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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF EDEN

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Select board Present:

Ricky Morin
Harold Morse
Shelley Jones

Civil Board Members:

Donna Whitcomb
Walter Earle
John Touchette
Jeffery Carter

The Moderator, H. Bruce Burnor, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

At this time Bob Ross lead the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Bruce Burnor introduced Tammy Fletcher, and she sang God Bless America.

At this time the moderator explained that everyone should be respectful of others.

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

Walter Earle moved to adopt Roberts Rules of Order. Warren Earle seconded. So voted.

Article 2: To elect a moderator.

Ricky Morin acted as the Moderator. Warren Earle nominated H. Bruce Burnor. This was seconded. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for H. Bruce Burnor for one year. This was seconded and passed by voice vote.

David Whitcomb asked to have the rules suspended and have Mark Higley, our State Representative, speak on what is happening at the State House. Warren Earle seconded. So voted. He explained that he had brought the Dole survey that is up front. Bob Ross asked him to make sure that the tax breaks that are going to be given to Veterans be given to all Veterans including retired ones. He touched on the new taxes as well as how the revenues are down. Mark explained that he is only one vote and has limited input.

Article 3: Presentation of the Bullard Award.

Ricky Morin presented the Bullard Award to David Whitcomb. David thanked everyone.

Article 4: To see if the voters will accept the Town Report.

Warren Earle moved as written. Ronald Mclean seconded. Leslie White stated that the auditors used to be responsible for putting the town report together but the last few years Tracey has put it together. She would like to see the auditors take it over again as Tracey is getting done. Bruce called the question. The Article passed by voice vote.

Article 5: To elect all Town Officers as required by law: Office to take effect after adjournment of Town Meeting. 92 registered voters checked in at this time.

a). Select person for three years.

Jason Heath nominated Shelley Jones. Virginia Mclean nominated Walter Earle. Sandy Vear nominated Leslie White. The moderator explained to prepare your ballots.

Votes Cast – 85	Needed for majority – 43
Leslie -39 Walter – 21	Shelley – 25

No one was elected as the majority was not met. Bruce asked to prepare your ballots again. At this time Walter Earle withdrew his name.

Votes Cast- 94	Needed for majority - 48
Leslie White – 52	Shelley Jones – 41
Walter Earle – 1	

Leslie White has been elected.

b). Lister for three years.

Bob Ross nominated Bruce Shields. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Bruce Shields. This was passed by voice vote.

c). Auditor for three years.

Leslie White nominated Sandy Vear. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Sandy Vear. This was passed by voice vote.

d). First Constable for one year.

Jason Heath nominated Bert Manning. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Bert Manning. This was passed by voice vote.

e). Second Constable for one year.

Ronald Mclean nominated Gary Wright. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Gary Wright. This was passed by voice vote.

f). Delinquent Tax Collector for one year

Faye Cochran nominated Karen Jones. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Karen Jones. This was passed by voice vote

g). Grand Juror for one year.

Faye Cochran nominated David Whitcomb. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for David Whitcomb. This was passed by voice vote.

h). Town Agent for one year.

Faye Cochran nominated Sue Deuso. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Sue Deuso. This was passed by voice vote.

i). Agent to convey Real Estate for one year.

Faye Cochran nominated Monique Morway. Warren Earle moved to have nominations cease, and the clerk cast one ballot for Monique Morway. This was passed by voice vote.

j). Cemetery Commissioner for five years.

John Vear nominated Jubal Durivage. Ronald Mclean nominated Walter Earle. Ron Morin nominated Debbie Godin. The moderator asked to prepare your ballots. 97 registered voters checked in at this time.

Votes Cast – 78
Jubal Durivage – 46
Debbie Godin – 9

Needed for majority – 40
Walter Earle – 23

Jubal Durivage has been elected.

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will raise on its grand list for the Highway Department.

Warren Earle moved as written (\$408,925.00). Michele Cardinal seconded. Ricky explained that the only change that was made was they added the new employees' health insurance. The Moderator called the question. This Article was passed by voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money on its grand list not to exceed \$3,000.00 to be spent around Lake Eden and South Pond Road for summer maintenance, at the discretion of the Selectboard and Road Commissioner?

Warren Earle moved as written. John Touchette seconded. Hearing no more questions, the Moderator called the question. This Article was passed by voice vote.

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise on its grand list for the Selectboard fund.

Warren Earle moved as written (\$359,974.80). Adam Degree seconded. David Whitcomb explained that the Fire Departments budget is included in the Selectboard fund, and at this time he asked to have John Savage answer any questions that anyone might have. David Whitcomb asked about their accounting procedures and if in the future all accounts could be accounted for in their yearly account totals. John said at this time they have a money market account that has \$26,700.00 in it. It will show in next year's accounting. Also they need to have a secretary that takes and records minutes. Hearing no more discussion, the Moderator called the question. This Article was passed by voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the Town appropriate \$2,361.94 on its grand list for the Lamoille County Special Investigation Unit?

Warren Earle moved as printed. John Touchette seconded. Bob Ross asked what this is and does it take care of this county? Peter Wright explained that the State of VT is establishing a Special Investigation Unit in each area. This unit only investigates child sexual abuse. Hearing no more questions, Chip Chapados called the question. This Article was passed by voice vote.

Article 10: Shall the voters of Eden authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years, to be used for the construction of the bridge on Whitney Lane?

Warren Earle moved as printed. John Touchette seconded. Ricky explained that the Selectboard has investigated several options but wanted the Townspeople to have an input because of the amount of money that it will take to replace this structure. We have applied and received a grant for \$175,000.00 which will expire in 2014, but to replace this bridge the way the State wants it to be replaced, we will need about \$200,000.00 over and above the grant. The lowest bid came in at \$480,000.00. We are working with Water Recourses to see if we can get it done cheaper. This money will only be used if need be. The board will continue to investigate options, and the money will only be borrowed if need be. It was suggested to look into the Corps of Engineers for help on this bridge. It will be easier and less expensive to fix it now than to wait until something happens. Bruce called the question. This did not pass by voice vote. The Moderator asked to prepare your ballots. 104 registered voters checked in at this time.

Total votes cast – 93
Yes – 66

Needed for majority – 47
No – 27

This Article has passed.

Article 11: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to establish a reserve fund, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804(a) for the purpose of paving town highways and highway structure replacement?

Warren Earle moved as written. Sonny Jones seconded, It was explained that if this Article does not pass, then Article 12 dies. It was suggested by the State Department that if a special fund was established and money put in this account each year, when a project comes up and you need to replace a structure or pave a road, you would already have the money and you wouldn't have to go to the voters and ask for more. At this time the addition to the garage was discussed and the use of money being used for other things than what it was appropriated for. Ricky would like to keep the roads that are already paved in good shape. He said there is less maintenance on a paved road. If this passes, the money will only be able to be used for paving or on replacing or fixing a structure. Ricky announced that the American Gift Fund has given \$75,331.00 dollars to the Town of Eden and \$7,533.00 to Eden Congregational Church. The board plans on talking with Mrs. Barrows when she gets back, but in the meantime, this money will be put in a separate account. Hearing no more discussion Bruce called the question. Prepare your ballots. There are 106 registered voters checked in at this time.

Votes cast – 85
Yes – 53

Needed for majority – 43
No – 32

This Article has passed.

Article 12: Shall the voters appropriate \$50,000.00 to the reserve fund established for the purpose of paving town highways and highway structured replacement pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804?

Warren Earle moved as written. John Touchette seconded. Jackie Schmelzer made the motion to take the \$50,000.00 out of the money received from the American Gift Fund. John Vear seconded. Ricky explained that at this time the town isn't sure what we can do with this money and that is why the Selectboard plans to meet with Mrs. Barrows when she returns for the summer. Bruce called the question. Bruce Burnor explained the vote. We are voting on the amendment to take this money out of the American Gift Fund. This did not pass by voice vote. Eric Hammond moved to amend the motion to use \$50,000.00 out of the Rainy Day Fund. Phil Earle seconded. Walter Earle explained that no stipulations were put on this fund when it was established. The amendment was passed by voice vote. Now we have to vote on the Article as amended, which is to take \$50,000.00 out of the Rainy Day Fund and establish this new fund. This was passed by voice vote.

Article 13: Shall the Town appropriate the following sums to be raised on its grand list for local organizations?

The moderator explained that Article 13 will be done one by one.

a) After School Program \$ 4,000.00

Peter Wright asked where the 46% increase come from. Item c, the Mentoring Program, and item g, the Greeter Program, are new this year. Warren Earle moved to raise \$4,000.00 for the After School program. Jason Heath seconded. Walter Earle said he feels that items a, the After School program c, the Mentoring program and e, Eden Youth Sports should be a school issue not a town. Jackie Longley would like to see a picture of every group that receives an appropriation in the town report. Jeff Lindgren received permission to speak on this appropriation. This is enrichment as well as an educational program for the students. They used to receive a grant for \$50,000.00 and now it's less than \$25,000.00. If these items get put in the school's budget, it affects the per-pupil spending. At this time Bruce gave his gavel to Ricky so he could talk. He feels that if it deals with school, the school should have it in their budget, if it deals with the town, then the town should have it in their budget. How much longer will the town keep making the school's budget look better than it should? The Moderator called the question on Article 13 a). This Article passed by voice vote.

b) Eden Cemetery \$ 3,500.00

Warren Earle moved as written. Jason Heath seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

c) Eden Central School Mentoring Program \$2,500.00

Warren Earle moved as written. Jason Heath seconded. Judy Langlois explained how this program works. This money goes to the coordinator for doing all the paperwork. More than 7 people raised their hands to have this vote done by paper ballot. There are 108 registered voters checked in at this time.

