

Town of Eddington

906 Main Road Eddington, Maine 04428

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday
February 21st, 2017
6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE: Mike Shepherd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: All Selectmen present.

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on January 17th, 2017. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept as written. J. Brooks / J. Powell Vote 4-0.
(M. Carreira did not vote, as he was not present at the previous meeting.)

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

Fire: Chief Ellis submitted his report for January.

The department noticed an increase in EMS calls, due to the cold and flu season. A fire on Jarvis Gore Road was extinguished quickly, due to having people in the station. The response time was less than 8 minutes. Ellis said he cannot over emphasize the importance of having people in the station, with reference to the student live-in program, adding that a few more minutes, would have resulted in a very unfortunate outcome, for those homeowners. A recent incident at the Elementary School made for a "first time for that" story, by Chief Ellis. An alarm, coming from a pull station in the portable classroom, had gone off four times in two days. After a lot of head scratching, and hiring an electrician to come take a look, the culprit was two dead mice, which apparently had chewed through the wires. The department recently received a Assistance Volunteer Title 4 Grant (\$800.00, with matching funds, from the Town) The money will be used to purchase Foam Cartridges and 200ft of 1in booster hose.

Police: Deputy Chris Watson submitted his report for January. There were 105 calls for service that were handled by Penobscot County Sheriffs. Watson spoke about the first Homeland Security Meeting he attended with representatives from RSU #63, Holden and Eddington Fire Departments, Holden Police Department and Penobscot Sheriff's Office. Their next meeting will be in March. Watson also attended a 3-Day Training on Critical Incident Stress Management.


Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman

Joe Powell, Selectmen


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman

ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT: No calls for the months of January.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Rusty Gagnon announced that an RFP will be going out in the next week or so, looking for vendors to contract with for a Half Day Child Care Program, to be located at the Eddington School. Gagnon said the service will be paid for by parents of children attending. Hoping for a signed contract by March 2017. Attached is a statement she read as part of her monthly report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No items.

NEW BUSINESS: MRC – Equity Charter Members option to sell ownership interests back to PERC – Known as the Put Option. Russell said Eddington’s share is \$8,170.00, as part of a recent settlement with PERC & MRC, and that a Town Vote would be required to take any action.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to make this an Article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
M. Carreira / J. Brooks Vote 5-0.

Municipal Elections – Set for Tuesday June 13th. Joan Brooks and Michael Shepherd terms expire this year as Selectmen, as well as Nicole More’s seat on the School Board. Nomination Papers will be available on March 24th, with a return deadline of April 28th. Dates will be posted on the Town website and FB Page.

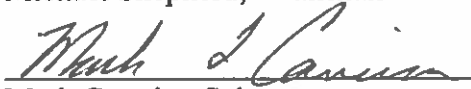
Annual Town Meeting Date – **A motion was made, seconded and passed to set the date for June 20th, 2017.**
J. Brooks / J. Powell Vote 5-0.


OTHER BUSINESS: Cedar Grove Homeowners’ Association Appeal of the Board of Appeals Decision (Info Only, no action needed)

Chairman Michael Shepherd said he had spoken with Greg Louder, from MRC, via email. He wanted to bring it up for transparency purposes and asked that a copy of the email be entered as record. He also mentioned paperwork that had not been received by Louder from the Town. Russell said he had the paperwork on his desk and would get it to him within the next few days.

Motion to enter M. Shepherds email into the records by M. Shepherd / M. Carreira Vote 5-0.


Michael Shepherd, Chairman


Mark Carreira, Selectman


Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman


Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman

Joe Powell, Selectmen

Referencing a previous discussion on consultant, Chairman M. Shepherd asked Board members for permission to approach a local consulting firm, to see if they could come give an informational presentation, to see what they could do for the town. Mr. Shepherd said the company, Starboard Leadership Consulting Firm, was an affiliate of Rudman and Winchell, and they would need to make sure there were no conflicts of interest.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to have M. Shepherd approach the Starboard Leadership Consulting Firm, and ask them if they would come do a presentation.

J. Powell / R. Wood, Jr. Vote 5-0.

WARRANTS: A motion was made, seconded and approved to sign warrants

J. Brooks / M. Carreira Vote 5-0.

PUBLIC ACCESS: Resident, Theresa Woznik, asked if the Cedar Grove Homeowners Association Appeal was public information and if so, could she have copies. Russell told her it was public information and would make copies for those who requested them.

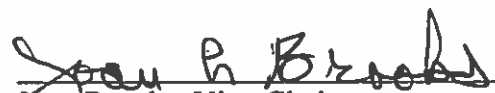
Rusty Gagnon spoke about the School Board Seat coming up, and that Nikki More did not plan to run again. She stressed how important it is to have someone who is willing to be involved, who has lots of time and willing to work on issues at hand. She estimated the member would need to be available a minimum of 6 hrs. each month.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.


J. Brooks / J. Powell Vote 5-0.



Michael Shepherd, Chairman



Joan Brooks, Vice-Chairman



Mark Carreira, Selectman

Joe Powell, Selectmen



Ray Wood, Jr. Selectman

(these minutes are a summarization of the Meeting, they are not a transcript. Meetings are recorded and can be made available, if someone wishes to listen to all discussions and all comments made)

February 21, 2017 Report to Eddington Board of Selectmen

The Blue Ribbon Commission To Reform Public Education Funding and Improve Student performance in Maine (the Commission) was established by the 127th Maine State Legislature and enacted into Public Law, Chapter 389, LB 1641. The Commission was charged to "...identify solutions to lower the cost of education and improve student performance..."

