

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

January 24, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on January 24, 2023. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Freeda Powers, Melissa Whitcomb and Tracey Morin. Also present: Leslie White, Craig Kneeland.

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:09pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:
 - a.) Draft Article Language for solar proposal from EEC & VLCT input
 - b.) Deleted from Agenda: Items #6 (reschedule) & #8 (duplicated in error)
3. Citizens Input: Leslie White reported that a resident came to the Town office questioning if it was ok to walk on Boy Scout Camp Road, as the caretaker had questioned her recently as she walked. Leslie recommended the Board send a letter to the Boy Scouts of America as this is a Town Road.
4. Public Comment on Hazard Mitigation Plan: Leslie White offered input on the draft update to Eden's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Lamoille County Planning Commission is assisting the Town with this update process, and Leslie has been provided the proper avenue to get her comments to the staff at LCPC. The public review period will remain open until Feb. 13, 2023.

To accommodate those present, the Board moved to Agenda item #9 next.

9. Eden Energy Committee: Craig Kneeland, from the Eden Energy Committee, came before the Board to continue discussions regarding the proposed solar energy generating system at the Town owned property on the west side of Rte. 100 across from LERA. The Board reviewed the EEC's draft language for an article on the Town Meeting Warning as well as input from the VT League of Cities & Towns. The Board worked with Craig to revise the article language in a way that meets State guidelines.

Returning to the Agenda;

5. Sign orders: Five (5) orders were reviewed and signed.
6. LERA: Tabled to a future meeting.

7. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the 1/10/23 meeting. Clayton made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/10/23 as amended. Ricky seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

8. Agenda Item Deleted/Duplicated in error.

10. Town Health Officer: The Board received the December report from the Town Health Officer.

11. Highway Dept.:

a) Excess weight permits: Ricky made a motion to approve to town specifications excess weight permits for: Newport Sand & Gravel and Carroll Concrete. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Approved and signed.

b) The Board received an update on Paronto Road culvert replacement project from Stone Environmental. The Board offered their response, which Freeda will relay, including that work on the Paronto Road project shall not begin prior to the following: town road postings for spring conditions come down (June 1 or after), the Blakeville Bridge project site is completed and a pre-construction meeting is held with all stakeholders after town meeting day in March.

12. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 1/10/23:

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

Ricky made a motion to ratify the additions and deletions from the 1/10/23 meeting as listed above in #12(a-f). Tim seconded the motion. Approved.

13. Town Report/Town Meeting update

a) FY23-24 Budget (ct'd): The Board finalized their review of the budget.

b) The Board chose 1/31/23 for a special meeting to sign the Town Meeting Warning.

14. Other Business:

a) The Board is awaiting a response from the schoolboard regarding the Town's use of ESC as an Emergency Shelter.

b) The Board is awaiting a response from Town Assessor Russ Boudoin regarding their questions about a reappraisal cost estimate and valuing of tiny houses.

c) The Board received a letter of resignation from Kristi Ehlers. Kristi has worked in the Lister & Assessor's Office for six years. Her last day will be January 31st. Clayton made a motion to accept Kristi's letter of resignation. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. The Board requested Freeda send a letter of thanks to Kristi and asked Tracey to run an ad for the open position.

d) Town Office Update: Tracey requested that the Board work on updating the Personnel Policy.

15. FYI:

a) The Board received a copy of the DPS 2022 Annual Report.

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 8:23pm. Present were Selectboard members Tim Bullard, Clayton Whittemore, Ricky Morin, Town Clerk & Treasurer Tracey Morin, Asst. Clerk & Treasurer Melissa Whitcomb and Town Administrative Assistant Freeda Powers. Auditor Leslie White joined at 8:35pm. The Board exited executive session at 9:05pm. No decisions were made.

16. Adjourn: Ricky made a motion to adjourn. Clayton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Minutes Approved as amended on 2/14/23 by Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard.
Freeda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant