

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

July 12, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on July 12, 2022. Present: Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Candace Vear, Beth Spaulding, Freeda Powers. Ricky Morin arrived at 6:10pm. Also present: Art Curcillo, Ed Debor, Inga Luebke.

1. Open Meeting: Tim opened the meeting at 6:01pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
  - a.) Under #3b: Griggs letter re: survey markers on East Hill Road
  - b.) Under #7c) Dog Bite Report
  - c.) Under #13:
    - i.) Resident email regarding Highway wages
    - ii.) Fed mileage rate increase
  - d.) Under #16: Lamoille Housing Partnership series 8/3/22
3. Citizens Input:
  - a.) Resident Ed Debor came before the Board to voice his concerns regarding a rat infestation in an area of White Road. The Town's top priority is the health and safety of the public, he said, and a rat infestation is a serious threat to both. The Board thanked him for his report of the matter and said the Town Health Officer will be notified and asked to address the situation. State statute does address proper disposal of garbage as it relates to public health and safety. It is the landowners' responsibility to maintain a property clear of trash, refuse, garbage, solid waste, etc.
  - b.) The Board received a letter from a resident on East Hill Road regarding missing survey markers. The Board acknowledged that roadwork in that area had been done many years ago, however we cannot ascertain when or how the markers were moved. The letter requested that the Town reimburse the property owners' costs of having survey work done as a result of the missing survey markers. The Board declined this request; a response will be drafted and sent this week.
4. LERA: Art Curcillo, president of the Lake Eden Association, came before the Board and offered an update on the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil which has recently been identified in Lake Eden.

Art also wanted to bring to the Board his longstanding concern regarding vehicle traffic on Rte. 100 by the VT Fishing Access. The posted speed limit on that stretch is 50mph; it is a passing zone and northbound traffic has very limited sight distance. This area is extremely dangerous, he said. He would like to see the speed limit lowered here and signage to warn drivers that a fishing/boat access is ahead. Furthermore, he would like the Town to invest in officer coverage for the area to enforce speed limits. The Board acknowledged that they are aware of the concern in that area, along with other areas along

state routes in Eden. The Town can submit their written concerns to the State but the signage, speed limit and other factors such as allowable passing, are all under the control of the State not the Town. Regarding enforcement, the Board reminded Art that there was discussion with the voters at Town Meeting Day about budgeting for the expense of law enforcement for such concerns and the consensus of the voters of Eden was that it was not something they were in favor of at this time. The Board recommended Art reach out to Mark Higley, our State representative, and for Freeda to reach out to our contact at VSP to see if they can help us address this issue.

To accommodate those present, the Board moved to Agenda item #7 next:

7. Dog Officer:

a.) The Board received and acknowledged a letter from Chris Donahue rescinding his prior letter of interest for the open position of Dog Officer.

b.) Inga Luebkehan came before the Board after submitting her written letter of interest and resume. The Board reviewed the expectations of the position with her. Clayton made a motion to appoint Inga Luebkehan to the open position of Dog Officer. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Inga will meet with Candace on Monday to complete required paperwork.

c.) The Board received a dog bite report from VT Dept. of Health dated 7/9/22; no action taken.

Returning to the Agenda:

5. Sign orders: Six (6) orders were reviewed and signed.

6. Minutes: Tim made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/28/22 special meeting minutes as amended. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Ricky made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/28/22 regular meeting minutes as written. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

8. FEMA: The Board reviewed expenses to date on contracts with Stone Environmental. Work has begun on the Blakeville Road bridge replacement project. We have successfully requested and received an extension for the Paronto Road culvert replacement due to materials availability.

9. ARPA Funds: Tim brought draft plans for a potential future Town Office building.

10. Grants:

a.) MRPG (current year) Site visit 7/20 with Rob Moore, Ricky and Freeda.

b.) MRPG FY23 we received a preliminary award for \$16,500 for work to be completed by next year. Ricky and Freeda will work with Rob Moore to determine what road segments will be addressed with these funds.

c.) If Eden is interested in a Park-N-Ride, there are grant funds available. The Board felt there is no feasible location for that in Eden at this time.

11. Road Commissioner's Report:

- a.) The request to reclassify Parsonage Road has been rescinded.
  - b.) Access Permits: The Board received two access permit applications for VASA access on Warren & Shover roads. The Board discussed and agreed to allow temporary access at these locations to allow use of trails until the Blakeville Road bridge replacement is complete. Clayton made a motion to approve temporary access permits for VASA use on Warren and Shover Roads, built to town specs, for the period of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 through August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at which time the accesses must both be removed and property restored to previous conditions. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Freeda will notify the applicant(s).
  - c.) Update of Other Highway Dept. Activity: Ricky reports that they have changed culverts on White Road and are now hauling crushed gravel from Manosh. He inquired with the Board how many tons of crushed gravel the Town should purchase at this time. The Board discussed and agreed to purchase 6,000 tons now and stock it in order to save money including future hauling costs if fuel prices should continue to rise.
- Ricky reminded the Board of the delay in delivery of new vehicles and said if the Town plans to purchase a new town truck, they should get an order in by this fall and anticipate approximately 18 months before seeing it. He can provide cost estimates at the next meeting.

12. Personnel Policy Review (ct'd). No changes or actions were made at this time.

13. Annual Salary Review (ct'd): Ricky abstained from this discussion as an employee of the Town. Clayton made a motion to enter into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313. Tim seconded the motion. The Board entered executive session at 8:08pm. The Board exited executive session at 8:30pm. Clayton reported that no decisions were made in executive session. The Board agreed to table this agenda item to their next meeting.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 6/28:

- a.) Under #8: FEMA reimbursement re-calculation & BR13 Traffic control plans
- b.) Under #15: Dog Officer letter of interest
- c.) Under #15: VT Community Leadership Summit 8/10/22

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the June 28, 2022 meeting as listed above in #14. Tim seconded the motion. Approved.

15. Other Business: Due to the August 9th Primary Election, the Board rescheduled their August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

16. FYI: Lamoille Housing Partnership series 8/3/22.

17. Adjourn: Tim made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Minutes Approved as written on 7/26/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.  
Freedra Powers, Town Administrative Assistant