

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

January 11, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on January 11, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage, Candace Vear, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers and Town auditors Tracey Morin & Leslie White. Joining by phone: Gabe Bolin (Stone Environmental)

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

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

6. Sick Time: Town Auditors Tracey Morin and Leslie White joined the meeting to continue ongoing discussions around employee vacation and sick time. It was noted that the motion made at the 12/28/21 Selectboard meeting which approved payment of vacation balances due to town employees had not included the town share of retirement, social security and medicare. Clayton made a motion to correct the amount paid out for accumulated vacation time balances of office and highway employees for FY20-21 to \$31,776.83; taking \$18,634.82 from the Selectboard Fund and \$13,142.01 from the Highway Fund. Jubal seconded the motion. As a town employee, Ricky abstained from the vote. The Board voted 2-0.

The Board next reviewed sick time balances and the existing Personnel Policy, which states *“Each full-time employee shall be granted five (5) days per year with pay to be used in case of sickness within his or her immediate family. These sick days can accrue from year-to-year with no cap. The year for each employee shall commence on the date of hire or election. After the first year of employment, the anniversary for leave time shall be December 31st. Sick Time pay shall be for eight (8) hours.”* The personnel policy does not indicate either way if sick time balances shall be paid out after an employee ends employment with the Town. At this time, the Board did not make any changes to the policy. The Board agreed that a policy review and potential updates is in order and will be put on a future agenda.

Leslie asked the Board about Town Meeting Day plans. At this time we plan to have Town Meeting at the school. We have been told at this time that masks are required. Leslie made suggestions for alternative locations should the need arise. One possible location mentioned was the fire station.

Leslie indicated that in her role as Town Auditor, she has found that the Eden Cemetery Commission has several separate bank accounts for funds provided by different benefactors. To maximize efficiency in the auditors’ work each month and moving interest in each account, she recommends putting these cemetery fund accounts

together. This may result in better rates as well. Jubal agreed to discuss this with the Cemetery Commissioners.

Returning to the agenda:

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
  - a.) Under #11c) Hillside Trash rate increase notice
  - b.) Under #10c) ARPA Funds update
3. Citizens Input: None
4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.
5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 12/28/21. Ricky made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/28/21 meeting as amended. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

7. Grants Update:

a.) Paronto & Blakeville Road: Gabe Bolin from Stone Environmental joined by phone for this update on the Paronto Road and Blakeville Road BR15 projects. Provided to the Board was a summary of the proposed plans for each project, an RFP or bid request example and the geotechnical report for the Blakeville Road site.

Ricky noted in the Paronto Road box culvert plans, width is proposed at 30'; this is too wide. Height proposed is 6'; this is too shallow. Embedded culverts must have 2' of cover. We do not want a design which creates potential debris jam problems, which this proposal will do. Gabe said the proposal is based on 50-100yr storm modeling, which he is happy to share with the Board if they wish. Ricky reiterated his concerns with the proposed plans and requested that this design be reworked to incorporate the Town's input.

On the Blakeville Road BR15 project plans, Ricky noted the proposal indicates a bridge deck width of 20'; this is too narrow. As mentioned at the onset of this process and as reflected in the Michie Corp quotes offered to Gabe for reference, the Town requires 28' between guardrails for winter road maintenance. This brings the structure up to current codes and standards. Gabe will take that input back to DeWolfe, the design firm, for revisions.

b.) RFP's reviewed: The Board reviewed three RFP's which will go out this week. One is for concrete work at a culvert on Albany Road, another is for shoring up footings at Blakeville Road BR13 and the third is for paving a portion of East Hill Road. The first two are related to the FEMA storm event of Oct. 2019; paving of East Hill Road is grant funded work. All work is proposed to be done this summer. RFP's will be due back to the Town Office by early March, with bid selections to take place the first Selectboard meeting in March.

8. Road Commissioner's Report: Ricky reports that Truck #2 needs welding; that will be done this week. The Road Crew has been busy plowing and sanding. Ricky said a resident has asked about purchasing a road sign from the Town. While that is not on the table, he said he does occasionally give away old, used road signs if folks can get use of them.

9. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 12/28/21:

- a.) Under #9b) Dog Bite report from Copley Hospital
- b.) Under #9c) Continue discussion on Employee Sick/Vacation Time
- c.) Under #9d) Review Open Positions ad
- d.) Under #9e) 2021 CLA numbers
- e.) Under #10b) Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) open seats
- f.) Under #10c) Lamoille County lawsuit notice

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from 12/28/21, as listed above, #9 (a-f). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

10. Other Business:

a.) Health Officer update: The Board received a letter of interest for the open position of Town Health Officer. The Board requested Freeda to get two references for him and to ask him to join their next meeting on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.

b.) Update on Town Report: The Board did not address this agenda item. It will be revisited at the 1/25/22 meeting.

11. FYI:

a.) EYSC reply to inquiry: The Board received a response from Wayne Demers, Eden Youth Sports Committee president, about funds spent in the past year and an overall current financial status. Wayne's response indicates that while expenses were down last year due to impacts of COVID-19, they included costs to use the Cambridge Community Center from Jan-Mar and for pinnies for the players. They also renewed insurance. He offered to get a copy of their treasures report if the Board requests. In the future, they are looking at redoing the baseball fields which could cost us upwards of 6-10K for all 3 fields. He indicates they will also need to buy all new baseball equipment as it all has expiration dates for Little League guidelines (this includes bats, helmets, and catcher gear).

b.) American Gift Fund: The Board received notice that the annual payment has been received in the amount of \$41,023.29; an increase of \$5,429.91 over last year.

12. Adjourn: Ricky made a motion to adjourn. Jubal seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 1/25/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant