

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

February 22, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on February 22, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Jubal Durivage, Candace Vear, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers. Also present: Town Auditors Tracey Morin & Leslie White, Dog Officer Katie Belval.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
  - a.) Under 9d: Paronto Road design; review & respond
  - b.) Under 12c: Continued rebuild & upgrade of Lowell Substation
  - c.) Under 11c: Health Officer Report
  - d.) Under 11d: Planning Commission letter of resignation

To accommodate those present, the Board agreed to go to Agenda item #7 next.

7. Dog Officer Report: Katie Belval came before the Board to offer a report of her duties in the past month or so. Copies of her reports were presented to the Board; there were 7 reports between November and February, including cases of dogs running at large and abandoned/neglected animals. Katie said she has encountered some unregistered dogs and is working with the owners to get their dogs registered with the Town Clerk. Annual spring canvassing will take place after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

When encountering situations with abandoned or unclaimed/found dogs, the Board said the Dog Officer can take the animal to Lamoille Kennel. There was some discussion of cost and payment if this occurs.

There have been several reports of loose dogs running in the area of Ash Lane. This is a concern for traffic, children and delivery people's safety. Katie has reached out to the Judicial Bureau to better understand the proper protocol and procedure for ticketing when it is appropriate. In the meantime, she asked that the Board send a letter notifying the owners of the expectations for proper containment as outlined in the Eden Dog Ordinance with consequences for failure to abide by those expectations explained. The Board agreed and asked that Freeda draft a letter to send to the owners.

Returning to the Agenda:

3. Citizens Input: Leslie White noted that she has found an error in the printed town report. Ricky asked that any errors found in the town report be listed and brought to the Boards' attention no later than Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> so that they can be noted and mentioned by the Moderator at Town Meeting.

Leslie recommended that the Board begin the process of planning for use of the ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) and reminded them that deadlines are in place for obligating and expending these funds. Ricky said he feels the money should be used in a way that keeps it in Eden, serving the residents and taxpayers of the Town. He suggested further discussion on this topic can take place at Town Meeting Day under Article 14. All agreed; Freeda will provide info sheets giving bullet points on the basics of the ARPA funds for residents to have at Town Meeting.

4. Auditors Input: Tracey Morin requested to go into executive session with the Selectboard and Auditors. Ricky made a motion to enter into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 to discuss personnel matters. Jubal seconded the motion. Clayton excused himself from the executive session. The Board entered executive session at 6:49pm. The Board exited executive session at 7:35pm. Ricky stated that no decisions were made.

To accommodate those present, the Board agreed to go to Agenda item #11 next.

11. Other Business:

a.) Sick Time (ct'd): The Board resumed discussion around employee sick time. Ricky asked if the Board would like to have an attorney review the town's current Personnel Policy. The Board agreed.

b.) Town Meeting Day: We are prepared to host Town Meeting Day at the Eden Central School on March 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 9am. Chairs and tables will be set up on Monday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

c.) Health Officer Report: The Board received a report from THO Chris Donahue regarding his response to a dog bite report. No further action taken.

d.) Planning Commission: The Board received Virginia Parkers' written notice of resignation from the Eden Planning Commission. The Board took no action at this time; the item will be addressed at the 3/1/22 meeting following Town Meeting.

Returning to the Agenda:

5. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.

6. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 2/8/22. Clayton made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/8/22 meeting as written. Jubal seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0. Ricky abstained from this vote as he was absent from the 2/8 meeting.

8. Highway Dept:

- a.) Department Update: Ricky offered a brief update on ongoing issues on Camp Road. He reports that the highway crew have been busy plowing and sanding.
- b.) Excess Weight Permits: Jubal made a motion to approve to town specifications excess weight permits for New England Quality Service, Inc., Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., Austin Construction, Inc. and Hillcrest Trucking & Storage, Inc. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Approved and signed.

9. Grants/FEMA update:

- a.) DHS: We are applying for a Dept. of Homeland Security grant for portable radios for our North Hyde Park/Eden firefighters.
- b.) Rural Energy Pilot Program: One of many new grant opportunities coming out this year. This grant works with municipalities and partnerships to develop renewable energy. Deadline for applications is 7/18/22.
- c.) FEMA: The Board received 90% design plans for Blakeville Rd. BR13 and Paronto Road box culvert from Stone Environmental. The Board agreed to further review these plans at their 3/1/22 meeting and will offer responses at that time.

10. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 2/8/22: None.

12. FYI:

- a.) VSP/Williston Barracks 2021 annual report; received and reviewed.
- b.) Upcoming Health Officer: There are upcoming online trainings which will highlight specifically on rental housing. The Town Health Officer has been advised to attend.
- c.) The Board received notice of the continuing work on the rebuild and upgrade of the Lowell Substation.

13. Adjourn Jubal made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

Minutes Approved as written on 3/8/22 by Clayton Whittemore, Ricky Morin. Tim Bullard abstained from this review as he was not present for the 2/22/22 meeting.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant