

Overview

The Granville Selectboard meeting focused on several key areas including land access improvements, public safety collaboration, financial oversight, and town infrastructure projects. Key participants included the Granville Selectboard members, Dave Guerette representing adjacent property owners, and a Vermont State Police (VSP) representative who outlined strategic plans and service offerings.

The board addressed a land access issue involving a shared driveway, with adjacent owners requesting detailed plans to ensure environmental and property protections. The VSP representative emphasized community engagement, offering traffic enforcement, training, and mental health resources, while acknowledging staffing limitations and the potential for contractual law enforcement coverage.

Financial discussions clarified payment processes and contract budgeting, ensuring transparency and fiscal responsibility. Community safety concerns were explored with a focus on problem-solving and resource coordination, including search and rescue capabilities.

Updates on town projects covered fire department improvements, grievance hearings, and environmental cleanup efforts, highlighting collaboration with state agencies. Logging access and road maintenance were reviewed with attention to compliance and road conditions. The board also discussed road grading contractor services, favoring continuity and cost-effectiveness.

Overall, the meeting demonstrated a commitment to transparent governance, community safety, and infrastructure management, with active participation from town officials, law enforcement, and community representatives.

Detailed Summary

Technical Issues and Meeting Setup

The meeting began with the Granville Selectboard troubleshooting audio and video settings to ensure proper communication. This was necessary to facilitate clear discussion among participants and remote attendees.

- Granville Selectboard noted microphone and speaker testing to resolve audio issues.

- Dave Guerette mentioned difficulty hearing and requested clearer audio during discussions.

Land Access and Road Improvement Discussion

The board discussed a land access issue involving a 40-acre property and the need to improve a shared driveway. Adjacent property owners expressed support but requested detailed plans to understand the scope and impact of the improvements, particularly concerning proximity to Candlebrook and environmental considerations.

- Granville Selectboard explained the shared driveway and planned water control improvements.
- Dave Guerette, representing adjacent property owners, requested submission of detailed drawings per highway ordinance.
- Granville Selectboard committed to facilitating communication between parties before starting work.

Vermont State Police Engagement and Services

A representative from the Vermont State Police (VSP) introduced the department's strategic plan and offered increased public safety services, including traffic enforcement, community engagement, and training opportunities. The discussion emphasized collaboration, resource limitations, and the potential for contractual coverage to enhance local law enforcement presence.

- VSP representative highlighted goals for roadway safety and serving underserved communities.
- They offered to conduct traffic enforcement details based on community input.
- Staffing constraints were acknowledged, with improved availability expected by July.
- VSP proposed training sessions and community events to foster relationships and recruitment.
- The importance of mental health resources and embedded workers in call responses was emphasized.

Financial and Contractual Matters

The board reviewed financial reports, including payment approvals and credit card systems for town purchases. They discussed contract details for law enforcement services,

emphasizing the need for clear budgeting, flexible contract hours, and understanding of service limitations due to staffing.

- Granville Selectboard confirmed payment holds until log sheets were submitted were resolved.
- They clarified that highway funds were not placed in restricted accounts.
- Discussion on credit card payment fees concluded manual entry was more cost-effective.
- VSP representative explained contract approval processes and the need for budgeted hours.
- Concerns about overcommitting to contracts without guaranteed trooper availability were raised.

Community Safety Concerns and Resources

The meeting addressed local safety issues such as problematic properties, traffic concerns, and community relations. The VSP emphasized problem-solving approaches, including mental health support, anonymous reporting, and collaboration with state attorneys. They also discussed search and rescue capabilities and partnerships with other agencies.

- VSP acknowledged challenges with problematic houses and offered increased patrols.
- They highlighted embedded mental health workers as key to reducing law enforcement calls.
- Anonymous reporting mechanisms were discussed to protect community members.
- Search and rescue operations and technical team resources were described.
- VSP encouraged community input to tailor enforcement and support efforts.

Town Projects and Environmental Issues

Updates were provided on various town projects including fire department building improvements, grievance hearings, and environmental concerns such as a property with chemical waste requiring cleanup. The board discussed coordination with state agencies and enforcement timelines.

- Granville Selectboard reported progress on fire department building plans and financial inputs.
- Grievance hearings were scheduled and delinquent tax issues discussed.
- The board noted ongoing efforts to address a chemical waste dump with state involvement.
- They emphasized the importance of documentation and communication with property owners.
- Plans for logging access and road maintenance were reviewed with environmental considerations.

Logging Access and Road Maintenance

The board reviewed an application for logging access on Saving Home Road, discussing the extent of the property, current use status, and road conditions. They addressed concerns about truck traffic, drainage, and compliance with state standards for temporary logging bridges.

- Granville Selectboard described the logging area and planned staging locations.
- They confirmed no communication problems with the logging operator.
- Discussion included state requirements for drainage and bridge use.
- Dave Guerette reiterated support from adjacent property owners for access.
- The board planned to monitor road conditions and maintenance needs.

Road Grading and Contractor Services

The board considered road grading needs and contractor options, noting past experiences and preferences. They discussed the condition of specific roads, the timing of grading work, and permit requirements.

- Granville Selectboard favored continuing with a known contractor for grading.
- They noted the poor condition of certain roads requiring attention.
- Concerns about permit fees for grading work were raised.
- The board planned to schedule grading to optimize road conditions.