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| **SELECTBOARD REPORT** |

The past year has seen the completion of several projects, Whitney Lane culvert replacement being the largest and most noticeable. The town opted to act as its own contractor, saving Eden taxpayers $200,000 over the lowest outside contractor bid. In the process, the failing structure on Tree Farm Rd was replaced with the temporary bridge used during construction at Whitney Lane. Please see the accounting of the Whitney Lane Project on page 27. Completing these two projects removes them from our top five list of infrastructure needing attention. Our next large project will be on Knowles Flat Rd.

Eden continues to be fortunate in receiving grant funding for future projects including: a dry hydrant on East Hill Rd, drainage and erosion control on Cooper Hill Rd, a municipal planning grant to update the town plan which expires in 2018 and Lake Eden Associations continued efforts to keep invasive species out of Lake Eden.

An outside audit was performed by Kittell, Branagan & Sargent. Our accounts are in good condition. Their report is included for all to review on page 8 and page 9. We would like to continue to have this outside review on a five year basis and have included a $3000 line item to spread this periodic cost over the next five years.

Following the advice given at town meeting to help put delinquent tax properties back on the tax rolls, Eden purchased several properties at tax sale this past December. Animal Control issues continue to plague Eden. We are currently working with VLCT to update our Animal Control ordinance, providing stronger language for compliance of offenders and protection for the town. It is our hope to have this adopted and in place by April 1st. VLCT has and continues to assist us with the many policies and ordinances required by municipalities.

When we met with the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Department to review their budget, the Selectboard agreed to have a joint meeting with Hyde Park to talk about establishing an equipment replacement schedule. The town will also look at establishing its own equipment replacement schedule. These will help with future planning and budget requirements, establishing annual amounts to be included in the budget keeping the tax rate more level from year to year.

We strive to keep our budget within a workable level but unfortunately, do not have control over outside contracted services which the community depends upon. This year we used $50,000 from the Good Neighbor Fund to help offset the tax rate. Every effort is made to produce a reasonable budget. Eden joined Eden 3E for net metering of town electrical needs at the town office, town garage and Lake Eden Recreational Area. This program is in conjunction with Vermont Electric Cooperative, and will be a savings to Eden taxpayers. We also acknowledge the importance of taking care of our dedicated and qualified employees who provide the community with the many services of our municipal government and beyond.

Eden continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in Lamoille County and working together it is our hope to continue to be able to provide the townspeople of Eden with the services they require at a tax rate that they can afford to pay.

***Ricky Morin, Chair Jubal Durivage Dale Tatro***