Votes cast – 78	Needed for majority – 40
Yes – 33	No – 45

This Article has failed.

d) Eden Historical Society \$ 2,000.00

Warren Earle moved as written. Phil Earle seconded. Pam Whitcomb asked why the Eden Day totals were not in the town report this year, as they were asked to do that last year. Donna explained that Eden Day has a separate checkbook and receives no money from the town; therefore, it does not need to be in the report. There is a financial report up front if anyone would like to see it. Next year it will be in the town report. There are 110 registered voters checked in at this time.

Total votes cast – 107	Needed for majority – 54
Yes 63	No – 44

This Article has passed.

Bert announced that there will be a rabies clinic at the Town Garage on March 23 from 12:30 to 1:30. He will be there to register your dogs, but the Town Clerk's Office will mail you your license.

The Moderator announced that the 6th grade is having a lunch you can purchase for \$6.00 with the proceeds going to their class trip to Jay Peak.

David Whitcomb moved to recess until after lunch. He withdrew his motion. We will finish Article 13 before breaking for lunch.

e) Eden Youth Sports \$ 3,500.00

Warren Earle moved as written. Travis Earle seconded. More than seven (7) people raised their hands to have a paper ballot.

Total votes cast – 80	Needed for majority – 41
Yes – 57	No – 23

Article 13 e) has passed.

David Whitcomb moved to recess for lunch until after the school meeting. Warren Earle asked to finish Article 13. David Whitcomb withdrew his motion. Peter Wright had asked to have all of the appropriations voted on by paper ballot but will withdraw that for Article 13(f) but would still like it for (g).

e) LERA Swim Program \$ 1,000.00

Eric Hammond moved as written. Warren Earle seconded. This Article was questioned whether it passed by voice vote. With the failure of a second to challenge the moderator, this Article passed by voice vote.

f) Lake Eden Association Greeter Program \$4,000.00

Warren Earle moved as written. Eric Hammond seconded. Peter Wright feels this program does not work. It only gives some kids a summer job. Gary Durette explained that this program does work, and they are trying to educate people to keep endangered species out of the lake. Some people feel that \$10.00 an hour is too much to be paying these people. It is a waste of time and money, as animals can also transport these endangered species. Bruce Shields said that if milfoil does get into the lake that it will lower the value of the properties around the lake. Eric Hammond called the question. Warren Earle seconded and passed by voice vote. The Moderator called for a paper ballot.

Total votes cast – 74	Needed for majority – 38
Yes – 32	No – 42

This Article has been defeated.

John Touchette moved to recess for lunch at 12:15pm. Warren Earle seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

Re-convened at 2:45pm.

Article 14: Shall the Town appropriate the following sums to be raised on its grand list for other organizations?

a)	American Red Cross	\$	250.00
b)	Central Vermont Adult Education	\$	500.00
c)	Central Vermont Community Action	\$	300.00
d)	Central Vermont Council on the Aging	\$	700.00
e)	Clarina Howard Nichols Center	\$	400.00
f)	Lamoille Community Food Share	\$	250.00
g)	Lamoille County Court Diversion	\$	250.00
h)	Lamoille County Planning Commission	\$	844.00
i)	Lamoille Economic Development Corp	\$	150.00
j)	Lamoille Family Center	\$	250.00
k)	Lamoille Home Health/Hospice	\$	3,969.00
l)	Lamoille Housing Partnership	\$	200.00
m)	Lamoille County Connections	\$	750.00
n)	LENS Meals on Wheels	\$	500.00
o)	North Country Animal League	\$	500.00
p)	Northern Vermont Resource Cons	\$	75.00
q)	Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$	100.00
r)	Rural Community Transportation	\$	1,350.00
s)	Vermont Association of the Blind	\$	100.00
t)	Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$	165.00

Warren Earle moved to approve all of these items except for i, l, o, and p. Eric Hammond seconded. Bruce Shields felt that Northern Vermont Resource Cons. was important, as they are an advocate for the farmers. After little discussion, the Moderator called the question. This Article was passed by voice vote. Bruce Shields moved to reconsider item p (Northern Vt. Resource Cons.);but without a second, his motion failed.

Article 15: Shall the Town vote to pay property taxes, municipal and school combined, to the Town Treasurer in three equal installments due on or before November 15, 2013, February 15, 2014, and May 15, 2014, with postmarks acceptable?

David Whitcomb moved as written. Warren Earle seconded. This Article passed by voice vote.

Article 16: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Warren Earle moved as written. Warren Whitcomb seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

Article 17: To transact any other business proper at this time.

Leslie said that the community sign is open to any activities. Please call her, and she will post it.

Warren Earle moved to adjourn at 3.05 pm. Warren Whitcomb III seconded. This was passed by voice vote.

Dated at Eden, Vt. this 14^h day of March 2013.

H. Bruce Burnor, Moderator

Donna Whitcomb, Justice of the Peace