

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

April 26, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on April 26, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Candace Vear, Freeda Powers. Also present: Steven and Jacqueline Schmeltzer, Linda Young, Leslie White, Tracey Morin, Kristina Brown.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
  - Under #10: LERA Request for funds to replace 3 tables
  - Under #12a: Documents from pre-bid site visits
  - Under #13b: G.W. Tatro rates
  - Under #15:
    - a.) ARPA Fund Report due 4/30/22; Elect for Standard Allowance?
    - b.) LFCUD Appointments
  - Under #16: Lamoille Housing Partnership workshop 6/3/22
3. Citizens Input: Kristina Brown came before the Board to clear the air regarding soil deliveries to the Eden Central School location for the ball fields last week. Ricky stated that Eden roads are still posted for the spring thaw and heavy truck loads of soil were being delivered in wet conditions with precipitation; these are the wrong conditions for such vehicles to be on town roads. Kristina said she appreciates the explanation for why such work was not permitted during the spring thaw and better understands the reasoning; she underscored the importance of clear and respectful communication between the Eden Youth Sports Committee and the Town. It was agreed that Kristina will be the point person for EYSC going forward and she agreed to contact the Highway Department at the Town Garage before further deliveries are scheduled.
4. Eden Congregational Church: Steven and Jacqueline Schmeltzer and Linda Young came before the Board to explain that the roof on the Eden Congregational Church building is leaking and due for replacement. They have secured quotes for the work and are inquiring if funds are available from the Town by way of the ARPA funds. Ricky said that is undetermined at this time but the Board will look into it. The Church is a historical building, Jacqueline said, and if the church dissolves, it would be offered to the Town. Linda inquired on use of the Good Neighbor Fund for this request. The Board said the Good Neighbor Fund has conditions which prevent the Board from considering those funds for this request. Other fund possibilities will be explored and considered.

The Board asked about use of the building. Jacqueline explained that they have not offered services in a long time due to COVID-19 however, they plan to reopen for services this year, May through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October. They cannot hold services there in the colder months due to a lack of proper insulation and the cost of heating the building.

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

6. Dog Bite Incident: Candace reported to the Board about a dog bite incident that she was made aware of which took place on Blakeville Road on April 21<sup>st</sup>. No official report has come in to the Town Office at this time. The dog in question, currently vaccinated but not registered, was contained and brought to the kennel. The dog will remain at the kennel for 10 days at which time, the owner indicates, there is a scheduled vet appointment for euthanization. Candace will provide documentation of euthanization to the bite victim once it is available. No further action is required by the Town at this time.

7. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of 4/12. Tim made a motion to approve as written, the minutes of the 4/12/22 meeting. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

8. Personnel Policy review (ct'd): This item was tabled to a future warned meeting.

9. G1 Holdings Funds:

a.) Project proposal reviewed. The Board offered input and additional projects to add to the list of proposed work to be funded with remaining G1 holdings funds. This proposal will be submitted to the Trustees.

b.) Lakeshore: The Board agreed to meet with Peter Danforth on May 17<sup>th</sup> at LERA to finalize the design plans to implement lakeshore BMP (Best Management Practices) and Storm water work, started last year. Freeda will coordinate that with Peter.

10. Beach Update:

a.) LERA Facebook account: The Board discussed pros and cons to the LERA Manager's Assistant's request for a LERA Facebook page. A mock up page was presented to the Board. The Board considered having a Selectboard member be the Page Administrator. Tim said he was willing to do so. The Board was ok with that and voted 2-1 with Ricky opposed.

b.) LERA Request: Beach Manager Craig Rounds would like to purchase three tables to replace damaged ones at LERA. The tables, made in Lowell, will cost \$240 each, for a total expense of \$720.00. The Board said the LERA Manager is authorized to make this purchase with funds available to him in the Beach Account.

11. Greeter Program Update: The LCBP grant for this program was not awarded this year. The Lake Eden Association (LEA) reports that they have secured other funds for the Greeter Program for this year. There was some discussion about how those funds will be distributed; either through LEA's own account or through the Town account. This led to

some questions about the status of Greeters as Town Employees. The Board requested that Candace inquire with the CPA's doing the external audit and/or the VLCT to get clarification on the employment status of Greeters.

12. FEMA:

a.) Pre-bid site visits: The Board reviewed the results of the required pre-bid site visits. There were 4 contractors who showed up for the Blakeville Road BR13 project and 9 showed up for the Paronto Road culvert replacement project. Bids are due in May 9<sup>th</sup>.

b.) Paronto Road: An agreement has been reached with the only property owner that will be directly impacted by the Paronto Road project. This will allow the Town to decrease cost estimates by eliminating the need for temporary access to that parcel during the duration of construction and thereby reduce project costs.

13. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) Excess weight permit: The Board received one permit request from R.L. Morin & Sons Construction. Tim made a motion to approve the excess weight permit for R.L. Morin & Sons Construction. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0 with Ricky abstaining.

b.) 2022 Equipment Rates: The Board received and reviewed solicited equipment and materials rates from local contractors and suppliers. Tim made the motion to proceed as in past years, allowing the Road Commissioner the discretion of determining the company that would provide the best rate, quality of work, and availability for the town, keeping the others on file. Clayton seconded the motion. Approved 2-0 with Ricky abstaining from the vote.

c.) Driveway Permits: The Board agreed to a special meeting on 5/17/22 to check approved driveway/access permits.

d.) Highway Dept. Update: Ricky offered an update on the status of surveying Camp Road; this will be done in coordination with Leslie White and a surveyor. Leslie suggested a letter go out to residents of Camp Road to advise them and inquire on completed surveys which may aid in the process. Freeda will draft a letter for the Board's review. Ricky indicated the cameras that were purchased for the Town trucks are not working out and requested looking into dash cameras instead which may be easier to operate and serve the intended purpose better.

Ricky said there will be no new trucks purchased this year; 2023 trucks will be available to order in the fall. Town Truck #1 is in need of replacement so this will be something to consider later in the year.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 4/12:

Deleted: #4 will be rescheduled

Under #12) Bid documents for review

Under #13c.) LERA Facebook Page request

Under #14a) Kelley-View Farm, Inc., EC Morrison Trucking & Excavating

Under #16d.) EYSC Letter of Interest for open seat

Under #16e.) EPC Letter of resignation

Under #16f.) Robert & Sons Lawn Care 2022 quote

Under #17b.) Energy Consult offer

Ricky made the motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the 4/12/22 meeting as listed in #14. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

15. Other Business:

a.) ARPA: The Board has until April 30<sup>th</sup> to opt for Standard Allowance. This allows the Town to spend any portion, or their full award amount, under a category for Governmental Services. This is a broader category of allowed expenditures and will also lessen the administrative burden of tracking and reporting of the ARPA funds. Tim made a motion that the Town of Eden make the one-time irrevocable decision to elect the “Standard Allowance” approach for Eden’s ARPA award in the full amount of \$409,528.65, to spend on the provision of government services throughout the period of performance of the grant. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Candace will submit the Town’s request via the ARPA online portal prior to the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

b.) LFCUD Appointments: Eden representative Liza Jones, has had to resign from her seat on the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (LFCUD) which is working to bring broadband services throughout the region. Eden’s Alternate Rep is Damien DeClerck; he has agreed to being reappointed. Freeda has agreed to sit as the Eden representative until another resident can be appointed. Tim made a motion to appoint Freeda Powers and Damien DeClerck to the LFCUD as Eden Representatives. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Freeda will submit the appointments to Val Davis of LFCUD as required.

16. FYI:

a.) New House & Senate District Boundaries: The Board reviewed the new House and Senate District Boundaries, set April 6<sup>th</sup>. Eden is now in the Orleans-Lamoille District which includes the following towns: Eden, Lowell, Irasburg, Coventry, Newport, Troy, Westfield and Jay. Eden keeps the same representatives: House Rep Mark Higley (R) and Senate Rep Richard Westman (R).

b.) Lamoille Housing Partnership: An invite has been received to join a Lamoille Housing Partnership workshop on 6/3/22.

17. Adjourn: Clayton made a motion to adjourn. Tim seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes Approved as written on 5/10/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant