

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

August 23, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on August 23, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Freeda Powers. Also present: NHP/Eden Fire Dept. members John Savage, Brent Lanphere and Marvin Whitcomb, Dog Officer Inga Luebkeman, Town Auditor & Trustee of Public Funds Leslie White, resident Carey Earle.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Leslie White: Trustee of Public Funds
 - b.) Dog Officer pamphlet & request
 - c.) Under #12: Access Permits for Camp Rd. & Warren Rd.
 - d.) Under #15: EYSC Letter of resignation & Letter of interest

2 a). Leslie White came before the Board as a Trustee of Public Funds (TPF) to follow up on a previous request to look into consolidating certain low interest earning accounts in order to improve efficiency in monthly reconciliations and to enhance financial growth of town funds. The Board appreciated Leslie's attention to this matter and agreed it would be fiscally prudent to move forward with this and seek out better interest rates/investment options and consolidate applicable town accounts. Leslie provided the Board with copies of the VT State Statute 24 V.S.A. § 2431 outlining the duties and responsibilities of the TPF and a model TPF policy, should the Board choose to adopt such.

2 b.) Dog Officer Inga Luebkeman created a tri-fold pamphlet to hand out to residents letting them know the rules, expectations and resources for dog ownership in Eden. The pamphlet offers information, contacts and websites for dog licensing, registration, clinics and more. The Board had no objection and offered thanks to Inga for her time creating this helpful document. Inga also requested that the Board authorize her to expense \$9.99 per month to provide the public with an alternate phone number to reach her rather than using her personal phone number. The Board had no objection to this request. Tim made a motion to approve the Eden Dog Officer's expense of \$9.99 per month for a Smart Line telephone number for residents to reach her in her role as Dog Officer. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

3. Citizens Input: None.

4. LFCUD: The Board received a letter of interest from Ginnie Parker for the open Eden Alternate Rep seat on the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (LFCUD) Governing Board. The Board will invite her to the next meeting to further discuss her interest in joining the LFCUD board.

Carey Earle came before the Board at their invitation; she had previously submitted a letter of interest to serve on the LFCUD Governing Board. Carey explained her background and pertinent interest in being on the LFCUD board. Challenges of getting broadband service to the region was discussed. Ricky made a motion to appoint Carey Earle to the Governing Board of the LFCUD as the Eden Representative. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. The Board requested to be kept in the loop regarding the LFCUD progress and decisions.

5. North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Dept.: John, Brent and Marvin came before the Board with an update to the fire truck purchase voted on at Town Meeting, noting costs have increased since the quote was secured. The Board understood that this was a possibility given the current market and price increases across sectors. At this time, the fire fighters also presented the Board with an option to sell the existing rescue truck to replace it with a GMC pickup that can be used for manpower requests and calls that do not require the big trucks, such as lift assists, injured hikers, auto accidents. Benefits of this option were discussed. Potential costs and funding sources were discussed. The NHP/Eden fire dept. reps will be attending the Sept. 13th Hyde Park Selectboard meeting to get their input. A joint meeting can be set up after that date for both Boards to discuss together for a final decision/vote.

6. Sign orders: Three (3) orders were reviewed and signed.

7. Minutes: Ricky made a motion to approve, as amended, the minutes of the 7/26/22 and 8/11/22 meetings. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

8. Town Health Officer: The Town Health Officer was not available to join the meeting this evening; the Board requested his attendance at their next meeting, Sept. 13th. Clayton made a motion to go into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313. Tim seconded the motion. The Board entered executive session at 7:43pm. The Board exited executive session at 8:10pm. Ricky reported that no decisions were made in executive session.

9. LERA Update: There will be a required water system Sanitary Survey Inspection on 9/20/22. Ricky advised a thorough cleaning of the pumphouse, cobweb removal, grass trimming and vegetative clearing around the drain pipe prior to this inspection. Freeda and Craig (LERA Manager) will be present for this inspection.

10. FEMA update: Contractors have now poured one abutment and wingwalls and backfilled them and are currently excavating and prepping to pour the footing on the other side early next week. The Board gave approval to take one more compaction test over the amount that were recommended in the bid addendum; during design, 3 total compaction tests were planned – 1 under each footing (total of 2) and a third within the backfill behind

1 abutment wall. After thinking it through, the engineers feel taking a test behind each abutment wall makes sense, to confirm there is acceptable compaction on each side.

11. Grants:

a.) MRPG FY23 has been awarded. This grant helps the Town address state mandated improvements to hydrologically connected road segments. Tim made a motion to approve and sign the MRPG FY23 Grant Agreement for \$16,500. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

b.) BRIC grant funding is available for infrastructure projects that address flood vulnerability and can be used on structures such as culverts or bridges. The Board discussed potential projects in Eden where this grant could be applied. Engineering for a culvert replacement on Boy Scout Camp Road was completed last year with grant funds; the Board agreed that this structure would be a good fit for the BRIC grant. Freeda will begin working on the application, due Dec. 9th.

12. Road Commissioner's Report:

a.) The Board received an AOT letter in response to concerns on Rte. 100. The letter outlines State plans to further study those concerns, including a traffic engineering study. They will send their recommendations to the VT Traffic Committee who makes final decisions regarding regulatory items. The Eden Selectboard will receive an invitation to the VT Traffic Committee meeting at which this item is discussed. Signage for the boat launch is outside the purview of the Traffic Committee but VTrans will review the Eden location in accordance with Agency guidance and install signage as appropriate.

b.) The Board agreed to schedule a fall access permits site visit in October. Final date and details to be determined.

c.) Other activities of Hwy. Dept.: Ricky reports that the 2012 Town truck is currently down and at Charlebois for repair. The Highway department have been finishing prep work on East Hill Road so that Pike can come in for paving; they should be wrapping that up in the next several days. They will begin working on an Albany Road culvert replacement next week; this is part of the remaining FEMA flood event projects.

d.) Access Permits:

i. Bruce Burnor for property located on Warren Road. The Board will wait to approve this application until Ricky has a chance to do a site visit and speak with the applicant. The Board will consider this application on 9/13.

ii. Donald Foote for property located on Camp Road. The Board will wait to review this application since the applicant's real estate agent has submitted the application on their behalf but the land purchase has not been finalized yet. The Board asked that the Applicant and their real estate agent be notified of this and advised to reapply once the land sale is finalized.

13. Policy Review:

a.) Personnel Policy (ct'd): The Board agreed to continue this discussion to a future meeting.

b.) Purchasing Policy: The Board considered recommended amendments to the Eden Purchasing Policy document based on feedback from a recent FEMA review. The

additional language ensures that the Town is citing and adhering to specific statutes around spending of federal funds (i.e., FEMA). Tim made a motion to approve and sign the Town of Eden's Purchasing Policy as amended. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

c.) Grant Management Procedure: Similar to the review of the Purchasing Policy, the Board considered recommended amendments to the Eden Grant Management Procedures document based on feedback from a recent FEMA review. The additional language ensures that the Town is citing and adhering to specific statutes around spending of federal funds (i.e., FEMA). Tim made a motion to approve and sign the Town of Eden's Grant Management Procedure document as amended. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 8/11:

- a.) Under #9 Incident Report @LERA 7/30/22
- b.) Under #7 July Report
- c.) Under #14 D. Schurman access permit
- d.) Under #17 Letter of Interest for open LFCUD rep
- e.) Under #18 ACT250 Application 5L1176-6B
- f.) Under #18 Lamoille Housing Partnership summit 8/22/22

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the August 11, 2022 meeting as listed above in #14. Tim seconded the motion. Approved.

15. Other Business: The Board received a letter of resignation from the Eden Youth Sports Committee from Jeff Lewis. The Board accepted Jeff's letter of resignation and asked Freeda to send a letter thanking him for his time and dedication to the youth of Eden.

The Board received a letter of interest from resident Trevor Bidwell to join the Eden Youth Sports Committee. The Board requested a background check be done as required and invited Trevor to join a future meeting to discuss his interest in joining EYSC prior to their appointment decision.

16. FYI:

- a.) VLCT Annual Town Fair will be held Oct. 6th
- b.) VLCT Municipal Finance 3 part Training offered 8/26, 10/14 & 12/9

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

Minutes Approved as amended on 9/13/22 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.
Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant