alburgh Rescue - budget request discussion* - Alburgh Rescue was unable to attend the meeting, and Bill Johnson was in attendance to provide some background on the significant rise in costs the organization has requested year over year. Per his understanding, Alburgh calculated the cost of rescue services for their roughly 2,200 residents for a total of \$329,000, which will cover all their costs. As they did not approach Isle La Motte for an understanding, they then took Isle La Motte's population at the same rate per person to arrive at \$60,000, which would essentially overfund their organization. A blended population would have yielded an average per person cost of \$104, versus the \$123 each town is currently anticipated to pay. As no formal communication has been received from Alburgh Rescue, the Selectboard has elected to budget \$104 per person for a total of \$50,752. Bill Johnson advised Alburgh Rescue to include Isle La Motte in their budget planning for the next year, at which time Joe Deller stated Alburgh Rescue should provide their methodology for calculating their rates going forward.
  - *Warrants for payroll & payables - A copy of the warrants will be included as an exhibit to the minutes.*
    - 17 January 2024 - Payroll Transfer for the Internal Revenue Service and Vermont department of Taxes in the amount of \$421.15; motion to approve was made by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor.
    - 25 January 2024 - Payables for \$62,437.27 including snow removal, roadside tree trimming, bookkeeping services, and the water tank replacement for the Town Office; motion to approve was made by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor.
    - A discussion of the bookkeeper expenses followed, and it was noted that NEMRC would like to see this contract come to an end as soon as possible. Mary-Catherine Graziano noted that she would like to remind the public to run for the open offices, and Sylvia Jensen suggested mentioning the wage increase for the Treasurer position in an effort to entice qualified candidates to consider becoming a candidate. Postings to remind residents of open positions will be made via Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Should no candidates run for Treasurer, a qualified bookkeeper will be recruited for beginning next week.

#### 4. Budget Review

- *Budget Revenue + Expense Review* - The remainder of the meeting focused on completing the budget for 2024. The Selectboard and attendees discussed how to address the surplus remaining from 2023, a portion of which was deemed necessary to hold in a reserve fund for possible flooding which the region may be facing this spring. Cary Sandvig stated that it would be beneficial to have a high-level calculation for how \$1,000 in expenses impacts a resident's tax bill to discuss at the Informational Town Meeting. Ultimately, it was decided to use approximately \$40,000 in the highway surplus to offset 2024 Highway expenditures and reduce the tax burden for the year. Between the General Fund and the Highway Fund, taxes will rise approximately \$55,000. A summary of the key items impacting the increase will be prepared for the Town Meeting, including a rise in Town Office wages, Alburgh Rescue increases, and costs to operate and maintain the former school which is now town property. A discussion of the repayment to the Trustees of Public Funds followed, and \$75,000 of the surplus was appropriated to as income in 2024 to offset the payment reflected in the expenses; these funds were not transferred out in 2023, hence were already earmarked for repayment in 2024. Cathy Tudhope indicated that there still remains a discussion to be had regarding the \$4,000 in forfeited deposit that was retained from a potential buyer of Sunset View Lot 7A, and that a \$7,000 loan balance from many years ago is still outstanding but additional research is needed to prepare a full reconciliation of the transaction.
- *Town Report Progress Review* - The Selectboard reviewed the Town Report progress made to date.
  - Ms. Graziano read her draft of a letter from the Board. Cary Sandvig will review and complete the letter for inclusion in the report, as well as review Ms. Graziano's reviewed Road Commissioner report.
  - The Cemetery Commission letter will be omitted as it was not prepared by a member of the commission.
  - Several reports remain outstanding, including the report from RHR Smith, though they have communicated their intent to provide a report within the deadline.
  - Sylvia Jensen requested that the Town Report be dedicated in memory of Larry Mumley who was instrumental in bringing the elementary school to Isle La Motte. A motion to approve the dedication was made by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor.
  - Sylvia Jensen also noted that the School Board will be discussing the possibility of providing compensation to towns to cover the printing expense of the reporting included in the annual report.
- *Public Announcement Postings/Notices Review* - Notice of the meeting and articles will be issued in *The Islander* on January 31, 2024 and posted in public the same day. Submission of the advertisement is due at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 29.
- *Mailings - review Postcard and Town Report requirements* - Postcards will not be mailed as the warnings will be posted publicly and the Town Reports mailed directly to voter households.
- *Calendar Review + Next Meeting Scheduling* - The next budget meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on February 1, 2024 to review the draft of the Town Report for final approval.
- *Budget, Warning, and Articles Approval* - A motion to approve the budget and warnings pending final review and completion of open items was made by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor.

#### 5. Other Business:

- *Isle La Motte Food Shelf* - To spread the word regarding the relocated food shelf, an advertisement in Front Porch Forum will be posted to the Isle La Motte audience only. Additionally, the A-Frame sign in the Town Office will be placed at the entrance walk on Thursdays to alert the community to the new location.

6. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 PM, motioned by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Joe Deller, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 28 January 2024 -  
Andrea Carbone

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Mary-Catherine Graziano

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Cary Sandvig

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Joe Deller

01/17/24  
01:41 pm


Town of Isle La Motte Accounts Payable  
Check Warrant Report # Current Prior Next FY Invoices  
All Manual\Direct Pays For Check Acct 01(General Fund) 01/17/24 To 01/17/24

Page 1  
TCA

Vendor	Invoice	Invoice Description	Purchase Amount	Discount Amount	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
IRS	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	PR-01/17/24 Payroll Transfer	390.09	0.00	390.09	E 10021	01/17/24
VTTAXES	VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF TAXES	PR-01/17/24 Payroll Transfer	31.06	0.00	31.06	E 10022	01/17/24
Report Total			421.15	0.00	421.15		

To the Treasurer of Town of Isle La Motte, We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating \$ \*\*\*\*\*421.15  
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

Selectboard

  
Cary Sandvig

  
Mary Catherine Graziano

  
Joseph Deller

Town of Isle La Motte Accounts Payable  
Check Warrant Report # Current Prior Next FY Invoices  
For checks For Check Acct 01(General Fund) 01/25/24 To 01/25/24

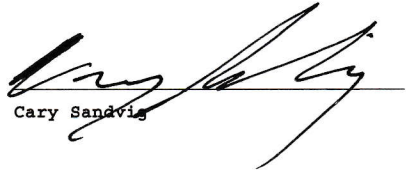
Vendor	Invoice	Invoice Description	Purchase Amount	Discount Amount	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
BRU	BRUYETTE'S TREE SERVICE	012324 Tree Service	6000.00	0.00	6000.00	5669	01/25/24
CA	CAI TECHNOLOGIES	18674 Tax Maps	400.00	0.00	400.00	5670	01/25/24
CHEV	CHEVALIER DRILING CO	90954 Tank installed	1545.00	0.00	1545.00	5671	01/25/24
FIRSTB	FIRST BANKCARD	02036182 various	272.20	0.00	272.20	5672	01/25/24
FIRSTB	FIRST BANKCARD	02039413 Anti virus	92.17	0.00	92.17	5672	01/25/24
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					Check Total	364.37	
GOODWAY	GOOD-WAY DOCUMENT SERVICES	2113 Microfilm storage	30.00	0.00	30.00	5673	01/25/24
GISD	GRAND ISLE CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	FY24-28T December 2023	3295.50	0.00	3295.50	5674	01/25/24
YARATZ	JOHN YARATZ EXCAVATION LLC	4799302 February Plowing	30000.00	0.00	30000.00	5675	01/25/24
KEVACO	KEVA CO.	77 Copier charges Jan	495.00	0.00	495.00	5676	01/25/24
NEMRC	NEMRC	54266 Consulting	5830.00	0.00	5830.00	5677	01/25/24
NEMRC	NEMRC	54367 Consulting	3795.00	0.00	3795.00	5677	01/25/24
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					Check Total	9625.00	
PESTPRO	PESTPRO, INC	172642 Rodent control	258.00	0.00	258.00	5678	01/25/24
RHRSMITH	RHR SMITH & COMPANY	2024-0485 2023 Audit	3250.00	0.00	3250.00	5679	01/25/24
ROWLEY	ROWLEY FUELS INC	505838 Fuel	936.03	0.00	936.03	5680	01/25/24
TEDFORD	SAMANTHA TEDFORD	002 Custodial Services	105.00	0.00	105.00	5681	01/25/24
TEDFORD	SAMANTHA TEDFORD	003 Custodial Services	105.00	0.00	105.00	5681	01/25/24
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					Check Total	210.00	
STANISLAS	STANISLAS SANDPIT LLC	2656 sand	3094.00	0.00	3094.00	5682	01/25/24
STIT	STITZEL, PAGE & FLETCHER, PC	80431 legal	35.01	0.00	35.01	5683	01/25/24
SYMQ	SYMQUEST	519028666 Copier	589.03	0.00	589.03	5684	01/25/24
TW	T.W. ELECTRIC	729 electrical work	513.00	0.00	513.00	5685	01/25/24
ISLANDER	THE ISLANDER	8231 Advertising	176.00	0.00	176.00	5686	01/25/24
TRUSTEES	TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS	121223 Interest on Loan	645.35	0.00	645.35	5687	01/25/24
TUTTLE	TUTTLE TRUCKING CO	20240108 Trash	47.50	0.00	47.50	5688	01/25/24
VTDEPTLAB	VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	01102024 Unemployment Coppolino	307.80	0.00	307.80	5689	01/25/24

Town of Isle La Motte Accounts Payable  
Check Warrant Report # Current Prior Next FY Invoices  
For checks For Check Acct 01 (General Fund) 01/25/24 To 01/25/24

Vendor	Invoice	Invoice Description	Purchase Amount	Discount Amount	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20240126-1	electric	23.85	0.00	23.85	5690	01/25/24
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20240126-4	electric	25.17	0.00	25.17	5690	01/25/24
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20240126-5	electric	22.51	0.00	22.51	5690	01/25/24
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20240126-6	street lights	91.10	0.00	91.10	5690	01/25/24
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20240126-7	Town office	415.44	0.00	415.44	5690	01/25/24
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20241026-2	electric	20.99	0.00	20.99	5690	01/25/24
VTELEC	VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, 20241026-3	electric	19.63	0.00	19.63	5690	01/25/24
					-----		
					Check Total	618.69	
WBMASON	W. B. MASON CO., INC. 243547152	water cooler rental	1.99	0.00	1.99	5691	01/25/24
Report Total			-----	-----	-----		
			62,437.27	0.00	62,437.27		
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To the Treasurer of Town of Isle La Motte, We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating \$ \*\*\*\*62,437.27  
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

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Mary Catherine Graziano

  
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