

Regular Selectboard Meeting
21 August 2024
6:00 PM
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Peter Brzozowy, Mary-Catherine Graziano, Cary Sandvig, Pat Treckman, Sylvia Jensen, Terrance Tuck, Rusty Spaulding, Barbara Callahan, Beth Meese (via Zoom), Carmine Centrella (via Zoom), Steven Reeve (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Selectboard Chair Peter Brzozowy.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** Barbara Callahan requested time to discuss the maintenance of the exterior of the Town Office. Sylvia Jensen requested time to discuss an Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO) donation of the eclipse at the entrance to the Island.
3. **Administration**
 - *Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes from prior meetings*
 - 7 August 2024 - A motion to approve the Regular Meeting meetings was made by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.
 - 12 August 2024 - A motion to approve the Special Meeting meetings was made by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.
 - *Board of Listers - Errors & Omissions* - There were no updates for this meeting.
 - *Warrants for payroll & payables* -
 - 14 August 2024 - Payroll Transfer for the Internal Revenue Service and Vermont Department of Taxes in the amount of \$694.36. A motion to approve was made by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.
 - 14 August 2024 - Payroll in the amount of \$3,431.79. A motion to approve was made by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.
 - *RHR Smith Letters - complete additional signatures, if necessary* - Mary-Catherine Graziano has submitted all paperwork and the open items due to RHR Smith are complete.
4. **Contracts/Grants/Bids**
 - *Animal Control - identify member(s) to review ILM ordinance vs. new Vermont regulations* - Mary-Catherine Graziano has forwarded Jim Benson's comments to Peter Brzozowy. These comments will be folded into the ordinance, as well as that all costs associated with a call will be paid by the offender. Mary-Catherine Graziano suggested having the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) review this language for legality. Additional changes were made to be included in the next draft which will be reviewed by the members then posted on the website for a 60-day public review period.
 - *West Shore Ditching & Culvert Project - review bids, award contract* - No bids were received and it will be advertised for one more cycle. Mary-Catherine Graziano suggested contacting VTrans for an extension, which Pat Treckman will investigate.
 - *Upcoming Bid Reviews* - The Board will review bids for IT Managed Services and Snow Removal during the next regular meeting scheduled for September 4th; bids are due September 2nd and September 3rd, respectively. Cary Sandvig noted that he had asked Vickie Buswell to contact Rural Solutions about issues with the internet following a recent power outage, and that she would also confirm they would be bidding on the IT Managed Services; Member Sandvig will also follow up as Ms. Buswell was only able to connect with voicemail at Rural Solutions. It was announced that digitization scanning had begun.
5. **Roadways**
 - *Road Commissioner report* - Rusty Spaulding reviewed the conditions at Jim Pearo's property, an ongoing issue when it rains. The most likely best solution is for Mr. Pearo to build up his lawn to be higher than the ditch. The seawall holes were reviewed and John Yartz will take a look at patching the holes. Regarding the State paving grant, the Town is currently low on the priority list but is moving up as the list cycles through award towns year by year. An RFP for tree trimming has been prepared but not released due to open work still due for Main Street. Mary-Catherine Graziano will contact Bruyette's Tree Service in an effort to have them complete their open work on Main Street now that the VEC work has been completed. Pat Treckman will work with Mary-Catherine Graziano on a follow up letter for the conversation.

- Sylvia Jensen announced that fourteen years ago a 10% matching grant was offered to the town to alleviate the issue at Mr. Pearo's home; the grant was not accepted. Ms. Jensen indicated that she hopes the current Board will be more open to the offer of such grants going forward.
- Mary-Catherine Graziano brought to the attention of Rusty Spaulding that recently a driveway had been installed and the homeowner incorrectly thought the Town would install a culvert. Mary-Catherine Graziano will review the Right of Way ordinance and develop language regarding this situation for future public awareness.

6. **Town Business**

- *ARPA Funding* - In an effort to commit the funds to a project rather than a receive fund, an informal poll of the Town Office staff indicated they would like the Town to consider using the ARPA funds for air conditioning/heating; a quote will be sought for heat pumps/mini split units for various areas of the building. It was noted that the boiler is rapidly approaching its end of life. Mary-Catherine Graziano indicated that there are contractor availability issues to provide any quotes or service at this time, and that VLCT does feel that setting up a reserve fund for the remaining ARPA money would protect the award. The discussion will continue at the September 4th board meeting in an effort to wrap up the decision by October.
- *Selectboard Oversight - discuss oversight roles for Town business* - The Selectboard made additional changes to the matrix, which will have a forward facing and administration versions. There remain some decisions to be made as to the sequence of alerts, primarily for animal control issues. A decision was also had about the Property Manager role, and taking on additional responsibilities. Peter Brzozowy will work with Toby Peacock on a priority list of tasks and equipment to prioritize/purchase. Mary-Catherine Graziano motioned to approve \$1,000 in ARPA funds be earmarked for Town Office maintenance equipment, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
- *Town Planning Commission - draft plan public hearing recap* - Carmine Centrella stated that a revised plan including changes suggested at the public meeting would be issued to the Selectboard in early September for review at the second meeting in September.
- *Town Land Maintenance* - Barbara Callahan discussed the condition of the Town Office building. She requested attention be directed to the entrances to ensure the areas were power washed and cleaned of debris/boxes, that the planters be maintained, and that lighting be added for safety. Additionally, the mowing of the Town land was discussed and weed whacking was requested to be added to the scope of work. The entrance to the island was also reviewed and needs to be maintained to address overgrowth. Pat Treckman stated that she would like to see the community continue to provide volunteer labor to do this work, rather than move to a paid model that would impact taxes. Sylvia Jensen stated that she feels there is a backlog of work that will require an initial investment of funds, and that after professional work volunteers could then provide regular maintenance. Mary-Catherine Graziano suggested a possible model of offering businesses advertising in exchange for the maintenance of areas of Town. Discussions of land maintenance will continue at a future meeting. It was also noted that signage to the Town Office will also be addressed, but will preserve the memory of the former School.
- *Holiday Decorations* - The Public Library requested permission to decorate Old Town Hall and Town Hall this season and coming years. They are also seeking volunteers to set up and break down the annual haunted library. Peter Brzozowy made a motion to approve the Library to decorate for the upcoming holidays, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.

7. **Other Business**

- *Eclipse Artwork Donation* - Sylvia Jensen provided a letter from the Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO) which was read to the Selectboard which will be attached as an exhibit to the meeting minutes. Mary-Catherine Graziano motioned to accept the piece of art for the Town, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor. A decision on the location to be installed will be considered in September, until then the piece will be stored at the Town Office.
- *Financial Review* - There will be a financial review during the second meeting in September.
- *Budget Planning* - It was agreed to start the process in October for the upcoming fiscal year.

8. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM, motioned by Mary-Catherine Graziano, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 24 August 2024 -
Andrea Carbone

Peter Brzozowy, *Chair* _____

Mary-Catherine Graziano _____

Cary Sandvig _____

Joe Deller _____

Pat Treckman _____