

Transcript From Granville Selectboard Meeting
September 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
This does not replace the actual meeting minutes.

Overview

Key participants: Granville Selectboard members and town staff who attended and spoke throughout the meeting. The session covers operational facilities decisions (storage container and site placement), grants and security upgrades, network infrastructure, road maintenance and winter readiness, regional planning communications, and preparatory work for the upcoming budget season.

Main outcomes and decisions: The board agrees to continue evaluating shipping-container storage options (20-foot vs 40-foot) and potential siting behind or under building eaves to protect equipment and free space; this remains an active follow-up item. They plan to apply for a PHEIF buildings-and-grounds grant for cones and security cameras but have not yet submitted the application. Staff will re-contact vendors for updated Wi-Fi and router pricing, and the board will follow up with the USDA and local contractors regarding paving and storm response coordination.

Commitments and follow-ups: The board will revisit container size and location and add it to the next agenda; staff will obtain updated pricing for networking equipment and draft or finalize the PHEIF grant application as details settle; the town will post regional planning commission materials and staff responses on the website and resubmit outstanding questions to secure clearer answers; and the board will prepare the budget warning article regarding auditors for upcoming voter consideration.

Concerns and risks: The board notes potential cost increases for network upgrades compared with earlier estimates and recognizes limited public willingness to serve as elected auditors if the contracted audit option is removed. They also stress the need to finalize logistics for container siting to ensure readiness and to maintain road maintenance coordination before winter. Overall, the meeting advances practical facility and administrative items and sets specific follow-ups to resolve outstanding procurement, budgeting, and communications tasks.

Detailed Summary

Storage Container Discussion

The board continues discussion about acquiring a shipping-container style storage unit to protect equipment and free up space, debating size (20-foot vs 40-foot) and placement (behind the building or under eaves). This matters for protecting fire gear from moisture and

organizing town assets before renovation or long-term storage solutions are available. The conversation remains at the planning stage with agreement to follow up on sizing, location, and logistics.

- Selectboard member proposes considering a 40-foot container for more space and asks the group to determine preferred placement, as stated by a board participant.
- Selectboard member suggests placing the container at the back of the building or under the building eaves to maximize usable space, as discussed by attendees.
- Selectboard member notes logistics will require coordination on where the container can be sited and who can provide access, as raised during the discussion.

Buildings and Grounds Grants

The board reviews applying to a buildings-and-grounds grant (PHEIF) for equipment such as cones and for security upgrades including additional cameras. This aligns with ongoing efforts to improve facility security and traffic/safety infrastructure. No final submission is confirmed, and the group recognizes application details may change and will follow up to finalize content.

- Selectboard member reports intent to apply for a PHEIF buildings-and-grounds grant to purchase cones and updated security cameras, as noted during the meeting.
- Selectboard member states they have not submitted the application yet and will add notes if requested items or prices change, as discussed by staff.

Wi-Fi and Network Upgrades

Members discuss the town hall Wi-Fi and the need to upgrade networking hardware (router) to support higher speeds and potential fiber service. The issue affects building operations and any security or remote systems that depend on reliable internet connectivity. The board acknowledges potential cost increases over earlier estimates and plans to contact vendors for updated pricing and technical help.

- Selectboard member explains the existing Wi-Fi equipment was not designed for higher speeds and recommends replacing the router to support improved connectivity, as explained by staff.
- Selectboard member says original pricing estimates were lower than current vendor quotes and commits to reaching out to the provider for updated figures, as discussed in the meeting.

USDA and Project Follow-ups

The board notes outreach to the USDA produced no new updates and records related receipts and deliveries are being tracked. This matters for grant and project timelines that rely on external agency responses. The item remains open pending further contact with the USDA.

- Selectboard member reports they reached out to the USDA but have not yet received a response, as stated during the meeting.
- Selectboard member confirms receipt documentation is being managed for relevant deliveries, as mentioned in discussion.

Roads, Paving, and Winter Maintenance

The group receives updates that paving projects (post office area and other stretches) are mostly complete except minor paving and touch-ups, and discusses winter road monitoring and storm response responsibilities. They consider using existing budgeted funds for small additional paving work and coordinating contractors for timely responses during storms. The board plans follow-up with contractors and local responders to ensure road readiness before winter.

- Selectboard member reports the post office paving project is nearly complete with only paving and small tasks remaining, as shared in the meeting.
- Selectboard member suggests reserving a portion of the road budget for small skimming or patching projects and proposes coordinating with Charlie for those tasks, as discussed by attendees.
- Selectboard member proposes contacting Travis to handle road observations outside winter contract responsibilities, as suggested during the conversation.

Regional Planning Communications

The board reviews regional planning commission communications about staff responses to public comments and upcoming meetings, noting a September ninth session and a delayed action meeting scheduled for December 30 for potential plan revisions. They discuss posting the materials on the town website to inform residents about the review timeline and revisions. The board expresses concern that prior responses did not satisfactorily answer local questions and plans to resubmit or follow up on unanswered items.

- Selectboard member relays that the regional commission will post staff responses to public comments and has delayed taking action until a December 30 meeting, as read during the meeting.
- Selectboard member requests that the regional planning materials and responses be posted on the town website for public access, as proposed during discussion.
- Selectboard member indicates dissatisfaction that some questions remain unanswered and requests resending prior questions to obtain clearer responses, as stated in the meeting.

Budget and Auditor Article

With budget season approaching, the board discusses a warning article to return to elected town auditors after failing to secure an audit firm to audit town books. The article would let voters decide whether to eliminate contracted auditors in favor of elected town auditors. The board acknowledges the community reluctance to serve and agrees to revisit the issue as part of the upcoming budget process.

- Selectboard member announces a warning article to present to voters about returning to elected town auditors because the town could not secure a contracted audit firm, as stated in the meeting.
- Selectboard member acknowledges that public willingness to serve as elected auditors is limited and says the board will revisit the topic during budget deliberations, as discussed.

Items for Next Agenda

The board compiles items for future agendas including the storage container follow-up, budget planning, and resending communications to regional planners for clearer answers. This ensures continuity on open projects and prepares the board for upcoming decisions. Specific follow-ups include sizing and siting the container and finalizing budget warning articles.

- Selectboard member requests the container discussion be revisited as an agenda item to finalize size, placement, and procurement details, as recorded in the meeting.
- Selectboard member asks that budget planning and the auditor warning article be added to the next agendas given the approaching October timeline, as noted by the chair.