

Town of Eden
71 Old Schoolhouse Rd
Eden Mills, VT 05653

Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 26, 2021

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on January 26, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Candy Vear, Freeda Powers.

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 6:02pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: An RFP was sent out to three firms for the outside audit that Eden is due for this year. One firm failed to respond, another declined and the third offered a proposal. The Board received copies of the proposal from Kittell Branagan & Sargent, Certified Public Accountants. This is the same firm that did the outside audit for Eden in 2015.
3. Citizens Input:
 - a.) Jeff Hunsberger: The Board called Jeff Hunsberger, a resident who has shown interest in the vacant Emergency Operations Coordinator position. Jeff indicated he has experience to bring to the role and asked about Eden's existing Emergency Plan. Ricky confirmed that Eden does have an existing Emergency Operations Plan and Candy agreed to coordinate with Jeff if he is interested in reviewing or copying any of those documents in the Town Office. Ricky made a motion to appoint Jeff Hunsberger to the position of Emergency Management Director/Coordinator. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0.
 - b.) Ginnie Parker: The Board called Virginia Parker, a resident who has shown interest in the vacant seat on the Selectboard. Virginia said she has both the interest and the time to participate in the town governance. The Board explained that at this time, the seat is open until Town Meeting day, June 15th, at which time she would need to be elected by vote. Virginia understood and agreed to the timeline as explained by the Board. Ricky made a motion to appoint Virginia Parker to the open seat on the Selectboard until June 15th, Town Meeting Day, at which time it will be put to a vote of the people. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0. Candy will coordinate with her to take her oath and go over paperwork.
 - c.) Crooks Road complaint: The Board received and reviewed a written complaint from a resident on Crooks Road, who indicates that the road sand being used in the wintertime is leaving large stones which are popping her tires. This is an ongoing issue for this resident, who has filed complaints of the same in the past. Ricky said the road sand is crushed and there is not a lot to be done about this. Clayton referenced the auto mechanic invoice provided with the complaint, saying the documentation does not expressly say damage to tire was caused by a stone or rock, so it is hard to verify the claim in this case. The Board voiced their agreed caution against setting a precedent in this request for payment of damages. The Board requested that Candy contact the Town insurance agency to ensure they are taking the right position. Freeda will draft a letter to the resident once clarification is gained from the call to the insurance company.
 - d.) NEMS: A resident on East Hill Road recently issued a call for NEMS assistance. It is being reported locally that the response time was 41 minutes. Naturally, this is concerning and Ricky asked that Freeda contact Scott Griswold of NEMS for more information. A follow up on this concern will be given at the 2/9 meeting.
4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.

5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 1/12/21. Clayton made a motion to approve as written, the minutes of the 1/12/21 meeting. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0.
6. Dog Officer Update: The Board called Dog Officer Jayson Hill by phone to accept his resignation. The Board thanked Jayson for his time and work in his role as the Dog Officer. The Board requested that no advert go out for the position until March.
7. Road Commissioner's Report:
 - a. Bridge Projects Update: The Board reviewed quotes for Blakeville & Paronto Rd. projects from Michie Corp., out of NH. This is a company we have worked with before with success and satisfaction. These quotes, along with accompanying Hydraulic Studies, have been sent to Jim Cota with the State of VT. We await his feedback; if he indicates the quotes meet the standards, and the jobs are permitted, we can move forward with requesting extensions and focus on lining these jobs up this year.
 - b. Excess Weight Permits: The Board received and reviewed four excess weight permit requests from different companies. Clayton made a motion to accept to town specifications excess weight permits for: Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc., R.G. Gosselin, Inc. & Gosselin Water Wells Co. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0.
 - c. Update of other activities of Highway Dept.: None at this time.
8. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 1/12:
 - a.) Under Other Business: Hunsberger letter of interest/Emergency Manager Vacancy
 - b.) Under Other Business: Auditors recommend Selectboard pay increase
 - c.) Under FYI: Information on Act 164 re: Marijuana Regulation

Ricky made a motion to approve the additions and deletions from 1/12, as listed above #8 (a-c). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0.

9. Town Report Update: The Board reviewed the final draft of the Town Budget and the Town Meeting Warning. Ricky made a motion to approve the FY21-22 proposed budgets for municipal of \$500,371.20 (0.89% increase) and the highway of \$566,300.69 (3.08% increase) noting that monies for local appropriations of \$23,000.00 and other appropriations of \$12,431.99 would be decided by separate articles at town meeting. Based on the FY21-22 budget proposals for all, if approved, would result in a 1.98% increase over FY20-21. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0. Ricky made a motion to approve of and sign the Annual Town Warning for June 15, 2021 as prepared. Clayton seconded the motion. Approved and signed by the Selectboard and Candy.
10. Town Meeting Update: The Board read and reviewed the January 20 memo from the VT Secretary of States office regarding H.48, permitted processes for annual meetings and other local elections conducted in 2021. This permits the Town of Eden, and others in the state, to delay the date of Town Meeting Day. The Board will remain cognizant of deadlines, noting the Eden Town Meeting will be warned May 6th to comply with 17 V.S.A. § 2642: Warning and notice.
11. COVID 19 Update: The Board read and reviewed the January 15 memo from the VT Secretary of States' office outlining updates to the Stay Safe Order, the Governors Executive Order.
12. Other Business:
 - a.) LRSWMD: Due to the delay in Eden's Town Meeting day to June 15th, our LRSWMD rep, David Whitcomb, needs to be reappointed prior to their next meeting, April 7th. Clayton made a motion to reappoint David Whitcomb for the role of Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management

District Eden representative. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0. Candy will coordinate with David to get his oath taken and paperwork signed.

b.) Act 164 re: Marijuana Regulation. The Board heard feedback from the Town Attorney, James Barlow, regarding a residents' request to put this item on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning as an article for voting. Per the attorney's input, the Board agreed to decline putting this item on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning. Awaiting further clarification and expectations from the State over the course of this year, we may revisit this item in 2022.

c.) Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District: A resident has shown interest in joining as an alternate for Eden. Currently, Liza Jones is our rep, and Stephanie Van Blunk is our alternate. Stephanie has agreed to step down and allow Damien to take the alternate seat as she does not have the time to dedicate to the LFCUD right now. The Board did not take up this item for discussion; it will be continued to the 2/9/21 agenda.

13. FYI:

- a.) LFCUD got 50 Jetpack units for students, extended WiFi in Morristown and Stowe Libraries.
- b.) LCPC sent out the VT Assoc. of Planning & Development Brochure of work done in 2020.

14. Adjourn: Clayton made a motion to adjourn. Ricky seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 2/9/2021 by: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Virginia Parker. Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant