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2 **Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association Meeting**  
3 **GI-REMC**  
4 **October 6, 2025 – Draft Minutes**  
5 **Grand Isle Sheriff's Office, Grand Isle, VT and Virtual**  
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7 **Attendance:** Bill Johnson (ILM FD), Deb Benson (Treasurer), Pat Robinson (SHVFD Chief), Ron Kumetz  
8 (Alburgh FD), Bill Baron (GI EMD/VFD), Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Brandy Latimer and her 2 assistants (NH  
9 EMD), Adam White (GIVFD), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Michaela Foody (VEM).

10 President Murdock chaired the meeting which began at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

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13 **Public Comment** – None.

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15 **Election of Officers**

16 *Chief White motioned to have the secretary cast one ballot for current slate of officer. Chief Robinson*  
17 *seconded. Motion carried.*

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19 Results: Mike Murdock, President; Ron Kumetz, Vice-President; Deb Benson, Treasurer; Shaun Coleman,  
20 Secretary.

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22 **Minutes**

23 *Chief White motioned for approval of minutes. Chief Robinson seconded. Motion carried.*  
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25 **Treasurer's Report**

26 The report was sent out by email. Deb reported the balance of the account is \$30,255.49. There is an  
27 outstanding deposit of \$49,919.40 from 9/3/25 (Alburgh, Grand Isle, North Hero and South Hero).

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29 *Chief White motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Chief Robinson seconded. Motion carried.*  
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31 **Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee**

32 **Vermont Emergency Management**

33 Michaela reported:

- 34 • Drought issues continue across the state, from dry wells to dying crops. There is little rain in the  
35 forecast and temperatures are expected to climb. Conditions are expected to worsen. The state  
36 has set up a Drought Task Force and the Agency of Natural Resources has established a drought  
37 resource [website](#). Individuals can report dry wells at the site.
- 38 • The Agency of Agriculture has requested an agricultural disaster declaration for the entire state.  
39 If awarded, this will allow additional loan programs to be available to farmers.
- 40 • FP&R continues to monitor fire danger across the state.
- 41 • The State's Binary Blizzard (cyber) exercise is being held this month.
- 42 • There is a new Fundamentals of Continuity of Operations (COOP) training course available on  
43 the state's Learning Management System. The course is intended for towns, businesses, and  
44 local organizations. Content includes practical procedures to keep services running during  
45 disruptions like floods, severe storms, or cyber incidents. Self-paced course.
- 46 • The American Red Cross is offering a virtual *get to know the Red Cross* training on October 14<sup>th</sup>.  
47 Registration is available on-line [here](#).
- 48 • VEM offering a G0191- ICS/EOC Interface training on October 15 in Norwich. It reviews ICS and  
49 EOC responsibilities and functions and depends heavily on exercises and group discussions to

50 identify interface issues and develop solutions. Registration via the state's Learning  
51 Management System.

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53 There was a discussion about the on-going drought and what municipal responsibilities were. There is a  
54 lot of information available at the ANR Drought website including resources for homeowners. In the  
55 islands, the only water utilities per se are the water districts.

56  
57 Chief White noted the statewide burn ban is still in effect. The Forest Service has staged a wildfire  
58 response helicopter at Lebanon Municipal Airport to shorten response times to potential wildfires in  
59 Vermont and New Hampshire.

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61 Michaela reported that there has been a lot of activity regarding federal emergency management  
62 funding. Several related federal grant programs are on hold. The unallocated Building Resilient  
63 Infrastructure Communities mitigation grants have been canceled.

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65 Shaun added that FEMA has halted the release of hundreds of millions of dollars in emergency  
66 preparedness grants, requiring states to prove their population counts before they can access the  
67 funding. This includes the Emergency Planning Grant that funds RPCs, VEM staff, river gauges and  
68 several other programs. FEMA is requiring states to verify their population counts to ensure accurate  
69 and equitable grant distribution. The agency is demanding that states certify their population data and  
70 that it excludes deported individuals. Apparently, the US Census is not a sufficient resource for the  
71 federal government regarding population counts.

72  
73 During a recent meeting with VEM, the Planning Section Chief noted that worst-case scenario is that  
74 there would be no funding to support some staff in February/March. Michaela went on to explain that  
75 the legislature voted for VEM to hire 2 more staff members. Some of the funding for those positions  
76 comes from the general fund and some from EMPG. Shaun noted that historically, VEM was funded by  
77 Vermont Yankee prior to its closing.

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79 This led to a discussion on concerns about the federal government shifting disaster management to the  
80 states and how the pause in funding will affect communities across the state and across the country.  
81 Rural communities like those in Grand Isle County rely on emergency management, mitigation and  
82 planning support from other agencies. There was also concern that communities and the state do not  
83 have the capacity to support large scale disasters, like the flooding in 2024 and 2025, without federal  
84 assistance.

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86 **Committee Updates (THIRA, LEPC, TPW):** Brandy reported there were no updates.

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88 **Vermont Department of Health:** No report.

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90 **Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association**

91 **Non-Profit Status Update**

92 Deb reported she and Anna Cadmus, ABT Services, LLC are still working on past filings. Form 990 must  
93 be filed by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

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95 **FY26 Budget Discussion**

96 Deb reviewed the 2026-2027 budget which was distributed previously that listed just dispatching fees by  
97 department. Each department is receiving \$1,706.60 non-dispatching fee. There was a discussion about  
98 the Shelburne fee increase.

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100 Chief White asked Shaun to provide information on thannual costs for assisting GICMAA.

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**Fire Chiefs Meeting Update**

The group discussed testing results and the Governor’s visit.

**First Due App**

Chief White reported that he wasn’t recommending a group purchase for First Due App due to licensing.

**Department and EMD Updates**

Alburgh Fire: Chief Kumetz reported:

- Calcutta was held on September 6 at the Legion and was a success.
- Mike Thompson and GlobalNet hauled the antenna to the top of the water tank in late September.
- A fire extinguisher training was held recently for the Alburgh Family Clubhouse employees. DFS brought up the trailer and resources.
- The AVFD banquet will be held on October 20.

Isle La Motte: Chief Johnson reported they supported Alburgh Fire for a vehicle fire near Railroad Extension. The field started to burn as well but all was contained. They also helped with a brush fire on Terrapin Lane.

Grand Isle Fire: Chief White reported that five probationary firefighters will be learning hose line techniques and pumper training later this month.

Grand Isle EMD: Bill B. reported the Town’s Local EM Plan was approved by the state.

North Hero Fire: Chief Murdock reported the fire station bond passed.

North Hero EMD: Brandy reported the town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to FEMA.

**Other Business**

None

**Adjourn**

*Chief Johnson motioned to adjourn. Chief Robinson seconded. Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.