

Town of Edgecomb Select Board

MINUTES

July 26, 2021, 6:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Dawn Murray, Select Board Chair
Ted Hugger, Select Board Member
Mike Smith, Select Board Member
Barbara Brennan, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of Minutes from 7/12
 - Ted motioned to approve the Minutes; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.
2. New Business
 - **County ARPA Funds:** Dawn reported that she attended a Lincoln County meeting to learn about ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding and what it might be used for. These funds will be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026. Funds can be used for such things as infrastructure, especially as it relates to COVID regulations related to indoor air quality, space for employees and meetings, technology such as broadband to allow remote access to meetings and/or education, etc. Funds cannot be used for pensions, rainy day funds, or to reduce taxes. Mike mentioned that Edgecomb might consider this funding to help improve the Town Hall in the areas of technology, air quality, and better workspace. Dawn mentioned that the County is very interested in regional projects such as fiber optics and mental health programs. Edgecomb is slated to receive about \$125K in federal funding; Lincoln County could get about \$6.7M to spend across the county.
 - **Public Forum Agenda:** The SB will hold a Public Forum on Saturday 8/21 beginning with coffee at 8:30. Mike would like to continue to follow up on topics from the last Forum in 12/19, including the discussion of the role of an Administrative Assistant and other improvements to the TH for better service to the community. Dawn suggested that the Forum also address Edgecomb's upcoming 250th birthday. The SB will finalize the Forum's agenda topics by Aug. 9, and will then be published in local papers and on the town website and FaceBook pages beginning the week of Aug 9.
 - **Stephenson property on Gleason Rd.:** Dawn suggested that this property be advertised for closed bids rather than offering abutters first refusal because SB member Mike Smith is an abutter. Her concern is for any appearance of impropriety. Mike discussed the history of the town's abutters policy regarding foreclosed property and also his involvement with this property over several years. He expressed concern for other abutters of the property (Kellys) who will miss out on this opportunity. Ted spoke of the advantages of the abutter's policy because it usually allows for a quick transaction and gets the property back on the tax roles, but he stated that in this situation, he would be concerned about lawyers getting involved. Ted made a motion to put the Stephenson

property up for sale through a general offering as a single exception to the abutter policy to avoid any appearances of impropriety. Dawn seconded. Mike abstained. Approved 2/0. Dawn will consult with Claudia Coffin and will then post a minimum bid.

3. Ongoing Business

- Ted has been in contact with Nicholas Bryant from CLCAS. The ambulance service would like to discuss extending their contract with Edgecomb. They next meet in September and will be back in touch with Ted.
- Mike suggested contacting John Marsh to repair/upgrade the Town Hall sign.
- Janet Blevins has been in contact with developers who work with Word Press about upgrading the town website. She has received 3 responses and will follow up with them.
- Mike said the SB may need to discuss plans for additional Covid protocols, such as masks in TH. This topic will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

4. Warrants: Ted submitted the following Warrant for approval:

- General Warrant #2 \$2344.28
Ted motioned to accept; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.

5. Public Comment

- Nancy Prisk from Southport visited to discuss the plans for the DOT project at the intersection of Rt.1 and Rt 27. She has prior experience with traffic safety issues and expressed concern for driver safety at this spot. She feels the construction site itself is unsafe, with poor signage. She also wonders about elderly drivers navigating the new Florida T when it is complete.

6. Next meeting will be August 9.

7. Adjourn 7:00