

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

May 25, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on May 25, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Virginia Parker (via Zoom; departed @8:33pm), Candace Vear, Freeda Powers. Also present: Craig Rounds (LERA Manager), Leslie White (resident). Joining by Zoom: Kristina Brown (resident), joining by phone: Kristi Ehlers (Assessor's Assistant).

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 6:01pm.

To accommodate those present, the Board skipped to Agenda item #11.

11. Beach Update:

a.) Water test results: The first lake water test results have come back and passed. The first drinking water test, taken 5/13/21, passed but was run as a Special vs. Routine test, meaning that our regular Routine test for May still needs to be done prior to opening day. Freeda has reached out to John Campagna of Plumbing Solutions to ensure he is able to do this.

b.) Managers Report: Craig Rounds joined the meeting to offer his update as Manager of LERA for the 2021 season. Mr. Whitney has notified the Town Clerk that he has withdrawn his interest in the Assistant's position for the season.

Craig said there is much to do between grounds maintenance, reservations, scheduling and goose patrol. Already there are five school groups scheduled and he foresees a busy summer at the beach. He feels he has been doing very well in keeping up with all that has to be tended to but voiced his desire to have some compensation for the long hours he has been doing in order to get LERA ready for the season. The Board did not object to his request, acknowledging that he has done long hours and a great deal of work since starting. Ricky reminded him that the lifeguard will be available one day a week should he need additional assistance. Craig said he has had an increasing number of requests for lifeguard presence as well and doesn't want to utilize the only lifeguard we currently have if it means leaving the beach unguarded for swimmers.

The Board authorized Freeda to go ahead with advertising for the Assistant's position and for additional lifeguards. Virginia asked that Craig begin to keep track of his working hours. It was agreed that a revised contract is pertinent to reflect the current status of Craig working solo.

Returning to the Agenda:

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Under #6: Minutes of 5/19
 - b.) Under #12: RFP bids in for Blakeville Rd. BR13 & Paronto Rd.
 - c.) Under #13:
 - i. Better Back Roads Awarded: Square Rd. ditching
 - ii. Class II Awarded: East Hill Rd. paving
 - iii. Structures Awarded: Boy Scout Camp Rd. engineering & Blakeville Rd. BR15
 - d.) Under #16: Energy Plan Forum announcement

3. Citizens Input: Virginia wanted to bring some recent Front Porch Forum (FPF) postings to the Boards attention. These posts indicate two instances of theft at residences in Eden. Ricky and Clayton stated it was up to the residents who are robbed to notify the police; that can be the VSP or the Lamoille County Sheriff. Virginia voiced interest in utilizing FPF as a platform for public announcements for nonemergency items and suggested reaching out to the two residents affected to refer them to the proper contacts for law enforcement assistance.

4. Sign orders: With Virginia participating remotely, Ricky asked if she is able to come to the town office in the day(s) following the meeting in order to sign the orders that are approved. Virginia explained that while she does not have an issue coming by to sign them, it is not necessary if the Board agrees to designate one person to sign. She went on to offer, for reference, VT Statute 24 V.S.A. § 1623 which says that the select board may authorize one or more members of the board to examine and allow claims against the town for town expenses and draw orders for such claims to the party entitled to payment. Furthermore, the statute indicates that the select board shall be provided with a record of orders drawn whenever orders are signed by less than a majority of the board. Clayton voiced his desire to have additional eyes on the orders, indicating he was not in favor of authorizing a single board member to sign orders. Ricky voiced his concern around signing payroll orders as it puts him in a position of potential appearance of conflict of interest, indicating he was also not in favor of designating a single signer. At this time, Ricky abstained from signing the orders with the understanding that Virginia would come to the town office to sign them in the following day(s).

Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.

5. COVID-19 Update: The Board received the latest update from the Governor which include wide lifting of mask requirements for both vaccinated (in all instances) and unvaccinated people (when outside). Additional restriction lifting included increased gathering size and no longer requiring temperature checks and contact collection.

6. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of 5/11 and the emergency meeting of 5/19. Ricky made a motion to approve the minutes of 5/11/21 as amended and 5/19/21 as written. Virginia abstained from this vote. The Board voted 2-0.

7. Assessor's Office Update: Kristi Ehlers called in to offer her first of the boards' requested monthly check-ins to see how remote work is going. Kristi said it is going very well, stating that in fact the work is being handled even more efficiently in this way. She said Russ has been out doing site assessments.

8. Town Audits, Internal Controls & Financial Reporting Responsibilities: Virginia asked that the Board be provided with copies of the Appendixes from the VT Auditors' Handbook. These pages offer an Internal Control Questionnaire form, an Audit Checklist and a list of Terms used and their definitions. She said the documents are informational primarily, but added the Board and citizens should be aware of the scope covered by auditors.

9. Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. 2021-2022 contract for services: The Board reviewed the recently received contract for Lamoille County Sheriff services for the 2021-2022 period. The contract sum is \$30,516. The Board noted that this is lower than the anticipated sum of \$31,931 in the current budget figures. The Board requested that Freeda reach out to the Sheriff's Department to confirm the numbers. The contract will be tabled until the 6/8/21 meeting for review and signature.

10. Dog Officer Application Received: The Board reviewed an application for the open position of Dog Officer. The Board had no immediate concerns regarding the application and requested that the applicant be invited to the 6/8/21 meeting for an interview.

12. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Clayton made a motion to approve to town specs, a weight permit for Blow & Cote. Virginia seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

b.) The Board reviewed an Excavation Permit for burial of overhead sap lines on Tree Farm Rd. The Board requested more detail on the Description of Work to be done; primarily, they would like to have the applicant agree to put the sap lines in a sleeve when burying them. Freeda agreed to reach out to the applicant. The Board tabled signing this permit request until the 6/8/21 meeting, pending response from the applicant.

c.) Speed concerns on North Road: A resident on North Road submitted a written concern about vehicles speeding on North Road. Freeda has reached out to Rob Moore at LCPC to inquire on options to address this concern. Rob's response indicates that LCPC can assist by getting a traffic count done on North Road; this will offer the Board data to make an informed decision whether there is a real speeding issue or a perceived issue. Ricky said he believes we have done such a traffic count on North Road in the recent past. Freeda agreed to look into it and will notify the concerned resident that a traffic count has recently been done on North Road. Ricky also mentioned that the VLCT discourages adding road signs re: children at play, etc. and asked that Candy please check with the League to confirm that is the case.

d.) RFP Knowles Flat Rd. Paving: The Board reviewed a draft RFP for reclaiming and paving on Knowles Flat Road. This will start where previous paving left off and continue on to the intersection of White Road. The Board had no objection to the RFP as

drafted and agreed to authorize Freeda to submit it to the following firms: J. Hutchins, Manosh and Pike. Bids are due to the Town Office by 6/8/21.

e.) Other activity of Hwy Dept.: Ricky said the sweeper is still down. The grader which they thought may have an issue, does not.

f.) RFP bids in for Blakeville Rd. BR13 & Paronto Rd. The Board received bids for large projects on Blakeville Road bridge 13 and Paronto Road. The bids received were from DuBois & King and Stone Environmental. The Board requested firmer numbers from both firms reflecting specific structural forms for each project. Freeda will reach out to them and provide revised bids for review at the 6/8/21 meeting.

13. Grants:

a.) FEMA Update: The Board authorized Freeda to begin the administrative paperwork required to draw down on work completed in the one large project that is already obligated to the state level. This project includes several roads throughout Eden. Freeda said this will likely require additional office time and indicated she will be coming in Friday-Sunday to ensure other work continues to move forward without interruption.

b.) LCBP/ANC Greeter Program: The Lake Eden Greeter Program, funded this year by two grants, is ready to begin by end of month. We are excited to welcome five new Greeters to the roster this year as we look forward to a busy and successful year of educating boaters on Lake Eden. Funds from the ANC grant are going towards the purchase of an iPad Mini to meet the new digital data collection requirement.

c.) American Rescue Plan Funds Update: Freeda participated in the State wide webinar on 5/18 to learn more about the COVID-19 related federal funds being dispersed to all towns. Eden, like all VT Towns, will need to request funds directly from the State. The Board was provided a copy of Freeda's notes outlining the Who, What, When, Why and Where of the funds. Important to note: Funds must be obligated by Dec. 2024, spend & document by Dec. 2026. Eden is in a good position to begin soliciting community input on these funds when ready.

d.) Better Back Roads awarded for ditching on Square Rd.

e.) Class II awarded for East Hill Rd. paving

f.) Structures awarded for both Boy Scout Camp Rd. engineering and Blakeville Rd. bridge 15.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 5/11: None.

15. Other Business: There will be a site visit at Square Road on 6/17 to discuss the next VAG funded project. Present will be: Ricky Morin, Freeda Powers, Leslie White, John Schmeltzer, Molly Sperduto, Linda Elliott and Peter Danforth. Leslie White voiced her recommendation that the Board stick firm to its' request for a financial report of funds, which has not yet been received. It would be imprudent to go forward with the site visit prior to receiving and reviewing said financial report. The Board agreed and requested that Freeda follow up with John to request that financial report be submitted for their 6/8/21 review.

16. FYI:

a.) Northern VT Energy Planning Forum taking place June 2nd 4-6pm by Zoom. To join, call 929-205-6099.

b.) VT Local Office Descriptions: The Board was provided copies of the VT Local Office Descriptions at Virginia's request

c.) ACT250 Permit Amendment: The Board reviewed a permit amendment for ACT250. This amendment incorporates an updated wastewater permit.

17. Adjourn: Clayton made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 6/8/2021 by: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Virginia Parker.

Freedra Powers, Town Administrative Assistant