

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

Minutes of Special Selectboard Meeting  
December 6, 2021

The Eden Selectboard attended a special meeting on December 6, 2021 at the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Station at 7:00PM. Present at the meeting were, Eden Selectboard: Ricky Morin (Chair), Clayton Whittimore and Jubal Durivage, Freeda Powers (Eden Admin. Assistant), John Savage (Fire Chief), Brent Lanpher (Asst. Fire Chief), Marvin Whitcomb (Fire Dept.) and Hyde Park Selectboard members Chasity Fagnant, David Gagnier and Brian Shackett (by phone).

The meeting began at 7:00PM. The purpose of this joint Selectboard meeting was to review and vote on the NHP/Eden Fire Department FY23 Budget.

The overall budget shows an increase of \$1,325 over last year. It was noted that disability insurance costs have been removed as a separate line item, as suggested at the meeting last year. Disability insurance is now included in the Insurance expense line.

There was discussion about the regulations which govern all fire departments, whether they be in NYC or in NHP. All gear must be replaced once it is 10 years old, regardless of how many fires that gear has been exposed to, or how much use or wear it has seen. The number of air packs required per truck, all of these things are regulated and any operation carried out in violation of these rules and regulations has serious liability, risk and ramifications. In some ways, these rules and regulations may seem unreasonable but when considered in the light of safety, they are imperative and proper. All of this gear is extremely expensive to replace. Some funds, such as donations, can be put towards flashlights. Air-packs and turn-out gear are far more expensive. We try to replace our gear in staggered sets; 4 at a time. This lessons the financial blow to our small towns.

A couple of years ago, the two towns split the cost of purchasing new air bottles. If we cannot get new packs, in another couple of years the bottles will no longer be compatible and their value, \$16,000, is lost. If we are able to get new packs which are compatible with the new air bottles the department purchased, it's the equivalent of \$16,000 saved. We did apply for the national Aid to Firefighters Grant (AFG) last year, requesting funds to replace our aging air packs. We were not awarded, and are preparing our application for submission again this month.

There were no objections to the proposed budget. Ricky made a motion to approve the budget as presented. All in favor. The NHP/Eden Fire Department FY23 budget passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.

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

Freedra Powers  
Town Administrative Assistant