

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

January 10, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on January 10, 2023. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Freeda Powers, Melissa Whitcomb. Also present: Leslie White. Tracey Morin arrived at 7pm.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:03pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Under #13 Draft Article Language for Lake Eden Funds
 - b.) Under #13 FAQ re: Appointed vs. Elected
 - c.) Under #13 American Gift Fund payment received \$35,428.14
 - d.) Under #13 VT Open Mtg. Law changes being extended
 - e.) Under #6 County Sheriff's Dept. FY23-24 Budget
 - f.) Under #14 LRSWMD Financials
3. Citizens Input: Leslie White updated the Board on the status of town funds invested with Edward Jones.
4. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.
5. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the 12/27 Special and Regular meetings. Clayton made a motion to approve both sets of minutes from 12/27/22 as written. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
6. FY23-24 Budget (ct'd): The Board continued review of the FY23-24 Budget.
7. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (ct'd): The Board offered further input on the draft updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Board agreed to open this review to public comment at their meeting on 1/24/23.
8. Eden Energy Committee: The Board received a letter of resignation from EEC member Keren Ferrari. Clayton made a motion to accepted Keren's letter of resignation from the EEC. Tim seconded. The Board voted 3-0. Freeda was asked to send a letter thanking Keren for her time and dedication.
9. North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Dept.: The Board received the annual report from the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Dept. This will be included in the Eden Town Report. The

Board was also updated on the status of the new fire truck: no word from the manufacturer but we have received approval for the loan.

10. Assessor's Office:

a.) The Board received an update on the Regional Assessor from Ron Rodjenski of Hyde Park.

b.) The Board received a copy of a notice from the State regarding Eden's Property Valuation and Review 2022 study. The letter offers a status of the town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and Coefficient of Dispersion (COD). These numbers reflect if property in a town is generally listed for more or less than fair market value and how fairly distributed the property tax is within a town. The numbers for Eden's COD necessitate a reappraisal. The Board requested further information from Assessor Russ Boudoin; Freeda will relay their questions and have answers for the Board at their next meeting.

11. Highway Dept.:

a.) Annual Certificate of Hwy Mileage form; there are no changes this year. Tim made a motion to sign and submit the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage form. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Freeda will submit the signed form to the State as required.

b.) Road Commissioner's Report: Ricky reports that the Highway Department have been busy with regular road maintenance. There will be a school group visiting the Town Garage as a field trip; equipment will be parked outside for the kids to get a hands on experience and see the big machines. Ricky indicated that the Town Garage heating system can be paid for with ARPA funds. The Board had no objection. Further discussion around spending of ARPA funds at the Town Garage included roof replacement work. The Board discussed some ARPA funds being spent to improve energy efficiency at the Town Office building as well.

12. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 12/27:

a.) G1 funds update

b.) FEMA Update

Tim made a motion to approve the additions and deletions from 12/27/22, as listed above #12 (a-b). Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0.

13. Other Business:

a.) Draft Article Language for Lake Eden Funds: The Board reviewed draft language submitted by members of the Lake Eden Association for an article in the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to approve funds towards eradication and management of the invasive Eurasian water milfoil. The Board requested the draft language be reviewed by VT League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) prior to inclusion in the warning. Freeda will have that review by VLCT done prior to the next Selectboard meeting. A letter also submitted by the Lake Eden Association will be included in the annual Town Report and the Selectboard recommend the LEA also put it on Front Porch Forum, Facebook and the local paper for further distribution. The Board declined the request to mail the single page document to residents as it will already be included in the Town Report which is sent to every registered voter.

b.) The Board received VLCT information regarding Appointed vs. Elected town officials.

c.) American Gift Fund payment was received in the amount of \$35,428.14

d.) VT Open Mtg. Law changes may be extended to allow remote meetings to continue and allow towns to change the date of their annual meeting.

e.) The Board received the financial report from Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD).

f.) The Board received the Sheriff Department budget.

14. FYI:

a. The Board received a response regarding allowed spending and available funds from remaining G1 monies.

b. The Town received notice of a grant review with the State on 1/17/23 for the Twin Culverts project on Knowles Flat Road.

c. The Town received a turn down notice for the Aid to Firefighters grant; we will reapply for supplies for our firefighters.

At this time, Freeda requested to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Ricky made a motion to go into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313. The Board entered executive session at 9:14pm. Present were Selectboard members Tim Bullard, Clayton Whittemore, Ricky Morin and Town Administrative Assistant Freeda Powers. The Board exited executive session at 10:00pm. The Board authorized Freeda to return to her hired scheduled hours of M-F 8-4 after the Town Office hours changed on 1/1/23.

15. Adjourn: Ricky made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 2/24/23 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.

Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant