

EDEN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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Special Meeting with the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Dept. held on 12/5/2023 at 5809 VT Route 100
North Hyde Park, VT at 7:00pm

Present from Eden Selectboard: Tim Bullard, Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore
Present from Hyde Park Selectboard: Susan Bartlett, Chasity Fagnant, Matt Morin, Roland Boivin,
Savannah Droney
Present from North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Dept.: Marvin Whitcomb, Brent Lanpher, John Savage, Ethan
Griggs
Also present: Melissa Whitcomb, Jennifer Tricou

Meeting opened at 7:01 pm

- 1) Welcome, changes to the Agenda and Public Comment: None
- 2) North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Station Budget FY 25- The Selectboards reviewed and discussed the proposed budget which shows an increase of 6.83%. Ricky asked why there was an expense of \$130000 for the sale of the truck. Marvin explained that it was in both expense and revenue and explained the breakdown of the sale of the old truck and purchase of the new. Matt asked about the increase in insurance and Marvin stated that the amount is initially unknown which explains the difference in the budget vs. actual. Tim asked about the salary increases as they were less than the budget. Brent spoke about a proposed switch from hourly rates to a stipend for volunteer firefighters. The stipend would be based on how many trainings are attended rather than the current hourly rate for volunteers for calls and training. This would allow for more accurate budgeting as well as encourage volunteers to show up for trainings which are important and ensure they are ready and able when out on a call. Worker's compensation insurance is estimated and paid upfront and the difference is billed/credited once the audit is done at the end of the year. Ricky motioned to approve Eden's portion of the new budget at \$42225.00. Clayton seconded, approved.
- 3) Old/New Business: Brent talked about the new truck and that we probably won't see it until April. If the cabin chassis is in soon as expected, we will need to provide our share of that cost when it is delivered. The cost for the truck is currently unknown due to production issues and they are hoping the amount previously approved will cover it.

The recent purchase of Airpacks by the Fire department was discussed. The Eden selectboard recollects a discussion of the need for them in the near future but did not remember a decision being made to order at this time. Melissa will look further into the minutes from past meetings.

John brought up some issues they are having with the condition of the state roads through the area. He stated that last Sunday night into Monday, the main roads could be traveled at 25mph at best when responding to a call. This could be a matter of life and death in some situations as every minute counts. They have contacted the Lamoille County Sheriff and Brent stated that they were told the DOT would not be coming out as they generally do not plow between the hours of 10pm and 4am.

John talked about some battery operated equipment that they are looking to purchase for the smaller utility truck. These would be beneficial in emergencies as it would allow them to get extraction tools to vehicles without the need for hydraulic hoses. A quote was given to the Town of Eden for review and our share would be roughly \$21000.00.

Brent talked about the North Hyde Park being used as an emergency shelter. In order to do that they are looking into upgrading the bathroom and adding a shower which they currently do not have.

Tim motioned to adjourn at 7:57 pm, Clayton seconded, approved.

Melissa Whitcomb, Town Clerk and Treasurer