

SPECIAL MEETING OF GLOVER TOWN

MINUTES

June 14, 2025 Glover Town Hall

The legal voters of the Town of Glover are hereby notified to meet at the Glover Town Hall in Glover Village on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Ten o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business:

The elected Moderator was unable to attend the meeting, therefore a temporary Moderator needed to be elected.

Phil Young brought this meeting to order at 10:03am. Cindy Epinette nominated Jack Sumberg to be the temporary Moderator, seconded by Tabitha Armstrong. No other nominations were made. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Jack is the moderator for this meeting.

Article I: "Shall the action taken at the meeting of this town, held on March 4, 2025, in spite of the fact that the meeting was not warned on the website nor three public locations, and any act or action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be readopted, ratified and confirmed?" 17 VSA §2662.

Tabitha Armstrong made a motion to accept this article, seconded by Jessica Ziegler. The article was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Article 2: To discuss expenses of the town.

Anne Eldridge received an email from Jethro Hayman, Glover Park Coordinator, indicating the \$10,000 allocated to Glover Park was going to be used to bring electricity up to the field. He is coordinating volunteers to maintain the fields and is waiving his coordinator salary to expedite getting electricity installed.

Tabitha Armstrong expressed concern about the condition of the roads. How much does it cost to pave a mile of road? Do we need to wait for State funding to pave a road? Does the budget increase due to inflation? Did the insurance rates increase due to coverage for Glover Park and Glover Green? What is the 3-5 year plan for the roads and the town?

Cindy Epinette answered that liability insurance increases each year. Coverage for Glover Park and Glover Green have not increased the liability insurance expense.

Rick Bragg made a suggestion to postpone moving forward with the Glover Green project until we find out what is happening with federal funding.

Olivia Noel indicated the Glover Green project is not meant to be long term expenses of the town. How do we make projects self-sustaining? Glover Park and Glover Green are supposed to generate revenue for the town.

Sara Gluckman mentioned the MERP grant is an energy grant. It is meant to address weatherization, heating systems and “envelope” of the Town Hall, Municipal Building and Fire Station.

Tabitha Armstrong added we have a part-time maintenance person. With the amount of work that needs to be done to the buildings, do we need a full-time maintenance person? Do we need to put more money into a reserve account?

Dennis Gibson voiced his opinion that the property tax system does not work. Legislature needs to do something about it. He stated that health care is the major expense in the education system. He is in favor of universal healthcare.

Adam Heuslein encourages the town to use future grant funds for infrastructure of the town not on other projects.

Justin Mason inquired about what fundraisers are scheduled to bring in revenue? How do we get more people to come into town? Food stands at Bread & Puppet? We need to consider outside-the-box solutions.

It was brought up that the wastewater expenses are too high. This affects property values and is not sustainable.

Barton Village was invited to the last Selectboard meeting to share information and open communications again. There are capital improvements being considered. Tabitha Armstrong questioned the “Selectboard decision” to extend the sewer lines to West Glover. Jack reminded folks that when the West Glover Village leach field failed soon after it was built the State mandated that the town act and the best solution was to connect to the sewer system in Glover Village. Barton Village has proposed implementing a 3 to 5-year average when billing. Glover is responsible for 15% of the capital projects.

The State has proposed consolidating fire departments and ambulance services.

Adam confirmed he has received the same information. He also indicated, like other towns, Glover has issues keeping volunteers.

Phil Brooks commented that fundraising is a good idea but it should not be the main source of income to sustain an organization. The fire department is working on a 5-6-year plan to replace equipment. The fire department is also reviewing the pros and cons to requesting an appropriation versus a line item in the town budget.

Have the town considered “cost sharing” with other towns? This would mean two towns purchase a piece of equipment, make a schedule of when each town will use the equipment and share the cost to maintain the piece of equipment. How is the budget created?

Anne Eldridge indicated each department is reviewed to see what they need for the coming year.

Tyler Scelza suggested evaluating the need to maintain certain roads that are not used much.

It was suggested a “prudential” team be organized to help make budgeting decisions.

Jack cautioned the practice of level funding a budget or not preparing for the future. The financial burden is not as dramatic if you pay a little extra each year instead of paying a lot in one year.

Anne indicated the town could consider adopting a “local option tax”, rooms, meals, services could be affected, to bring in additional revenue. Not everyone thought this was a good idea. It could discourage folks from coming into Glover. This idea could be considered further but it would have to be approved by the voters at an annual town meeting.

David Olsen indicated the State has changed the criteria used to assess property values on utility companies. This has caused a significant change in the grant list total. Consequently, taxes for others will increase to absorb this change.

Meghan Whalen, NEKO, indicated help from some organizations is available to recover from flood damage. Please review your Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and mutual aid hubs for guidance and contact information.

Article 3: To do and transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before this meeting.

Olivia Noel expressed concern about the increase in criminal and drug activity in the village. Folks feel powerless to do anything about it. Doug Safford mentioned jake brakes being used at 5am, speeding in front of his home has not decreased and someone is writing graffiti on a nearby building.

Anne mentioned that some areas are improving. She has been calling the police each time an incident occurs. The best course of action is to continue to call the police to bring their attention

to what is happening. You can call her if you would like to remain anonymous. Folks can also install security cameras to monitor activity. These videos can be shared with the police.

A suggestion was made to organize a Public Safety Forum and invite Orleans County Sheriff's office, to discuss public safety concerns and what residents can do to protect themselves.

Phil Brooks made a motion, seconded by Doug Safford, to reach out to law enforcement for a public safety forum, and invite the State's Attorney. The motion carried.

Flood Zone Mapping: Jack Sumberg indicated the State is in the process of updating the flood zone maps. The town has an opportunity to review and adopt river corridor bylaws before the State regulates the ability to build in a river corridor. The State is expected to become involved in 2028.

Elon & Patty Martin indicated the culvert on Sargent Lane is a problem when the water comes rushing through it. Glenn indicated he would review the situation with the State.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34pm.

Dated: June 17, 2025

Phil Young, Selectboard Chair

Cynthia Epinette, Town Clerk

Jack Sumberg, Moderator