

Granville Special Selectboard Town Informational Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2021 via Zoom Meeting ID #89083388259

APPROVED

In attendance: Bruce Hyde, Chair, Jennifer Page-Stickney and James Dague; Selectboard; Roger Stauss, Moderator; Mark Belisle, Constable; Rachel Grigorian, Stephanie Walker, Planning Commission; Robin Haggerman, Auditor; Kate Stauss, Justice of the Peace and Cheryl L. Sargeant, Clerk

Public: Robert Stauss, Diane Eramo, Ronald Millard, Corner School Resource Center of Granville, VT; Judith Wood, Dylan Kelley, The Herald of Randolph; Kim Warner, Julie Reiderer and Virginia Hadam

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. with Bruce reading a paragraph regarding holding public meetings using video conferencing as recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), outlining the process indicating that questions were to be answered but nothing in the Warning could be changed. He then turned the meeting over to Roger.

Roger explained that Robert would be watching the waiting room to allow participants access and that he would be following Roberts' Rules of Order allowing participants 5 minutes to ask their questions and/or comment on the Article in question. Then the Selectboard and/or other Commission would answer said question. If you have already spoken you will have to wait your turn until others have had a chance to speak.

Article 1: Election of Town Officials Roger proceeded to read the list to be elected. With there being no questions Roger asked if the persons running for Selectboard would like to speak. Rachel Grigorian experience on the Planning Commission and felt could bring a lot to the board. Jennifer Stickney resides in East Granville is currently filling in enjoyed her time and would like to continue.

Article 2: Budget of \$375,061.00 no questions were raised.

Article 3: Highway Budget surplus to be deposited into the Highway Capital Fund Kate asked why there was a surplus and what the plan was to spend the monies and/or lower property taxes. Jim indicated that it was the rainy weather over the past year that delayed projects and the money is to be spent on highways at the Selectboard's discretion sort of a rainy day fund. Kate asked about how much money was left? Bruce indicated \$31,000.00 which as indicated by Jim can only be spent on highways. Jim is hoping that there would not be a surplus by the end of the fiscal year.

Article 4: Repaving \$6,000.00 Capital Fund – no questions were raised.

Article 5: Equipment Fund for the Constable in the amount of \$1,500.00. Julie Reiderer asked if this was for any particular equipment in mind? Mark indicated that it would be used for radar, video and radio equipment when they no longer work. He would continue to apply for grants to help offset the costs.

Article 6: East Granville Fire Protection Fund in the amount of \$500.00 Jim explained that it is reasonable to have incase there is a fire to help pay the Randolph Fire Department for mutual aid. Mark indicated that the fund was started when there was a forest fire and the Town paid a huge bill. Jim asked if there was a mutual aid agreement in place with Cheryl indicating there was and it should be on file.

Article 7: Support of The Corner School Resource Center Roger asked if the president; Ronald Millard (non-voter) would like to speak. Ron indicated that there is a typo in the Article adding that the correct title of the organization is "Corner School Resource Center of Granville, VT". The name "Granville" was left out of the original warning.

Ron indicated that on August 15, 2021 they are planning an opening celebration and having an historic marker placed. Bruce thanked Ron and all of his volunteers for all of their hard work to make this happen.

Article 8: Steeple and Roof Repairs \$80,000.00 Bruce explained the project and that the Town has received an Historic Preservation Fund grant for \$20,000.00. Virginia inquired if there were other materials to be used to make the work last longer. Bruce explained that Historic Preservation does not allow composet woods and/or plastic. Kate would like to know how much has been spent on repairs over the last 20 years and if it is feasible to have the spire and in the future look at other options.

Article 9: Property Tax Installments; August 17th, November 17th, February 17th and May 17th – no questions were raised.

Article 10: Delinquent Property Taxes interest rate of 1% first 3 months and 1 1/2% per month or fraction there of from the due date – no questions were raised.

ADVISORY NON-BINDING ARTICLES:

Article 11: Support of the construction of a cell tower off of North Hollow Road. Mark indicated there was an accident over the weekend and if the tower were up the people involved would be able to call for help. Judy spoke of the drive test results on page 4 dated 1/12/21 and then read a page describing the ranges for signal strength. Red is marginal, black no signal, blue and green acceptable. Most of the Gulf is red and black with a few yellow, 3/10 blue and yellow acceptable to problematic. The voters need to decide if it is necessary. Mark asked if the map is based on the new tower or the current tower. It was stated that it was probably the current tower. Bruce indicated that this is under Advanced Notice and the Town is in the process of getting more information and the State is assisting in getting those answers. A second public meeting will be scheduled after DPS issues an independent report on signal strength. The formal permit can be filed after March 11 at the conclusion of the Advance Notice period.

Article 12: Alert the residents if 5G is to be installed. Bruce indicated that the Town of Rochester started this article and doesn't feel that it will happen in the area. Judy indicated that 2 years ago alerted to 5G and doesn't think the Selectboard will be notified and it is a concern of hers. Kate feels that it is the Selectboard's responsibility to notify its residents of potential hazards. Rachel wondered if the Town was overstepping by getting involved in a private and commercial transaction. Bruce was not sure. Stephanie felt that it is a way to protect the community. Robin asked if the Town receives notifications on the current cell tower. Cheryl indicated that yes the landlord, Town and State receive notification in advance of any work to be done. Judy indicated that the Town and adjoining property owners have rights.

Article 12: (continued)

Rachel thanked everyone for their time. Roger thanked Jim for his years of service not only as Selectboard member but for his other years of service in other official capacities. Kate and Cheryl thank Robert for his time this evening.

Mark indicated that according to his E911 map Randolph Fire is called whenever there is anything happening in East Granville.

Bruce made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Jennifer seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl L. Sargeant
Selectboard Clerk