

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

December 28, 2021 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on December 28, 2021. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage, Candace Vear, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers and Town auditors Tracey Morin & Leslie White.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:15pm.

To accommodate those present, the Board moved to agenda item #9c:

9. Other Business:

c.) Town Auditors Tracey Morin and Leslie White provided the Board with documents outlining the balances for employee sick and vacation time. After review and discussion, the Board agreed to pay out accumulated vacation time balances for office and highway employees. Jubal made a motion to approve paying vacation balances for Ricky Morin, Ryan Morin, Donna Whitcomb and Candace Vear due through 6/30/21 in the amount of \$27,323.67; taking \$15,871.11 from the Selectboard Fund FY20-21 and \$11,452.56 from the Highway Fund FY20-21. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0 with Ricky abstaining from the vote. Jubal made a motion to approve paying Donna the vacation balance she is due from 7/01/21-12/31/21 in the amount of \$836.00 to be paid from the Selectboard Fund FY21-22. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0 with Ricky abstaining from the vote. The Board will continue discussion regarding sick time at their next meeting.

a.) The Board received an email from resident Jeff Lewis, who is interested in joining the Eden Youth Sports Committee. Ricky made a motion to appoint Jeff Lewis to the Eden Youth Sports Committee. The Board discussed that background checks should be done on new appointees to the Youth Sports Committee to ensure we are doing our due diligence in keeping the kids in Eden safe. It turns out that the school already does this as a requirement for anyone working with the students, including those serving on the EYSC. The Board will revisit the appointment of Mr. Lewis at their 1/25 meeting.

b.) The Board received a dog bite report from Copley Hospital; the report indicates that the owners' dog bit a member of the family. No action taken.

d.) The Board reviewed a draft ad for open positions in Eden. Due to the high cost of advertising and the proximity to Town Meeting Day and the beginning of the new year, the Board agreed to limit the newspaper ad to the open paid positions of Health Officer (one position) and Highway Department (one position) and the volunteer position of Eden Youth Sports Committee (two open seats). Freeda will submit the ad,

as approved by the Board, in the News & Citizen for two weeks. All open positions can be listed on the Town Website.

e.) The Board received notice of the Town of Eden's 2021 Common Level of Appraisal numbers from the State. The CLA is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list. This metric helps indicate if property in the town is generally listing for its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a town-wide reappraisal. Eden's CLA currently stands at 93.68% which means we are not due for a reappraisal at this time.

Returning to the agenda:

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
  - 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
3. Citizens Input: None
4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.
5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 12/14 and 12/22. Jubal made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/14/21 meeting as amended and the minutes of the 12/22/21 meetings as written. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
6. Grants Update:
  - a.) MRPG 2022: Awarded \$9,400; Ricky suggests looking at continuing MRPG related improvements on South Pond Road or looking at hydrologically connected segments in need of work on White Road. We will refine our selection based on the Road Erosion Inventory report completed in 2020.
  - b.) BBR 2022: We have applied for \$60,000 to replace culvert on Griggs Rd.
  - c.) AFG 2022: We have applied again this year for \$107,392 for new air packs; we applied for this grant last year but were not awarded.
  - d.) LCBP: We have assisted the Lake Eden Association with applying for \$15,000 for Education & Outreach at Lake Eden.
7. Road Commissioner's Report: Ricky reports that Truck #4 is back from repairs at Charlebois. He said Ken Harvey will be crushing at his facility and wants to know if the Town of Eden is interested in getting crushing done this coming summer. The Board agreed that we should and asked that Ricky get a cost estimate from Ken first. Candace indicated that she had taken a call from a resident voicing frustration at the road sand being put down on the town roads. The resident calling said they have experienced two popped tires as a result of rocks on the roadway. Ricky indicated that the road sand

being used in Eden is similar to material used in neighboring towns. No action was taken.

8. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 12/14:
  - a.) Addition under #11b: Health Officer letter of resignation.
  - b.) Addition under #12c: EBI Consulting notice of communication tower going in off Kittell Road.
  - c.) Addition under #12d: Lamoille County Budget Mtg. 1/10/22 at 7pm.

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from 12/14/21, as listed above, #8 (a-c). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

10. FYI:

a.) The Board received notice of a Public Utility application for a proposed communications tower on Kittell Road.

b.) The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) has 9 open seats on the newly formed Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council. These council members will help drive the clean-up of our lakes, rivers and streams by identifying project priorities for implementation and directing funds to where they can have the greatest impacts. If Eden has any individuals who are interested in the open seats, they should contact the Town Office for more info. Freeda will post this on the Town Website to get the word out.

c.) The Board received copies of a notice of hearing from the VT Superior Court indicating a suit has been filed between Lamoille County and the Village of Hyde Park. This suit stems from the new rate structures for water services (effective Sept. 2020) and for wastewater services (effective May 2021). The new rate structure was a reaction to the price tag of a required system upgrade done in 2019. The new rate structures, according to the filings, put undue financial burden on the county, which is responsible for the Lamoille County Courthouse and the Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. building. A hearing date has been set for a motion of preliminary injunction scheduled for Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.

11. Adjourn: Ricky made a motion to adjourn. Jubal seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 1/11/21 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant