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MINUTES OF THE EDEN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014**

Select board Present: Civil Board Members:

Ricky Morin Donna Whitcomb

Harold Morse Walter Earle

Leslie White John Touchette

Jeffery Carter

Wayne Demar

The Moderator: H. Bruce Burnor called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**Article 1: To determine whether Roberts Rules or other rules of order shall govern the parliamentary procedure of this meeting.**

Walter Earle moved to adopt Roberts Rules of Order. Wayne Demar seconded. So voted.

**Article 2: To elect a moderator.**

Ricky Morin acted as the Moderator. Karen Jones nominated H. Bruce Burnor. Walter Earle moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for H. Bruce Burnor for one year. Eric Hammond seconded and passed by voice vote.

**Article 3: Presentation of the Bullard Award.**

Ricky Morin stated that the Bullard Award recipient was not present at this time and would like to do the presentation later on.

Bruce Burnor asked to have the rules suspended and have Mark Higley our State Representative speaks on what is happening at the State House. Walter Earle seconded. So voted. He explained that he had brought the Dole survey that is up front. Some of the issues being discussed are the Taser training, whistle blower, loggers having to work under a licensed forester, election laws and the cold case investigations. Leslie White spoke about the state giving up the Green up Day project. The state is willing to spend a minimum of $250 Million dollars at the asbestos mines; she feels they could find enough money each year to fund this project to help beautify our state. One of the options is there may be a box on your income taxes to contribute to help fund this or the state may take it over completely. He said his contact sheet is up front on how to contact him. Bruce Shields moved to resume the order of the day. John Touchette seconded. So voted.

Bruce Shields moved to postpone the Bullard award until the opportunity is right. John Touchette seconded. So voted.

**Article 4: To see if the voters will accept the Town Report.**

Bruce Shields moved as printed. Michelle Cardinal seconded. Peter Wright asked if we should accept with the corrections. Bruce said he meant with the correction as they were printed in the book. Eric Hammond pointed out that the percentage on page 23 under the animal control category was off and not on the correction sheet. Leslie White stated that the correction sheet showed that it was the percentages that were off. This one may have been missed. The amount in the budget is correct it was just the percentages of over or under that were not correct. The article passed by voice vote.

**Article 5: To elect all Town Officers as required by law: Office to take effect after adjournment of Town Meeting.**

1. **Town Clerk for three years**

Walter Earle nominated Candace Vear. John Touchette moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Candace Vear Town Clerk for three years. Michele Cardinal seconded. So voted.

1. **Town Treasurer for three years**

Bob Ross nominated Candace Vear. Michele Cardinal seconded. Walt Earle moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Candace Vear Town Treasurer for three years. Michele Cardinal seconded. So voted.

1. **Road Commissioner for three years**

Eric Hammond nominated Ricky Morin. Jackie Larsen seconded. John Touchette moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Ricky Morin Road Commissioner for three years. So voted.

1. **Selectperson for three years.**

Phil Morin nominated Harold Morse. He declined. Faye Cochran asked if anyone was interested in the position. John Vear nominated Jubal Durivage. Phil Tallman nominated Walter Earle. At this time there were 82 registered voters. The moderator explained to prepare your ballots.

Votes Cast – 69 Needed for majority –35

Walter – 31 Jubal – 35

Spoiled – 3

Jubal Durivage has been elected for Selectman for three years.

e). **Lister for three years.**

Faye Cochran asked if anyone was willing to fill this position. With no nominations this position will remain vacant. Bruce spoke on the lister’s training course that will start in about three weeks if anyone is interested. The Selectboard will appoint someone to this position.

f). **Auditor for three years.**

Linda Young nominated Kelly Daige. John Touchette moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Kelly Daige. Eric Hammond seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

g) **Auditor for three years.**

Bruce Shields nominated Jackie Schmelzer. It was stated that she did not want this position. David Whitcomb nominated Kay Shields. John Touchette moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Kay Shields. Bert Manning seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

h). **First Constable for one year.**

Michele Cardinal nominated Bert Manning. John Touchette moved to have nominations

Cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Bert Manning. David Whitcomb seconded. This was

passed by voice vote.

i). **Second Constable for one year**.

Sarah Cousino nominated Gary Wright. Jackie Larsen moved to have nominations cease

and the clerk cast one ballot for Gary Wright. David Whitcomb seconded. This was passed by

voice vote.

j). **Delinquent Tax Collector for one year**

Faye Cochran nominated Karen Jones. John Touchette moved to have nominations

cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Karen Jones. David Whitcomb seconded. This was passed

by voice vote

k). **Grand Juror for one year.**

Faye Cochran nominated David Whitcomb. John Touchette moved to have nominations

Cease and the clerk cast one ballot for David Whitcomb. Michele Cardinal seconded. This was

passed by voice vote.

l). **Town Agent for one year.**

Bert Manning nominated Sue Deuso. John Touchette moved to have nominations

cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Sue Deuso. Michele Cardinal seconded. This was passed

by voice vote

m). **Agent to convey Real Estate for one year.**

Leslie White nominated Monique Morway. John Touchette moved to have

nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Monique Morway. David Whitcomb

seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

n). **Cemetery Commissioner for five years.**

Virginia Mclean nominated Sandy Vear. John Touchette moved to have nominations cease and the clerk cast one ballot for Sandy Vear. David Whitcomb seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

Article 6: **To see what sum of money the Town will raise on its grand list for the Highway Department?**

Leslie asked to speak at this time. When we were working on the budget this year, we

neglected to put the sum of $40,000.00 dollars in. Last year it was voted to borrow the sum of

$200,000.00 for the construction of the Whitney Lane Bridge. Even though we haven’t borrowed

it yet, we are putting this money aside in preparation for the construction. This meant that

$40,000.00 a year for five years should be put in the budget. Leslie moved to have the total sum

to be raised $454,949.00. Bob Ross seconded. Discussion took place on the construction of the

new bridge. Debra Johnston asked if we received money from the Green Mtn. power company

and was it in consideration to use this money for the construction of this bridge. Leslie explained

that we have to vote on a figure first then if the people choose to use that money, it can be done.

Walter Earle asked for point of clarification. The article reads to see what sum of money to be

raised on its grand list appears as written that the town would be shackled to raising $454,949.00

on the Grand List, that is what would be taxed. Today we are voting on the expenditures not

where the revenues are coming from. The way the article is written, on its Grand List almost

shackles us to raising that amount in taxes. Bruce explained that if we vote on what Leslie just

explained, we will be raising that in taxes. Leslie thought that right now we are voting on the

sum to run the town with. When the time comes to set the tax rate, then we can use moneys from

the Good Neighbor fund to help lower the rate. Bruce explained that the way the article reads is

that you must raise this amount by taxes. Leslie asked for someone to amend the motion. Eric

Hammond moved to amend the motion to pass the highway budget as written for the amount of

$414,949.00. Walt stated that you should strike the words “on its grand list” out of the article.

You are voting on the amount to be spent, not where it is to come from. Bruce Shields doesn’t

feel the amendment is necessary. The statues very clearly allow the selectboard to use grants

and surpluses to reduce taxes. Unless the town votes specifically to establish a reserve fund the

selectboard must use the money to reduce taxes. Patty Coon (Selectboard assistant) explained the

figures on page 12 on how the tax rate was figured using the $40,000.00. She urged to accept the

motion of $454,949.00. Discussion took place on the different options on how to proceed with

fixing the Whitney Bridge. The board explained that they are trying to do what needs to be done

at the most cost effective way they can. It is expensive no matter what way. Debra Johnston

asked how much money is in the Wind Tower fund and is it expected every year and how is it

determined how much we get. Leslie explained that last year we received around $5,000.00. That

was the first year. It is determined on how much electricity is generated during that year. We

have no control on how much money is coming in. She explained that the board is working with

three different years. Bruce explained that we have a motion and an amendment to be voted on

first. The motion on the floor right now is to pass a budget of $414,949.00. This is the amended

amount. Bruce explained that Leslie moved the first amount to be $454,949.00. Then Eric

amended that amount to be $414,959.00. That is what we will vote on first. If that passes then we

vote on the amount as amended. If it doesn’t pass then we vote on the original motion. 87

registered voters were checked in at this time. David Whitcomb felt that this was voted on last

year and if we vote on it again we will be doing it twice. Leslie explained that it was just left out

of the budget figures.

We are not asking to borrow the money again. It was asked that this vote be done by paper

ballot.

Votes cast - 74 Needed for majority – 38

Yes – 40 No – 33

The amendment has been passed.

Now we will vote on the amended amount of $414,959.00.

Votes cast – 74 Needed for majority – 38

Yes – 49 No – 23

Spoiled – 1 Blank - 1

The article passed as amended.

**Article 7: Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money on its grand list not to exceed $3,000.00 to be spent around Lake Eden and South Pond Road for summer maintenance, at the discretion of the Select board and Road Commissioner?**

David Whitcomb moved as written. John Touchette seconded. This article was passed by

voice vote.

**Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise on its grand list for the Select board fund?**

Leslie made the motion to reduce this figure by $324.00. The final figure for the Lamoille

County Tax didn’t come into the office until the book had already gone to print. The new figure

is $345,961.62. Matt Mitchell seconded. This article passed by voice vote.

**Article 9: Shall the voters appropriate a sum of money on its grand list for the Paving and Structure Fund? If so, how much?**

Leslie explained that last year it was voted to establish this account with $50,000.00

from the rainy day fund. Leslie moved to put $40,000.00 from the Good Neighbor fund

into this account. Matt Mitchell seconded. Much discussion took place on how the town

should use this money. Some felt it should be used to lower taxes and some felt it should

be put into an account for emergencies. Gary Wright called the question. This didn’t pass

by voice vote. 91 registered voters were checked in at this time. Leslie spoke about a

grant the town has been awarded for higher speed internet. She would like to hear from

people interested so a letter of support could be written.

