

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

September 27, 2022 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on September 27, 2022. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Freeda Powers, Candace Vear. Also present: Town Auditor & Trustee of Public Funds Leslie White, Town Health Officer Christopher Donahue and Lake Eden Association: Art Curcillo and Vinnie Brennan.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None.
3. Citizens Input: Art Curcillo and Vinnie Brennan from the Lake Eden Association, came before the Board to continue discussion regarding the efforts to address and maintain the health of Lake Eden. They strongly encourage continued participation in the LCBP Greeter Program as part of outreach and education at the VT Fishing Access in addition to seeking other grants to address eradication and management of the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil that has been identified this year.
4. Trustee of Public Funds: Leslie White came to the Board to continue discussion on investment of town funds and consolidation of low-interest bearing accounts. Leslie reviewed the history of the Future Improvement Fund and recommended that investment funds come from this account. Monies earned on the investment could be used to offset the tax rate. The Board was in favor of this. Leslie will return when she has more interest rate info and investment options to present at a future meeting.
5. G1 Funds: Peter Danforth joined by phone to go over 60% design plans for three lake related projects being funded with a portion of the remaining G1 funds. Plans reviewed were for projects located at: LERA, VT Fishing Access and Griggs Road. The Board brought to Peter's attention that the scale is incorrect on the LERA design plans as presented. This made it difficult for the Board to fairly assess or offer input on those plans and they requested a site visit with Peter to discuss what the plans truly are for that location. Peter agreed; they will meet at LERA on 10/25/22 at 5:00pm for that site visit. Peter indicated work will not begin on these projects until next year but they would like to start staging where they can this fall.
6. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.

7. Minutes: Tim made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9/13/22 regular meeting as amended. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

Tim made a motion to approve the 9/21/22 special meeting minutes as amended. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0 with Clayton abstaining as he had not received a copy of the 9/21/22 minutes for prior review.

8. Town Health Officer: The Board received a copy of a dog bite incident that took place on 9/16/22. No action required at this time.

9. LERA:

a.) The Board reviewed the rules for LERA and for the annual campsite lottery. No changes were made.

b.) The Board set the date for the Fall Lottery as 10/11/22 at 5:00pm. The Board set the date for the Fall walk-through of LERA for 10/25/22 at 5:00pm.

c.) Freeda reported that the water system inspection with the State on 9/20/22 went very well. Another inspection will be due in five years.

10. FEMA: The Board received and reviewed field reports from CCS and Stone Environmental as well as a second pay request from CCS. Tim made a motion to approve the CCS pay request in the amount of \$161,510.00 bringing the total paid to date on this contract to \$318,184.50. Remainder to be paid upon completion of the project. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

11. ARPA Funds: The Board received a response from the VT League of Cities & Towns regarding allowable spending using ARPA funds. In particular, the inquiry was around spending funds on fire truck purchases, which are allowed.

Further discussion regarding ARPA funds included dividing up the tasks associated with establishing materials, costs, etc. of the potential new Town Office building. The Board will begin to gather materials costs, design details and other associated information, numbers and quotes. Leslie White continues to be a great asset to the Board as she assists with this ongoing discussion and associated work.

12. Eden/North Hyde Park Fire Dept.: The Board continued discussion regarding the fire department's plans to replace the existing Rescue Vehicle with an outfitted pick up truck. Both town Boards have had this item on their agenda once and the Boards had a joint meeting to discuss the proposed sale of the rescue vehicle and purchase of the pick-up. Ricky reiterated his concern that the department is scaling its vehicles down and that the fleet may not provide adequate capacity. Ricky made a motion to approve expensing up to \$14,000.00 from the Future Improvements Fund for Eden's share towards the purchase of a new pick-up truck for the Eden/North Hyde Park Fire Department. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

13. Personnel Policy review (ct'd): The Board agreed to table this item to a future meeting.

14. Road Commissioner's Report:

- a.) The Board received a draft copy of the new Municipal Roads General Permit from the State. Feedback is due Oct. 24th.
- b.) The Board received a Utility ROW request from VT Electric Co-Op for work to be done on South Pond Rd. The Board discussed the importance of these utility installations remaining out of the town road ROW. The Board approved and signed the Utility ROW request. Freeda will notify the Co-op.
- c.) Other activities of Hwy. Dept.: Ricky reports that Truck #4 has had work done. The Highway Department has been very busy with lots of projects coming up against the threat of colder, wetter weather. Grant funded paving of a portion of East Hill Road will be done by Pike Paving by the end of October. Grant funded work on South Pond Road will be completed by the Highway Department by the end of October as well. An Albany Road culvert replacement will not be able to be done by the time permits require being out of the waterways, so that project will be completed next year; we have requested and received an extension for this FEMA related work.

15. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 9/13:

Under #7) Animal Bite Report from UVM Medical Center

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the September 13, 2022 meeting as listed above in #15. Tim seconded the motion. Approved.

16. Other Business: The Board and Candace discussed the position of Assistant Clerk/Treasurer. The ad for this position has been put in the News & Citizen and applications have been received at the Town Office. Candace will schedule interviews after the ad has run for two weeks.

17. FYI: The Board received information from Comcast regarding their available services.

18. Adjourn: Tim made a motion to adjourn. Ricky seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 10/11/22 by Ricky Morin and Clayton Whittemore.
Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant