

MINUTES

ROAD MAINTENANCE PETITION – GRIVOIS RD, GRAND ISLE – AUGUST 7, 2024 - 4:00 PM
GRAND ISLE TOWN OFFICE – 366 MAIN ST, GRAND ISLE

PRESENT

Paul J. Underwood, Chair, County Commissioners
Norman L. Fournier, County Commissioner
William T. Dobbins, County Commissioner
Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator
Paul Bernier, Community Services Director
Tammy Pelletier, Operations Assistant
Robert Dunbar, Resident – Grand Isle
Morgan Cyr, Resident -Grand Isle
Otis Fricson, Resident – Grand Isle
Debbie Gendreau, Town Clerk – Grand Isle
Elizabeth Morse, Clerk – Grand Isle
Bob Desjardins, Board Member – Grand Isle
Chris Yost, Resident – Grand Isle
Kaci Yost, Resident – Grand Isle
Josiah Loverin, Resident – Grand Isle
Marcel Bellefleur, Resident – Grand Isle
David Arnold, Resident – Grand Isle
Debbie Arnold, Resident -Grand Isle
Randy Violette, Resident – Grand Isle
Dylan Violette, Resident – Grand Isle
Rene Violette, Resident – Grand Isle
Andre Morrow, Resident – Grand Isle
Raylan Lagasse, Board Member – Grand Isle
Gene Parent, Resident – Grand Isle
Daniel Dionne, Resident – Grand Isle
Lisa Beaulieu, Resident -Grand Isle
Titus Greenawalt, Resident – Grand Isle
Thomas Dionne, Resident – Grand Isle
Ken Beaulieu, Resident -Grand Isle
Ken Corriveau, Resident – Lille
James Dionne, Resident – Lille
Christopher Bouchard, Bangor Daily News
Karri Tripplet, WAGM

ART. 1. Chair Paul J. Underwood called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ART. 2 The County Commissioners (Paul Underwood, Norman Fournier, William Dobbins), County Administrator (Ryan Pelletier), Community Services Director (Paul Bernier), and Operations Assistant (Tammy Pelletier) were introduced; followed by the reading of the purpose statement by Commissioner Underwood.

County Administrator, Ryan Pelletier, provided an overview of how the public hearing would proceed, indicating that the meeting would be recessed to view the road in question and that they need the residents to direct them to the problem areas. Josiah Loverin, Grand Isle Resident/Petitioner agreed to be the spokesperson on behalf of petitioners. Immediately following the viewing, the meeting will be called back to order for public comments.

Commissioner Underwood, recessed the meeting at 4:04 PM for the Commissioners, Petitioners, Town Officials, and interested parties to tour the Grivois Road.

ART. 3.

Commissioner Underwood called the meeting back to order at 5:02 PM and opened the floor to public comments for a period of three minutes per speaker.

Josiah Loverin, resident of Grivois Road, addressed the Commissioners by saying that they understand they live on a dirt road and are not looking for the town to provide a paved road. They are concerned about the section that is the very last strip that is maintained year-round. There were times this past year where there was no postal delivery due to the condition of the road. There are concerns from residents on the road that fire, ambulance, law enforcement would not be able to navigate the condition of the road in an emergency. The town should be making sure the road is passable for those services, and if not, at the very least, should be communicating to the residents of the road that it will not be passable so they can be prepared with supplies. The Grivois Road is the only part of town the is growing, with 3 new families moving there in the last year and more coming. Again, they don't want paved roads. They are only looking to be sure they have access to their land, their jobs, emergency services, or other needs.

Randy Violette, resident of Grand Isle, addressed the Commissioners by saying his father lives on that road and he's been traveling there for 30 years. His father has medical conditions and it is critical for him to be able to access to emergency services. The road is graded too low, no ditch and the water has nowhere to go. Today, the road looks good, but if they had visited over this upcoming weekend when rain is predicted, it would be a completely different experience. The road is not maintained the way it is supposed to be.

Commissioner Underwood inquired as to whether the town had ever considered posting signs to eliminate heavy trucks, ATV's, and non-residents of Grivois Road. Board Member Raylan Lagasse indicated that this has not really been considered.

Community Services Director, Paul Bernier, inquired as to the town funds for road maintenance. Mr. Lagasse replied that they get \$15,000 from the state and the entire road budget is \$30,000 for 11 town roads. Mr. Bernier commented that the crown on the road is good and there are good ditches. The work required would be to have edges shaved down and the ditches cleaned so the water has somewhere to go.

Daniel Dionne, resident of Grand Isle, addressed the commissioners by first saying this was not a new problem and he commended Mr.Loverin for asking for reasonable terms for maintaining the road. As a town, they need to close this road to non-residents. The funds for repair come out of the residents' pockets and the town is diminishing, bills are increasing, residents are dying leaving their homes to go to disrepair. The road should be closed for more than just mud season. Extend the closure to be before and after. Creating an ordinance would be a simple fix. As a prior board member, they have spent more money on Grivois Road in the last 20 years than any other road in town. The town has to do its part and close the road if they have to in order to not have so many costly repairs.

Randy Violette explained that if you fix the side of the roads, you wouldn't have to close the road.

Various residents of Grand Ilse explained that there were trucks that go in the middle of the night even when the road is closed. Residents argued among themselves as some disputed the fact that there was truck traffic as the road condition did not support what the other residents were saying.

Debbie Arnold, resident of Grivois Road, addressed the Commissioners to explain that it was not just logging trucks, but that there was a lot of other traffic such as atv's, dirt bikes, other trucks, etc. The town needs to be sure the water has somewhere to go so that the road can handle the volume of traffic.

Jim Dionne, resident of Lille, addressed the Commissioners and indicated that the town needs to get a professional grader because the road is too wide. The issue doesn't have anything do with the Public Works employee. He does a good job with what he has to work with, but a professional is needed for this road.

David Arnold, resident of Grivois Rd, addressed the Commissioners, saying that he has been to several Selectboard meetings and requested the town invest in having a 10-year road plan developed. He indicated the town either won't or can't, but that there must be someone who knows roads that could do this.

Commissioner Norman Fournier inquired as to the number of roads for the \$30000 budget. Mr. Lagasse replied that it was 11 roads. There was some debate over 10, 11 or 12 roads. Commissioner Fournier asked how many were gravel, to which Mr. Lagasse indicated 5.

Daniel Dionne, resident of Grand Isle, commented that the Morneault Road is also going bad and the town had borrowed money to pave it. He suggested letting the town go to the County so they could live like everyone else. He believes there has been resistance to fix Grivois Road because there are main roads that require maintenance and the town has been unsuccessful in obtaining the funds needed.

Debbie Gendreau, town clerk of Grand Isle, addressed the Commissioners by asking why the ATV club gets \$80,000 in grants for 2 years in a row, but the town only gets \$15,000 for their roads.

County Administrator, Ryan Pelletier, clarified that today's hearing was specifically for the petition submitted to the Commissioners for the maintenance of Grivois Road, and therefore, could not consider any other situations with other roads or funding. Residents can address these issues at the town board meetings.

Ken Beaulieu, resident of Grand Isle, addressed the Commissioners saying that maintaining Grivois Road could use the entire road budget, so we must consider all roads. The town can't bring the mil rate up just to maintain one road, it needs to be all roads being discussed.

Administrator Pelletier, clarified that the petition is only for Grivois Road and that is the only road to be considered at this hearing.

Daniel Dionne, resident of Grand Isle, believes that this will turn bad if you force the town to use the budget to fix just one road.

Debbie Arnold, resident of Grand Isle, said they bring their concerns, but nothing gets done.

Raylan Lagasse, Board Member Grand Isle, commented that he has been on the board for ten years and can count on one hand the number of times they have had to close roads. In each instance, it was due to mother nature and out of their control.

Commissioner Underwood asked if there were any other public comments, to which there were none.

ART. 4. Adjournment.

MOTION:

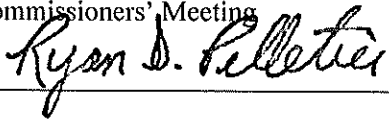
A motion was made by William Dobbins and seconded by Norman Fournier to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm.

VOTE:

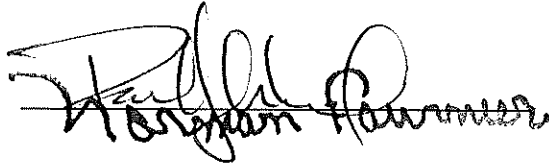
Motion voted and passed.

ATTEST: A True Copy

of Commissioners' Meeting



Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator





AROOSTOOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DATE: August 20, 2024