

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

February 14, 2023 Selectboard Meeting

The Eden Selectboard met at the Town Office on February 14, 2023. Present: Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tim Bullard, Freeda Powers, Melissa Whitcomb and Tracey Morin. Also present: Leslie White, Branden Martin (Stone Environmental, Inc.), Brian Bonneau (CCS) and Robert Harnish (Joining by phone for Agenda item #5).

1. Open Meeting: Ricky opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

To accommodate those present, the Board moved to Agenda item #4 next.

4. FEMA: Branden Martin (Stone Environmental, Inc.) and Brian Bonneau (CCS) came before the Board to discuss both the completion of the Blakeville Road project and the upcoming Paronto Road project. Communication, scheduling and project management were discussed.

Returning to the Agenda:

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:

Under #6: Questions on solar proposal from L. White

Under #8: Draft minutes of 1/31/23 special meeting

Under #10: Town Admin. Asst. letter of resignation

Under #13a: New England Quality Service, Inc., Barrett Trucking Co., Inc.

Under #13c: Access Permit for property located on Square Rd.

Under #13d: Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant opportunity

Under #16c: Health Officer monthly report & dog bite report

Under #17f: Lake Eden Shoreline Properties Summary by L. White

3. Citizens Input: Inga Luebkehan called the Town Office with the idea of having a bench with a plaque at LERA honoring our late Town Clerk, Candace Vear. The Board said it could be incorporated into the flagpole, kayak rack area. The Board discussed ordering a bench using the American Gift Fund.

5. Declaration of Inclusion: Robert Harnish joined by telephone asking the Board to consider adopting a Declaration of Inclusion for Eden. The Board reviewed and discussed the idea and proposed language submitted by Mr. Harnish and at this time, passed on the offer to adopt the declaration. The Board thanked Mr. Harnish for his time.

6. Eden Energy Committee: The Board received a copy of Green Mountain Solar information from the EEC. Leslie White explained that she has questions and needs answers to better clarify the proposed project in relation to State guidelines, thresholds, permit requirements and more. She provided the Board and the EEC with a list of questions.
7. Sign orders: Eight (8) orders were reviewed and signed.
8. Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the 1/24 regular meeting as well as the 1/31 special meeting. Tim made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/24/23 and 1/31/23 as written. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
9. CAI Tax Mapping Service/Annual Contract renewal: The Board reviewed the annual contract renewal with CAI for tax mapping services. The Board noted an error in the document in reflecting the rate increase. A correction was made. Tim made a motion to approve the CAI Tax Mapping Annual Contract as amended for processing data recorded between 4/1/23-3/31/24. Clayton seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. The contract was signed.
10. Letter of Resignation: The Board received a letter of resignation from Beth Spaulding, a member of the Eden Planning Commission. Ricky made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from the Eden Planning Commission. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter of resignation from Town Administrative Assistant, Freeda Powers. Clayton made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from the Town Administrative Assistant. Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.
11. Grand List Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending: The Board reviewed the document provided by the Assessor's office indicating there are no appeals or suits pending against the Eden Grand List. Tim made a motion to sign the certificate. Clayton seconded the motion. So voted.
12. Review Constable Job Description: No action taken on this item at this time; part of annual salary and pay review.
13. Highway Dept.:
 - a) Excess weight permits
 - i. Bourne's Energy
 - ii. Jack F. Course, Inc.
 - iii. RG Gosselin, Inc.
 - iv. Gosselin Water Wells, Inc.
 - v. G.W. Tatro Construction, Inc.Ricky suggested excess weight permits be tabled to the next meeting.

b.) Update of other activities of Highway Dept.: Ricky reports they have been sanding roads. In regards to the new town truck being purchased, he said he has received a quote for the body. Tim made a motion to approve the quote received for the truck body. Clayton seconded the motion. So voted.

c.) Access Permit for property located on Square Rd.: Ricky will need to take a look at the property in the application and inspect the site for proper sight distance etc. This application will appear on the 2/28 agenda.

d.) Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant: The Board revisited this annual grant opportunity and agreed that it would be beneficial in the future for replacement of the grader or other town equipment.

14. Ratify Additions and Deletions of 1/24/23:

a.) Draft Article Language for solar proposal funds & VLCT input

b.) Deletion from Agenda: Items #6 (reschedule) & #8 (duplicated in error)

Ricky made a motion to approve the additions and deletions from 1/24/23, as listed above #14 (a-b). Tim seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0.

15. ARPA funds: The Board reviewed a letter Leslie W. drafted, soliciting a contractor for future work on the Town Office building.

16. Other Business:

a.) The Board reviewed a copy of the letter sent to Boy Scouts of America

b.) Policy Review—The Board begin review of all town policies beginning with the Personnel Policy, Salary & Benefits and Health Care Coverage.

c.) Health Officer's monthly report & dog bite report received and reviewed.

17. FYI:

a.) Twin Culverts Grant Review Outcome

b.) Monaghan Safar Ducham PLLC; rate increase

c.) Final payment from wind turbines (Good Neighbor Fund) rec'd.

d.) First Amendment Audits

e.) State considering moratorium on Reappraisals & further changes

f.) Lake Eden Shoreline Properties Summary by L. White

18. Adjourn: Ricky made a motion to adjourn. Tim seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Approved minutes.

Freda Powers, Town Administrative Assistant