

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

November 23, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on November 23, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage, Candace Vear, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers. Also present: Roger Marcoux (Lamoille County Sheriff), Scott Kirkpatrick (Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. Lieutenant).

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

To accommodate those present, the Board moved to agenda item #6:

6. VSP & Sheriff: The Board received an email this morning indicating that the VSP would not be able to attend tonight's meeting as planned. Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux and Lt. Scott Kirkpatrick from the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department attended to discuss policing needs in Eden.

The Board presented the two problem areas of East Hill Road and North Road where residents seem to experience and voice concern about speeding the most. The Board would like to get a trial period in which those areas are patrolled at random times and days for perhaps 10 hours per month. This would allow them to have something material to refer to when demonstrating a response to the community. It would be nice to be able to show the residents that they are actively trying to address the concern. That being said, it is recognized and agreed by the Sheriff's Department and the Board that human nature is such that you cannot ensure 100% compliance 100% of the time. The Board understands and in fact underscored that this is not to be looked at as a revenue source, but rather as an investment in the future of the community as a whole.

Sheriff Marcoux explained that like many other sectors, they are currently limited by staffing. There are two cadets coming out of the academy in March who will be on patrol by late spring of next year, and that will allow them to offer more creative solutions on hours of coverage and availability. Having said that, he estimates costs of patrolling at around \$100/hr. He agreed to draft a quote so the Board can have a line item put in for consideration in the upcoming budget for Town Meeting day.

Sheriff Marcoux suggested that Eden get in touch with the Town of Elmore, which has also been using the Sheriff's Department to address more localized concerns and have had positive feedback on their 20 hours per month of police coverage. Longer term, he said, it may be beneficial for all to contract together for coverage wherein each town puts in a portion of the cost.

Further discussion turned to the opportunities, challenges and feasibility of regional policing in which all of the smaller communities pitch in and have a say and make decisions (including hiring). This allows more control as a local group.

Sheriff Marcoux shared with the Board the Vt. State Police numbers which show the total incident numbers for Eden for the last three years:

2018	247
2019	299
2020	295

He recommended the Town reach out to the VSP to get a breakdown of the description of types of calls to get a better understanding of what is taking place. He also recommended inviting them to Eden's Town Meeting day and offered to stop by himself, COVID restrictions allowing.

Returning to the agenda:

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Deletion: VSP cancelation
 - b.) Addition under #8: Cargill Deicing Salt price form to sign
 - c.) Addition under #10: Revised Gihon Trak Packers Land Use Form for review/sign
 - d.) Addition under #10: Lamoille County Preliminary 2022-2023 Budget Mtg. 12/2
 - e.) Addition under #11: Emerald Ash Borer found in Belvidere
3. Citizens Input: None.
4. Sign orders: Seven (7) orders were reviewed and signed.
5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 11/09. Ricky made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/09/21 as written. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
7. ARPA Funds Status & Plans: The Board reviewed the status of the COVID-19 related American Rescue Plan Act funds. Eden will receive a Town Payment of \$143,422.22 (the first half in a payment in August/September of 2021 and the second half in a payment about the same time in 2022) and a County Payment of \$266,106.43 (the first half in a payment in August/September of 2021 and the second half in a payment about the same time in 2022). Total ARPA Funds to Eden will be \$409,528.65. We have received the first half of both the Town and County payments as of November, 2021.

ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024. Any funds not obligated by this date must be returned to Treasury. The funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Any funds not expended by this date must be returned to Treasury. Selectboards will have discretion over how to spend the allocations.

The Board has been considering and discussing potential project ideas. At this time, plans for an Emergency Operations Center of some sort are on the list of

possibilities the Board would consider. Future discussions will continue as we get more definition around allowed uses for the funds.

8. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Ricky signed the Cargill Deicing Salt bulk price form; Freeda has submitted it.
b.) Other Activities of the Highway Department: Pike has completed paving on Knowles Flat Road. The highway department have worked on the shoulders on Knowles Flat Road and added gravel to East Hill Road. They are ready for plowing as snow begins. There is a short in Truck #4 which will go to Charlebois for repair.

9. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 11/9/21: None.

10. Other Business:

a.) The Board discussed Town Meeting Day happening Tuesday March 1st, 2022. For now, the plan is to have it at the school which is currently allowing access with masks required. Time will tell where we stand in March with COVID related regulations, rules or mandate changes. The Board discussed possible Bullard Award nominees and considered who to dedicate this years' report to. This discussion will continue at their upcoming meetings in December.

b.) The Board received a revised Gihon Trak Packers Land Use Form with the Town Clerk's name removed as the land owner, and the requested route more clearly stated. After some discussion, the Board declined to sign the form at this time. They want to ensure that the landowners along this route are also being fairly included in the discussion and are fully aware of the implications of the land use request. The Board requested that Marvin Whitcomb be invited to the Dec. 14th meeting to hear their concerns.

c.) The Board has been invited to attend the virtual Zoom platform of the Lamoille County Preliminary 2022-2023 budget meeting happening 12/2/21 at 7pm. Freeda will find out if their participation is required, if any votes or input will be taken.

11. FYI: The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation notified the Town of Eden that the invasive Emerald Ash Borer has been identified in the woods in Belvidere, on a parcel close to the Bakersfield town line. The first EAB infestation was confirmed in Vermont in 2018 and is now widespread throughout the state. According to the notice, Municipalities will bear the responsibility and costs of removing and/or treating public ash trees that may be a risk to public safety, as well as any replanting efforts.

12. Adjourn: Jubal made a motion to adjourn. Ricky seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes Approved on 12/14/21 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant