

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Selectboard Present:

Ricky Morin
Clayton Whittemore
Tim Bullard

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Melissa Whitcomb

Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer:

Molly Morin

Board of Civil Authority Present

H. Bruce Burnor
Amy Fitzgerald
Steve Schmelzer
Leslie White

Bruce Burnor opened the meeting at the Eden Central School at 9:00am. Bruce led the Pledge of Allegiance. Bruce said a few words In memory of David Whitcomb who passed away in November 2025. Bruce asked the voters for permission to allow our State Representative, Mark Higley to speak. The major issues in Montpelier at this time is tax credit, the strong inspection laws for vehicles, 30 by 30 and 50 by 50 rule.

Article 1: To determine whether Robert's Rules or other rules of order shall govern the parliamentary procedure of this meeting.

Bert Manning moved to use Robert's Rules of Order to govern the meeting. Tim Bullard seconded. Approved.

Article 2: To elect a moderator.

Tim Bullard stepped forward to act as moderator. Tim Bullard nominated Bruce Burnor. Amy seconded.

Article 3: To present the Bullard Award

Tim Bullard presented the Bullard Award to Faye Cochran thanking her for all she has done for our Town. She is always willing to step up and help where ever she is needed. She is the Town Health Officer and Intrem Dog Officer. She was presented with a engraved clock and a small engraved brass plate on a piece of wood.

Article 4: To elect all Town and School District Officers as required by law: Office to take effect after adjournment of Town Meeting.

- a) **Town Clerk for three years.** Leslie White nominated Melissa Whitcomb for Town Clerk. There were no additional nominations. Warren Whitcomb motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Melissa Whitcomb. Approved.
- b) **Town Treasurer for three years.** Leslie White nominated Melissa Whitcomb. There were no additional nominations. Warren Whitcomb motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Melissa Whitcomb. Approved.
- c) **Selectperson for three years.** Jubal Durviage nominated Clayton Whittemore. There were no additional nominations. Ron McLean motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Clayton Whittemore. Approved.
- d) **Auditor for three years.** Leslie White nominated Julie Gates for auditor. Tim Bullard motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Julie Gates. Approved.
- e) **Auditor for one year.** Leslie White nominated Sandy Reen for auditor. Leslie White motioned to cease all nominations and cast one uniamous ballot for Sandy Reen. Approved.
- f) **Cemetery Commissioner for five years.** Leslie White nominated Faye Cochran for Cemetery Commissioner. Leslie White motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Faye Cochran. Approved.
- g) **Road Commissioner for three years.** Faye Cochran nominated Ricky Morin for Road Commissioner. After some discussion Ricky did agree to take the job letting the Towns people know that he would not be working full time for the Town of Eden. Tim Bullard motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Ricky Morin.
- h) **First Constable for one year.** Michelle Cradinal nominated Bert Manning to be First Constable. Ron McLean motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot Bert Manning. Approved.
- i) **Second Constable for one year.** Kristina Brown nominated Dan Lathrop. Tim Bullard motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballot for Dan Lathrop. Approved.
- j) **Agent to convey Real Estate for one year.** Ricky nominated Monique Morway for Agent to Convey Real Estate. Emma Earle motioned to cease all nominations and cast one unanimous ballott for Monique Morway.
- k) **LNMUUSD Board Member for three years.** Juli Morin nominated Tiffany Cochran. Jackie Schmelzer nomiated Kristina Brown. Ballots were prepared. Tiffany Cochran had 27 Votes, Kristina Brown had 21, 1 Spoiled vote and 2 blank ballots. Tiffany Cochran had the majority votes and is now LNMUUSD Board Member.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditures of \$723,465.00 for FY 26-27, of which \$645,565.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$77,900.00 by non-tax revenues?

3.41% increase

Matt Hill motioned to move the article as written. Leslie White seconded. Highway budget passed as written.

Article 6: Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$576,843.00 for FY 26-27, of which \$408,833.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$168,010.00 by non-tax revenues?

2.22% increase

Bert Manning motioned to move the article as written. Michelle Cardinal seconded. Leslie explained that this is the new way it is supposed to be written. Tim explained that we had always been doing it behind the scenes just have never written it in the Town Report before. Article passed.

Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the local appropriation expenditures of \$23,000.00 to be raised by taxes?

Bert Manning motined to move the article as written. Matt Mitchell seconded. Article passed.

Leslie mention that the Eden Historical Society is an important in our community and wishes to see that it was open n to the public. She would also like to see them try to save money in different ways. As an example the Town switched propane compaines and saved alot of money for the Town.

Article 8: Shall the Town provide notice of the availability of the annual town report by newspaper and the Town of Eden website at least 30 days before the annual town meeting in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the report to the voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1682(a)?

Leslie White motion to move the article as written. Julie Gates seconded. Article passed. Tim Bullard spoke about if we were to mail the Town Report to every registered voters we would be mailing between 500-600 each year. People are more than welcome to get a Town Report mailed to them we just ask that you tell the Town Office.

Article 9: Shall the voters establish a reserve fund to be called the Outside Audit Reserve Fund to be used to cover the expenses of an independent outside audit

in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

Leslie White motioned to approve the article as written. Michelle Cardinal seconded. Article passed. Leslie explained that this money was already being put aside but it was not put into a reserve fund. Making it a reserve fund makes it so we can keep that money until we need to do the next outside audit.

Article 10: Shall the voters fund the Outside Audit Reserve Fund with:

- a) the \$10,000 voted at Town Meeting 3/4/25, article 7 (see page 69) **AND**
- b) the fund balance in the Outside Audit Fund from FY 24-25 of \$9,000? (page 14)

Leslie White motioned to approve the article as written. Clayton seconded. Article passed.

Article 11: Shall the voters authorize appropriation expenditures of \$11,687.99 to be raised by taxes?

Leslie White motioned to pass the article as written. Michele Cardinal seconded. Article passed.

Article 12: Shall the Town vote to pay property taxes, municipal and school combined, to the Town Treasurer in three equal installments due on or before the end of the business day on November 15, 2026, February 15, 2027 and May 15, 2027 with no postmarks accepted?

Leslie White motioned to move the article as written. Michelle Cardinal seconded. Article passed.

Article 13: To discuss any other non-binding business at this time.

Leslie White wanted to Thank Ricky and Ryan for all their hard work and dedication they have provided to this Town of the years.