

# Town of Edgecomb Select Board

## MINUTES

April 6, 2021 6:00 PM

This meeting was postponed from Monday 4/5 because of an internet outage. The meeting was conducted via Zoom video conferencing.

### **Attendees:**

Mike Smith, Select Board Chair

Ted Hugger, Select Board Member

Dawn Murray, Select Board Member

Barbara Brennan, Recording Secretary

### 1. Approval of 3/22 Minutes

Ted motioned to approve the Minutes; Dawn seconded. Roll call: Ted yes; Dawn yes; Mike yes. Approved 3/0.

### 2. New Business

- The SB agreed to continue their meetings remotely via Zoom until the Covid numbers in the area improve.
- Discussion with Rep. Holly Stover:
  1. The Legislature in Augusta has reconvened for the purpose of passing the budget, effective July 1. Stover emphasized it is a basic budget, with no special or new initiatives. Edgecomb is slated to receive \$125,000 from the federal American Rescue Plan. Lincoln Cty will also receive federal funds.
  2. Mike emphasized that “broadband is paramount,” and a big problem is that small pockets of residents off the main roads have no service or experience extreme cost for service. Stover is on the Broadband Caucus; she mentioned perhaps the Fed Rescue Plan funding will include ConnectME, with the goal of covering remote workers and students.
  3. Ted said businesses are hopeful for a great season, but the problem of lack of employees makes it difficult to plan. He wonders if the State is reinforcing the regulations that workers on unemployment must look for work. Stover will reconnect with the Commissioner and Dept of Labor to confirm that job application processes are being reinforced. She stressed that “everyone eligible to be working should

be working.”

4. Mike said the DOT job schedule through 2023 does not mention work on Rt 27. Stover said there might be an opportunity to meet with the DOT when they evaluate a 10-mile stretch of Rt 27 in July for 2024 work. Mike will request a meeting with DOT during this time.
  5. Dawn, along with SC member Heather Sinclair, plan to discuss mental health services available to children, saying that the Midcoast is underserved in this area. They will follow up with an appointment with Rep Stover.
  6. **Re-valuation** – Ted has talked with Assessor John O’Donnell, and reported that the town has not had property assessment done for 17 years. O’Donnell is out 2-3 years on assessments, and Ted would like to submit a proposal for Edgecomb to get in line. Ted will invite Mr. O’Donnell to an upcoming SB meeting.
- **Fire Dept and labor rulings** – Because of concerns over new state legislation regarding employees, Dawn met with an attorney to discuss what the town should do for FD volunteers and whether we are meeting the standards for supporting a volunteer FD. She reported that the attorney stated the town and the volunteer FD do not constitute an employer/employee relationship, making Edgecomb exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act in this case. “Volunteer means community service” and payment should be “nominal standard.” “We are close to the maximum we could be paying for volunteer services,” said Dawn.
  - **Final Warrant** – Claudia said Article 3 will be revised; there will be a new Article #60 that rescinds Article 3 and says interest on a property lien cannot exceed 6%. Dawn is finalizing the language for Article 59, an Addendum Warrant, which says the EES surplus will offset taxes by \$250,000. The SB will sign the Addendum Warrant on 4/12 prior to the Public Hearing.
  - There will be a Public Hearing about the 2021-22 Warrant on April 12 at 6:15 PM. The Hearing will be conducted via Zoom. Mike asked that Dept Heads participate to answer questions as needed.
  - Mike has created a job description for the cleaning and painting of the front of the Town Hall. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

### 3. Ongoing Business