Votes cast – 71 Needed for majority – 36

Yes – 50 No – 19

Blank – 2

This article was passed.

**Article 10: Shall the Town Appropriate the following sums to be raised on its grand list for local organizations.**

**a) After School Program $ 4,000.00**

**b) Eden Cemetery $3,500.00**

**c) Eden Historical Society $2,000.00**

**d) Eden Youth Sports $3,500.00**

**e) LERA Swim Program $1,000.00**

**f) Lake Eden Association Greeter Program $4,000.00**

Kay Shields moved as written. Peter Wright seconded. Peter asked to vote one by one. Shelley Faxvog seconded. This did not pass by voice vote so it was done by a show of hands and the civil board counted. This passed to do all at once. Eric Hammond asked about the Greeter Program. Gary Durett spoke on how this program works. Peter Wright feels it isn’t accomplishing a thing. It is a waste of money. Eric Hammond moved to amend the amount to be $14,000.00 which is removing the Greeter Program. This did not pass by voice vote so the vote was done by ballot.

Votes cast – 59 Needed for majority – 30

Yes – 37 No – 22

The amendment was passed. The article as amended was passed by voice vote.

**Article 11: Shall the Town Appropriate the following sums to be raised on its grand list for other organizations?**

At this time Bruce, the moderator explained that we are going to do each item by

voice vote. If it doesn’t pass we will do by ballot vote.

**a) American Red Cross $ 250.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

b) **Central Vermont Adult Education**  $ **500.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

**c) Central Vermont Community Action $ 300.00**

Bert Manning moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

d) **Central Vermont Council on the Aging $ 700.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

e) **Clarina Howard Nichols Center $ 400.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

f) **Lamoille Community Food Share $ 250.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

g) **Lamoille County Court Diversion $ 250.00**

Walter Earle moved Eric Hammond seconded. This did not pass by voice vote but did

by a show of hands.

h) **Lamoille County Planning Commission $ 844.00**

John Touchette moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Jeff Carter spoke in favor of this

organization and all the help they give the town. Passed by voice vote.

1. **Lamoille County Special Investigations Unit $ 818.53**

Peter Wright moved. Eric Hammond seconded. This did not pass by voice vote. There are 93 registered voters checked in at this time.

Votes cast – 62 Needed for majority – 32

Yes – 26 No – 36

This article did not pass.

j) **Lamoille Economic Development Corp $ 150.00**

John Touchette moved. Kay Shields seconded. This did not pass by voice vote.

k) **Lamoille Family Center $ 250.00**

John Touchette moved. Bert Manning seconded. This did not pass by voice vote.

Votes cast – 49 Needed for majority – 25

Yes – 32 No – 17

The article has passed.

l) **Lamoille Home Health/Hospice $ 3,969.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

m) **Lamoille Cty Mental Health Svsc $ 750.00**

Bert Manning moved. Kay Shields seconded. Passed by voice vote.

n) **LENS Meals on Wheels $ 500.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

o) **North Country Animal League $ 500.00**

Bert Manning moved Eric Hammond seconded. Bert Manning spoke in favor of this

article. This did not pass by voice vote.

Votes cast – 60 Needed for majority – 31

Yes – 43 No – 17

This article has passed.

p) **Retired Senior Volunteer Program $ 100.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

q) **Rural Community Transportation $ 1,350.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

r) **Vermont Association of the Blind $ 100.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

s) **Vermont Center for Independent Living $ 165.00**

Walter Earle moved. Eric Hammond seconded. Passed by voice vote.

**Article 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of $100.00 on its Grand List for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Dry Hydrant Program.**

Ricky explained that the grants for dry hydrants have gone. In order to keep this

program working they are asking the town to pitch in $100.00 dollars. Eric Hammond

moved. Shelley Faxvog seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

**Article 13: Shall the town vote to pay property taxes, municipal and school combined, to the Town treasurer in three equal installments due on or before November 15, 2014 February 15, 2015 and May 15, 2015 with postmarks acceptable?**

Eric Hammond moved as written. This was seconded. This article passed by voice vote.

**Article 14: To see if the Town will authorize the Select board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?**

Walter Earle moved as written. Eric Hammond seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

**Article 15: To transact any other business proper at this time.**

Bruce Shields move to take up article 3. Bert Manning seconded. This was passed by

voice vote. Ricky stated that the Bullard Award has been awarded to Ronny McLean this

year but he was not here to accept it.

Stub Ernest Earle spoke about how high taxes are.

Bob Ross asked why the Fire Department has to pay someone to plow their yard.

Bruce Shields explained that the listers plan to do a Statistical reappraisal this year.

Max Levine said on May 31th there will be a group working on the playground. They

need all the help they can get as well as things donated. Please sign up on the sign-up

sheet.

John Touchette moved to adjourn at 12.03 pm. Walter Earle seconded. This was passed

by voice vote.

Dated at Eden, Vt. this 14h day of March 2014

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H. Bruce Burnor, Moderator

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Donna Whitcomb, Justice of the Peace