

Granville Selectboard Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2025

APPROVED

In attendance: Kelli Eckroth, Chair, Michael Eramo and Kenneth Beattie, Selectboard; Mark Belisle, Constable; Bruce Hyde, Auditor & ECFiber Alternate Town Representative; Danial Sargeant, Granville Volunteer Fire Dept. (GVFD); Nancy Needham, Town Treasurer and Cheryl L. Sargeant, Town Clerk

Public: Sarah Wraight (in person) and Kyle Katz (via WEBEX); Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC); Sgt. Austin Soule, VT State Police South Royalton Barracks (via WEBEX); Richard Hotchkins and Guest and Allyson Healy

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. (recorded with Webex)

Public Communication:

- Bruce indicated that the Town would be receiving a letter soon from ECFiber indicating that they were going to continue to serve the 27 towns in their system and separate from GWI of Maine.

Amend/Approve Agenda:

- Nothing presented.

Financials:

- Orders – Ken made the motion to approve the Orders as presented and Mike seconded. All in favor.
- Reports – Bruce inquired why the Balance Sheet shows \$85,000.00 in the Highway Surplus Fund but does not show the amount borrowed or the 2024/2025 Surplus Funds being deposited? Nancy indicated that the Town was still collecting delinquent taxes and she would deposit the funds when available.

Nancy inquired about delinquent taxes and tax sales and the updated laws surrounding them and to ask if the Selectboard would like to pursue hiring the Town's attorney to begin the process. After discussion it was determined that Nancy would pull a current list with lister cards and it would be an item at the next Selectboard meeting.

- Setting Municipal Tax Rate – Ken made the motion to accept the proposed Municipal Tax Rate of .6650 cents and Mike seconded. All in favor.

Visitors:

- Sgt. Austin Soule; appeared before the Selectboard to discuss their plan to patrol the outlying towns and to educate the public about traffic violations. From May 2023 – May 2024 they had 0 traffic stops and during May 2024 – May 2025 they had a 25% increase and will continue to do better as they are aware of issues in certain areas. If you see something please report it. Mark introduced himself and reminded him that if he or others needed assistance that he is available.

Visitors (contined):

- Kyle Katz; appeared before the Selectboard to review the recommended changes to the DRAFT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) which VT Emergency Management (VEM) requested clarification. Kelli indicated that there are several redundant items that could be removed; sever summer storms and dams and add in infectious diseases and invasive species. After further discussion; Kyle said it could be possible to include strategies, reasons for removal and get VEM approval. Kelli asked for 1 more week to review everything and get a response from Capstone before we resubmit.
- Sarah Wraight; appeared before the Selectboard to discuss the 3 contracts; Environmental, Historic Architecture and Engineering. She indicated that as approved at the last Selectboard meeting all 3 would be capped at a certain amount and was there to have them signed. Mike asked if there was a Scope of Work and Terms. Sarah indicated that it was for the Town Hall work as indicated in the RFP Proposals which was made available at the last meeting. Kelli made the motion to approve the 3 contracts for signature and Ken seconded. All in favor.

Bank Account – Sarah inquired about the status of the Bar Harbor CDBG Bank Account. Cheryl indicated that Nancy was able to get it reopened with no monies in it to receive funds from the State when the time came.

Minutes:

- Minutes for 06/09/2025 and 06/17/2025 Kelli made the motion to approve as written and Ken seconded. All in favor.

New Business:

- Open Positions – Cheryl indicated that Allyson Healy was here to be appointed for the Planning Commission slot. After a brief introduction and to learn that Allyson has a degree in landscaping and planning Kelli made the motion to appoint her to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term and Ken seconded. All in favor.
- Grant Application for Municipal Park and Ride – After discussion it was determined to research further to see if the Town could get a fast EV charger and expand the parking area. Sarah would discuss with her counter parts at TRORC and get back in touch.
- Municipal Water Quality – Cheryl updated the Selectboard on the new state requirements regarding construction/stormwater runoff and using our grants to help keep the streams, rivers, lakes and oceans clean.

Old Business:

- Constable – Mark indicated that he had taken Taser Training and when the payment ends he would like to purchase a new one. He will be moving the traffic trailer at the end of the week after he downloads the monthly report. He will be attending training at the VT Police Academy for processing DUI and DEI traffic stops.
- Reappraisal – Nothing presented.
- Planning Commission – Kelli indicated that the Town had received notification of a VT Land Trust Conservation Easement Project on the Clearfield Farm. After reviewing the letter and map the Selectboard had no issues with the proposed conservation area of 51 acres.
- GVFD – Dan indicated that they would like to sell the 1992 4X4 Engine which holds 500 gallons of water, no foam capability, powertrain good and would like to purchase a used 4X4 Pickup with 300 gallons of water, foam capability, would be used as a CRASH truck/wildland fire suppression. Reason the Engine is showing its age. After discussion; Dan will draft a letter to the US Forest Service asking if they could assist and the Selectboard and GVFD to sign. Further discussion at another meeting.

Ken inquired if we have heard anything regarding the fire station project. Kelli and Dan indicated that neither of them have heard anything. Kelli believes that the Town should push for funding and seek other options.

- Website – Nothing presented.

Roads:

- Ken indicated that he would like to see more of the roads graded. So far Post Office Hill Road, Maston Hill Road and parts of North Hollow Road have been done.
- Kelli indicated that she has spoken with Shane and he has concerns with communication and conflicts of interest. After further discussion it was determined that Kelli would be the contact for contracting issues.
- Graveling Roads – Ken made the motion to accept Harveys Plumbing and Excavating proposal from March 26, 2025 and have up to 3,000 yards delivered to certain areas and have Shane grade it. Ken and Mike would draw up the map and provide it to Harveys and Shane with Harveys coordinating the schedule.
- Butz Road – Cheryl indicated that she received a call from VTrans asking if our project has begun and reminding us that it is to be completed by September 30, 2025 with invoices submitted shortly thereafter. Ken indicated that he would contact the contractor once again to get a schedule.

Roads (continued):

- Sand Pile – Bruce inquired when the contractor would begin hauling sand for the winter. Kelli would discuss with the contractor.
- Grant Award for Better Back Roads – Kelli made the motion to sign the grant agreement and Mike seconded. All in favor.
- Roadside Mowing – Ken is awaiting KA Bagley to begin; will reach out to get a schedule.
- Judy's Hedge – Cheryl inquired if anyone has spoken to the property owner since last fall regarding trimming the hedge back so it was not in the roadway. After a brief discussion it was determined that Cheryl would draft a letter for the Selectboard asking the property owner to trim it back to the property line and stump.

Public Communication:

- Kelli indicated that she felt overwhelmed and the position requires the Chair to do much more than she thought. She indicated that the members needed to communicate better than they are; come to the meetings prepared to discuss what is on the agenda and if you cannot make it in-person call or join via WEBEX. If you are sick or not able to attend call her cell phone or e-mail her before the meeting.

Items for Next Agenda: August 11, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting;

- Sand Pile Status
- Gravel Delivery Status
- Butz Road Status

Ken made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. and Mike seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Sargeant
Town Clerk