

EDEN TOWN HALL / CLERK'S OFFICE

71 Old Schoolhouse Road

Eden Mills, 05653

SELECTBOARD MEETING 08/27/2024

Present at the meeting were: Tim Bullard, Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Tracey Morin, Erica Webb, Leslie White and Melissa Whitcomb.

1. Meeting opened by Tim at 6:02 pm.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: No additions or deletions.
3. Citizens Input: Tim received a call that will be addressed in the discussion of Highway
4. Animal Control Officer Ordinance Update. After consultation with VLCT, the following changes in the policy were specified: the definition of Humane Officer was changed to the match wording in the State Law, the ticketing procedure and the defined offenses were clarified. Tim motioned to approve the changes, Clayton seconded, so approved. With only one ticketing officer at this time, Ricky motioned to appoint the Chair of the Selectboard as an additional officer to be able to write tickets if needed. Clayton seconded, approved. There was an incident regarding a dog bite. One of the parties was not satisfied with the outcome of the situation. They were sent a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance for clarification.
5. Beach Update: The Town received a complementary letter and donation from a camper and was sent a thank you. Picnic tables will be available from Lakeview this fall. The town has asked for a price on 10-15 tables to be used at the Lake Eden Recreation Area. Brush has been cleared away close to the lake and tent site #5. The individual sites had been staked out in the past but need to be measured and defined again, with a more permanent, visible means, possibly some form of fencing. The selectboard will review the site at the end of the season. Regarding the drinking water, the area remains on a boil water notice which means that the water is safe for all purposes except for drinking. The town is following the state guidelines to correct the situation.
6. Health Officer Update: There was a complaint from a resident and the Health Officer reviewed the site.
7. Morin Property Route 100, Notary. Tracey and Gary Morin are looking to sell their 13.75-acre property on route 100 to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington to be used for a Catholic Cemetery. When the property is owned by the church; it will then be exempt from property taxes. Access to the property was suggested to be off of Route 100 with State approval. Melissa needed a signature from the Chair of the Selectboard so she can be designated as the notary for the state portal, SAM.com that is needed for any federal grants. Tracey notarized the SAM document while she was present.
8. 2024/2025 Tax Rate

The municipal tax rate is:	.6472 (-8.85%)	Resident tax rate: 2.4572 (+7.96%)
The education tax rate for residents is:	1.81 (+15.58%)	Non-Resident tax rate: 2.532 (+8.06%)
The education tax rate for non-residents is:	1.8848 (+15.41%)	

For every \$100,000 of property value, residents will pay an additional: \$175.76 over last year.  
For every \$100,000 of property value, non-residents will pay an additional: \$183.36 over last year.  
Ricky motioned to approve the tax rates as calculated, Clayton seconded. The town has no authority to affect the school tax rate as it is set by the state. The board approved the new tax rate commenting that the reduced municipal budget actually helped to make the increase in property taxes have a smaller impact.
9. Signed eight (8) Orders
10. Minutes: Review minutes of 7/30/24 & 8/6/24. Ricky motioned to approve the minutes of both dates as written. Tim seconded. Agreed.
11. Highway Department Update:
  - a) Permit Requests: The driveway installation on Cooper Hill will have a site visit. Ricky made the motion to approve the installation of the North Road driveway with the understanding that the driveway be completed to town specs. The stormwater runoff has to be directed so it does not run into the town highway. Clayton seconded. Approved.
  - b) Ricky made the motion to approve the VEC installation of overhead wires on Ober Hill. Tim seconded. Approved. No pole will be in the town ROW. The Town of Eden Right-of-Way Access Permits, Excavation & Obstruction Restrictions Policy was updated to clarify the language. Ricky motioned to approve the revised policy. Clayton seconded. Approved.
  - d) Tim motioned and Ricky seconded the motion to solicit Michie Concrete to do the engineering design to replace the Blakeville Road structure. Truck #2 needs to be sandblasted and painted. Clayton made the motion to approve the cost of the truck repair. Tim seconded. Approved. Ricky asked about mowing the roadsides, but the board decided to wait until the 2025 season.
12. Ratify Additions and Deletions: None
13. Grant Update: Lamoille County Planning Commission contacted the Town to see if there was interest in a grant for energy upgrades to the Town Office. Melissa will ask for a representative to attend the next meeting for discussion.
14. Other Business:
  - a) Clerk's Office Addition. The plan drawings and addition elevation were reviewed and some changes were made and will be conveyed to the architect.
  - b) A complaint from a resident was discussed and a member of the selectboard will do a site visit.
15. FYI:
16. Ricky made the motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Clayton seconded. Adjourned.

Leslie White, scribe                      Unapproved minutes