The Commission held a series of public meetings in 2016 in which the Commission members received information and presentations from experts on a variety of topics related to the Commission's work.

The Commission divided its work into two phases. Phase I (in 2016) was devoted to analyzing the presentations and reports it received. Based on these analyses and deliberations, the Commission identified a series of possible recommendations for improving Maine's education system. Phase II, to be completed in 2017, will be devoted to exploring each recommendation in more detail, including detailed cost analyses, and the identification of strategies for increasing cost efficiencies in the implementation of the recommendations.

While Maine schools still outperform national averages, in recent years test scores have plateaued as achievement gains in other states have outpaced Maine's. Moreover, the Commission understands the single best predictor of performance is a school district's poverty level. The Commission is concerned that achievement disparities between wealthier and poorer communities are growing as poverty rates have increased among Maine's very youngest learners. [NOTE: RSU 63 has quite a few students from both Clifton and Eddington who qualify for free and reduced lunches – an indicator of economic & food security issues.]

From 2008 through 2017, Maine state government increased its subsidy for public schools from \$981,620,338 to \$1,000,961,515, an increase of \$19 million. Over that same period, the state also required school districts' property taxpayers to increase the local share of school spending from \$846,003,440 to \$1,079,854, an increase of \$234 million.

Yet, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), currently only 36% of Maine's 4th graders are proficient in reading (aka Literacy). By 8th grade, less than 35% of Maine's students are proficient in mathematics. And while Maine has a very enviable high school graduation rate, only about half of high school graduates demonstrate proficiency in high school assessments.

Equally of concern to members of the Commission is the widespread disparity in student performance between economically disadvantaged and advantaged students in Maine. Students in poverty consistently score 20% lower on Maine's statewide assessments and NAEP tests than their peers who come from more affluent homes. In the case of SAT scores, an average student from an economically advantaged home scores higher than 80% of the students coming from homes in poverty.

These achievement results have changed very little over the last decade, while Maine has dedicated more resources on PK-12 education. The number of PK-12 students in Maine has declined by over 11% in the past ten years and per-pupil expenditures have increased by 17%, even after adjusting for inflation. In 2014 per-pupil expenditures, Maine ranked 15th in the country.

NOW, let's talk about students in RSU 63:

Per Pupil Spending:

According to the most recent financial data (available January 13, 2017) from the Maine DOE Data Warehouse website, On average:

- The top three districts (for Literacy, Math, and Science) spent \$14,712 per student.

- The State average was \$12,551 per student
- RSU 63 spent \$10,500 per student.

MEA (Maine Educational Assessments) Data:

1. MEA tests students in Grades 3-8 (plus Grade 11 in Literacy and Math).
2. Only students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 are tested by the MEA in Science.
3. Overall, RSU 63 students, including our students in area high schools, scored better on the MEA tests than students across the state.

Specifically, during the 2015-16 testing periods:

- 58% of our students in Grades 3-8 tested above the state average in Literacy,
- 43% of our students in Grades 3-8 tested above the state average in Math,
- 71% of our students in Grades 3-8 tested above the state average in Science.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:

- RSU 63 is at the 72nd percentile for Literacy. This means RSU 63 is 136th from the bottom out of 189 school districts.
- RSU 63 is at the 68.5th percentile for Math. This means RSU 63 is 126th from the bottom out of 184 school districts.
- RSU 63 is at the 55.5th percentile for Science. This means RSU 63 is 84th from the bottom out of 153 school districts.

Therefore, it is reasonable to think you will experience some of the same emotions as we on the Budget & Finance Committee when you hear the Preliminary report of the projected revenue CUTS the Governor is proposing – about which the Legislature’s Appropriation Committee is conducting a Preliminary Hearing next Monday morning:

RSU 63’s share for next year is DOWN \$587,640 from the current year (from \$4,145,906 to \$3,558,266). So much for improving the funding for low-income, rural districts.

The Budget & Finance Committee will be beginning the process of developing the 2017-18 school budget next Monday from 4:30 to 6:15 PM before the Board meeting which begins at 6:30. The meetings will be held at the Eddington Elementary School and are open to the public.



Michael Shepherd <mike@perkinshomeservices.com>

Fiberight Closing - Eddington

1 message

Greg Louder <glouder@mrcmaine.org>
Reply-To: glouder@mrcmaine.org
To: mike@perkinshomeservices.com

Sat, Feb 18, 2017 at 1:28 PM

Hi Mike –

We are getting very close to the finish line with regard to financial close to build the new facility in Hampden. We have brought on extra help here to help collect the necessary paperwork (signed contracts) from joining members.

I'm sure that we have working to offer any help to Russell Smith for few months now to get the signed contracts and legal opinion certificate together, but we have yet to see anything from the town. I know you have followed this project with great interest, so I thought I'd check directly to see if anything is needed from us to be sure Eddington isn't left out at closing.

Thanks

Greg

