

Town of Edgecomb Select Board

MINUTES

Sept. 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Dawn Murray, Select Board Chair
Ted Hugger, Select Board Member
Mike Smith, Select Board Member

The Recording Secretary was not present. Ted Hugger recorded the meeting, and the recording was used to write these Minutes.

1. Approval of Minutes from 9/7
 - Mike motioned to approve the Minutes; Ted seconded. Approved 3/0.
2. New Business
 - Honoring Jack Sarmanian: The meeting began with each SB member expressing thoughts about and gratitude for the long-time service and accomplishments of Jack Sarmanian, who passed away on Sept. 11. There was a suggestion that town explore ways to honor his memory.
 - Cindy Landry requested that the SB approve renewal of the liquor license for Cook's Landing. She emphasized that recent changes in staffing and hours of operation have been successful in alleviating earlier problems. Ted motioned to accept the request for liquor license renewal; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.
 - The Board had an extended discussion of water service with Chris Cossette of the Wiscasset Water District. Mr. Cossette again implored the SB to pursue the expansion of water service territory that would allow piping to extend up Rt 1 and down Rt 27. Currently, a service gap exists between Davis Island and the Boothbay line and also between Wiscasset and the Great Salt Bay service area. Connecting Edgecomb to WWD would enable regional long-term planning, as well as bring municipal water to EES, the TH, and the Fire Station and also to interested residents. Cossette explained that the time is right for extending pipelines, as there are federal grants available for infrastructure projects. Bill Witzell spoke on behalf of the FD, saying they support the extension because the installation of hydrants down Rt 27 would greatly aid them in fighting structure fires. Both Mike and Dawn expressed skepticism that Edgecomb would gain benefits from water service that would encourage economic development in town, explaining that Edgecomb has minimal develop-able land and ordinances about number of curb cuts allowed. Mr. Cossette encouraged the SB to write a letter requesting expansion of water service as the first step in a long process that includes public education and approvals by many constituents. The SB decided to table the discussion of the letter until their next meeting.

- General Assistance Ordinance: Dawn would like to adopt Mainie's ordinance for General Assistance in 2021. She explained that this would make it easier for us to process state reimbursements. The SB will read the ordinance and discuss at the next meeting. Meanwhile, to meet an Oct 1 start date, Ted motioned to accept Maine's new maximum income and benefits allotments for General Assistance beginning 10/1/21. Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.

3. Ongoing Business

- Gateway Condominiums: Dawn was made aware of an advertisement on realtor.com offering a Gateway cottage as "year-round" lodging. Since these condos are zoned only for short-term seasonal rental, Dawn contacted the RE agent, and the ad has been changed. She said the SB would need to "keep an eye on" these cottages and be ready to take further action as necessary.
- Claudia Coffin delivered a financial report. She reported that the expenditures might look high at this point, due to carryovers from last year not showing in this report and also to a few large bills. When compared with this same time frame in 2019, the total expenditures are about the same. Mike mentioned that the state will fund education at 55% in school year '22-'23.
- Mike nominated Bob Leone for another term as Constable/Truant Officer; Ted seconded. Approved 3/0, with many thanks to Bob!!
- Dawn said Eddy Rd will be closed for about 3 weeks, although all residents and their visitors can access one part of the road or another to reach local residences on Eddy Rd.

4. Warrants: Ted reported on the following warrants:

- General Warrant #6 \$604,759.42 (includes payments to Boothbay Refuse, EES, Lincoln Cty taxes, and the Roads Commissioner) Ted motioned to approve; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0
- Waste Water Warrant #103 \$1792,.00
Ted motioned to approve; Mike seconded. Approved 3/0.

5. Public Comment:

- Claudia received permission to have the copy machine repaired.
- Claudia asked whether the SB would change the current policy on wearing masks in the TH. They agreed to leave the policy as is: masks are recommended in Town Hall if you are not fully vaccinated

6. Next Meeting: Oct 4

7. Adjourn: 7:30