

Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association Meeting
GI-REMC
June 1, 2026 – Draft Minutes
Grand Isle Sheriff's Office, Grand Isle, VT and Virtual

Attendance: Mike Murdock (NHVFD), Ray C. Allen (GICSO), Adam White (GIVFD), Bill Baron (GI-EMD), Deb Benson (Treasurer), Jim Benson (NHEMD), Eric Martins (GIR), Mike Antoniak (AVFD), Patrick Robinson (South Hero), Shaun Coleman (NRPC) and Michaela Foody (VEM).

President Murdock chaired the meeting which began at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Public Comment – Mike A. thanked everyone for honoring Sandy Ladd. Mike led a discussion on cancer screenings and related fund raising/donations. VSFA is negotiating to get coverage for screenings. Screenings usually include CT scan, ultra sound and a stool sample. Many insurance companies don't offer coverage.

The group said they would discuss a donation at the next Chief's meeting in July.

Minutes

Deb Benson motioned for approval of minutes. Sheriff Allen seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer emailed the report to everyone prior to the meeting. The ending balance of the account is \$40,231.25.

New bills for payment totaling \$12,752.75.

- Shelburne Police for dispatching services (4Qtr 2025): \$10,952.75
- ABT Services LLC (2021-2024 tax filings for non-profit): \$1,800.00

Chief Kumetz motioned to pay the invoices. Chief White seconded. Motion carried.

Chief Kumetz motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Chief White seconded. Motion carried.

Deb noted she will be sending bills out for next year.

Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee

Vermont Emergency Management: Michaela reported Local Emergency Management Plans are due. Submit them when they are ready.

Committee Updates (THIRA, LEPC, TPW): State THIRA meeting is this Wednesday. The meeting will address four national preparedness capabilities: physical protective measures, debris clearing, supply chain integrity and fatality management.

Michaela offered to address any county interests for exercises and training at the THIRA meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding hazards posed by dead standing trees from emerald ash borer.

Vermont Department of Health: No report.

Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association

Non-Profit Status Update: Deb reported the tax form from 2021-2024 have been filed with the IRS. There is a \$698.00 fee for reinstatement of the 501(c)3 status. Likely a 2-month turnaround from IRS once forms are submitted.

Budget: The group agreed to reach out to Shelburne PD Chief Deb to see if there would be additional increases in late 2026 or 2027. On July 1, the additional \$1,706.60 no dispatch fee goes into effect.

Communications: Chief Kumetz said the South Hero repeater is working fine.

Department and EMD Updates:

Grand Isle EMD: Bill Baron reported that Grand Isle's LEMP was submitted to the state and approved.

North Hero EMD: Jim Benson reported he was having issues with the state Learning Management System in retrieving his training certificates. Still working on the LEMP.

Grand Isle Fire: Chief White reported that VFIS for Emergency Vehicle Driver Training course will be held on July 10 and 11. The practical will be held at the Ferry parking lot.

House Bill 935: Designates fire chief as fire warden. Fire chief can appoint someone else. Discussion followed.

Grand Isle requested FF1 and FF2 training. Grand Isle had "preferred" status. Still waiting to hear.

Alburgh Fire: Chief Kumetz reported that North Country Fire School is this coming weekend.

Isle La Motte Fire: Chief Johnson reported that one fire department member passed the FF2 exam and is employed by South Burlington Fire.

South Hero Fire: Chief Robinson reported that engine 2 at North Country for pump class. Recruited 1 new member. There were an estimated 2,000 people at the May 10 event that \$1,700 was donated to the mentoring program. July 4th chicken BBQ will be held again this year.

South Hero Rescue: Chief Toth said the new ambulance was delivered and members have been training on it. They have coverage from 6 am to 6 pm 7 days a week. Hoping to have Emergency Medical Technician training completed this year.

North Hero Fire: Chief Murdock reported that the station construction is moving along. Engine 1&2 is stationed at the old Orman station and utility truck is staged in north end. The boat should be in the water by end of this week.

Grand Isle Sheriff: Sheriff Allen reported jet skis are ready to go.

Other Business

Ice Rescue Training: Chief White has been talking to Chris Retz who would like to offer an advanced ice rescue safety course. The normal course is more awareness. There has been discussion about modifying the usual course to make the second day more technical.

Dispatch: Chief Kumetz reported that Capital Mutual Aid managed to get \$2.5 million from the legislature to build the communication system they have been working on. He questioned their justification in addressing the State Dispatch Task Force's recommendations and how other mutual aid groups were leveraged.

Alburgh Fire Training Site: Mike Antoniak said the Summit Road land acquisition is close to completion.

Adjourn

Chief White motioned to adjourn. Chief Kumetz seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.