

# EDEN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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Eden Mills, 05653

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Meeting held at Town Office at 6pm

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

06/11/2024

**Present: Tim Bullard, Clayton Whittemore, Ricky Morin, Melissa Whitcomb, Darlene Creighton, Shannon & Ellen Friedrich and Bryce Niles from Spruce Lane, Trevor Bidwell from Eden Fields Lane, Carolyn Cota, David Peterson, and Joshua Paquette from VTrans, Erica Webb, Kristina Brown, Joseph Tricou, and Matthew Hill**

1. Opened meeting at 6pm
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None
3. Carolyn Cota from the VT Agency of Transportation reviewed plans for bridge #220 at Eden Fields/Spruce Lane. It is still in the design phase and they have not yet received necessary Right of Way or permits required. There will be a two-way temporary bridge during construction. The new bridge design has a 75 year expected life span. Utilities would need to be relocated and Eden Fields Lane would need to be relocated as there will no longer be access to Route 100. They are hoping to finalize plans in early 2025 and the bid phase in October 2025. The State is hoping to construct in 2026. The cost is currently estimated at \$2.8 million. The cost to reconstruct Eden Fields Lane would be covered by the State. Presentation will be uploaded to State share site.
4. Eden Planning Commission/Eden Youth Sports: Kristina Brown spoke about concerns regarding the Planning Commission's ability to meet as a group regularly. She maintained that she is committed and willing to gather the info and attend necessary meetings with advisors to share with her group in order to continue to move forward. On behalf of Eden Youth Sports Committee, she inquired about building a dugout at Eden Central. She stated that she had people willing to volunteer time and materials. The Selectboard advised her to check with the school as they own the property.
5. Animal Control Officer Update: Joseph Tricou was present and expressed his concerns regarding nuisance dogs on Old Deuso Road. There have been multiple complaints recently about the dogs always being loose and likely had killed a neighbor's chickens. One of the dogs had attacked the Tricou's dog right in their own yard while Joesph was close by. Matt Hill, who has been covering as there is no current Dog Officer, stated that he has spoken to the owner, as well as hand delivered a letter on behalf of the Selectboard. Matt said that he communicated clearly that the dogs need to be maintained on their own property at all times and the potential consequences if the Town receives another complaint. There have been no complaints since Matt had contact with the owner early last week and we are hopeful the problem has been resolved. The Town also received a proposal from Hyde Park regarding use of their kennel since Eden currently does not have one able to take dogs that have been picked up. At \$5000 a year plus additional costs if used, the Selectboard thought the price was too steep considering we generally haven't needed to utilize one for boarding. It has been over a year and a half since the last time a dog was brought to a kennel. We will continue to seek out solutions that are more cost effective.
6. Beach Update: Erica expressed concerns over the \$3.50 reservation fee and cancellation policy. The Town must pay the reservation fee to the software company regardless of cancellation. There is a 25% deposit required to hold a reservation and as long as we are collecting the deposit, the fee comes out of that. Ricky and Jim spent hours last week digging up the Knotweed beside the beach area. This should give us a good head start on getting rid of it completely. The three new picnic tables that were ordered have arrived and replaced some that had to be taken out of use. The internet has been changed to Comcast but apparently a new extender is needed to improve the campers' experience. Bob Butler, our tech guy is aware.
7. Citizens Input: None

Melissa Whitcomb, Approved Minutes

8. Health Officer Update: None
9. Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. Contract Review: The new contract was reviewed and the yearly amount verified. Ricky motioned to approve and sign the contract, Tim seconded, approved and signed.
10. Signed Orders (5)
11. Minutes: Review minutes of 5/28/24: Ricky motioned to approve the minutes as written, Clayton seconded, approved.
12. Highway Department Update:
  - a) Ricky motioned to approve an overweight permit for Kilburn Transport, Clayton seconded, approved. Ricky motioned to approve a driveway permit for Edward Manosh to town specs, Clayton seconded, approved. Ricky motioned to approved and overhead Right of Way Permit for Vermont Electric pertaining to Cooper Hill Road, Tim seconded, approved. All permits were signed to include the driveway permits that were approved on 6/3/24.
  - b) Bids were reviewed for the engineering on the Blakeville Road bridge. No decisions were made as more info is needed.

The Highway department was finally able to pick up the rented sweeper that was supposed to be available several weeks ago. The excavator is rented for another two weeks. The loader broke down and parts are expected tomorrow.
13. Ratify Additions and Deletions: Colleen/Vinny Brennan. Tim motioned to ratify, Clayton seconded, approved.
14. Grant Update: Ron and Melaney Rodjenski from Stone Shore Consulting will be in next Wednesday to go over things with Melissa and Leslie White.
15. Other Business:
  - a) 24/25 Rates: The board received a copy of current pay rates to review for the next meeting.
  - b) Childcare Tax: Tim motioned for the Town to pay the full .44% Childcare Tax for town employees. The State allows employers to collect up to .11% from employees. Clayton seconded and Ricky abstained from the vote. Approved
  - c) ARPA: Melissa has a meeting with Alec Jones and Katie Buckley regarding ARPA next Friday.
  - d) Clerk's Office Addition Update: Tim has consulted with an architect to review, edit, and approve the design for the addition. We hope to have that at the next meeting.
  - e) Other: Eden Mills Country Store submitted an application for tobacco sales. Ricky motioned to approve, Tim seconded, approved.
16. FYI: There have been some changes to the Open Meeting Law. Melissa is waiting on clarification form VLCT and the town's lawyer.
17. Ricky motioned to adjourn at 9:07pm, Clayton seconded, adjourned.