

**MINUTES**

**FIRE COMMISSIONER’S MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING– EDEN TOWN BOARD  
2795 East Church Street  
Eden, NY 14057  
February 14, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

This meeting was held in-person and virtually through GoToMeeting.com. The meeting link was made available to the public prior to the meeting.

**TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- RICH VENTRY - SUPERVISOR
- SUSAN WILHELM - COUNCILMEMBER
- MICHAEL BYRNES - COUNCILMEMBER
- GARY SAM - COUNCILMEMBER
- VINCENT VACCO - COUNCILMEMBER

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Emily Hawkins - Town Clerk
- Marlene Grunder - Administrative Assistant
- Ron Maggs - Highway Superintendent
- Lisa Winter - Bookkeeper
- Dave Rice - Code Enforcement Officer

Supervisor Ventry called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**#19-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to set a Public Hearing for February 28, 2024 at 7:15 PM for the purpose of considering adopting a Resolution, applying the new exemption standards for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**#20-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to adjourn the Fire Commissioner’s Meeting and open the Regular Meeting of the Eden Town Board; seconded by Councilmember Vacco; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**#21-2024: MOTION** was made by Councilmember Byrnes to approve the Town Board Minutes of January 24, 2024 as presented; seconded by Councilmember Vacco; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**Budget Transfers:**

**For 12/31/2023**

<b>From Account</b>	<b>To Account</b>	<b>Reason for Amendment</b>	<b>Amount</b>
A1990.4 Contingent Fund	A1670.4 Central Printing & Mailing		\$17.00
A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance	A1680.4 Central Data Processing	Overbudget	\$30.00
A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance	A3120.1 Police - Personal	Overbudget	\$76.00
A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance	A3120.4 Police - Contractual	Overbudget	\$530.00
A1620.4 Town Hall Contractual	A2170 Community Development Income	Correct Budget Transfer done Dec 13 to actual received vs estimate NY Main St Grant	\$80.00
A2170 Community Development Income	A6989.4 Other Economic Assistance-Cont.	Budget Adjustment	\$525.24
A7110.1 Parks & Grounds-Personal	A7110.4 Parks & Grounds-Contractual	Budget Adjustment	\$3,000.00

D5130.4 Machinery - Contractual	D5130.2 Machinery - Equipment	Budget Adjustment	\$93.90
D5142.4 Snow Removal - Contractual	D5110.4 Maintenance of Roads - Contractual	Correct Budget Transfer from incorrect account	\$8,000.00
SW2140 Wepax Water Revenue	SW8320.401 Maint Wepax Water	Wepax Water Revenue Received for Expenses	\$559.65
SW2140 Wepax Water Revenue	SW8320.402 Water Contractual - Farnham	Wepax Water Revenue Received for Expenses	\$102.78
SF3410.1 Fire - Personal	SF3410.4 Fire - Contractual	Overbudget	\$445.20

**For February 14, 2024**

A2170 Community Development	A6989.4 Other Economic Assistance- Contractual	NY Main St Grant - 24 Seal Place LLC	\$17,881.00
A7140.4 Playgrounds & Rec Ctr - Contractual	A7310.4 Youth Programs - Contractual	Amount Budgeted for Winterfest towards advertising	\$585.50

**#22-2024: MOTION** was made by Councilperson Wilhelm to approve the Budget Transfers as presented; seconded by Councilmember Sam; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**Audit of Bills:**

February Payables 2023

DESCRIPTION	VOUCHER NUMBERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	915-939	\$11,395.05
Fire Dept. Fund	326-332	\$2,324.98
Recreation Fund	203-208	\$1,194.23
Water Fund	22-22	\$706.32
Street Lights Fund	52-53	\$422.42
Refuse Fund	26-26	\$48,283.12
Highway Fund	366-370	\$14,587.76
Capital	13-13	\$518.00

February 14, 2024

DESCRIPTION	VOUCHER NUMBERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	19-93	\$77,493.53
Fire Dept. Fund	6-33	\$7,723.70
Recreation Fund	7-18	\$2,772.80
Water Fund	1	\$15
Street Lights Fund	1-2	\$1,332.38
Refuse Fund	1-2	\$49,640.25
Highway Fund	4-30	\$77,475.02

**#23-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the Audit of Bills as presented; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**Departmental Reports:**

Department reports for the month of February 2024 were submitted by Rick Kirst, East Eden Fire Chief; Malcolm VanKoughnett, Eden Fire Chief; Susan Johnson, Assessor; Greg Savage, Eden Police Chief; Emily Hawkins, Town Clerk; Dave Rice, Code Enforcement Officer/Building & Maintenance; Drew Riedel, Recreation Director; Nick Blas, Dog Control Officer, & Joseph Ghosen. All reports are on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Remove Joe Poppenburg from the active roster of the Eden Fire Department with gratitude for his service.

Remove Nicholas Kelly from the active roster of the East Eden Fire Department with gratitude for this service.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:** No comment.

**New and Unfinished Business:**

**1. Presentation from Rotella Grant Management:** Rescheduled to February 28th

**2. Notice of Extension of Collector's Warrant:**

**#24-2024: MOTION** was made by Councilmember Wilhelm to approve the Notice of Extension of Tax Collector's Warrant to July 1, 2024; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**3. IT Contract:**

**#25-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the one year IT contract with Nicholas Miller effective March 1, 2024 in the amount of \$2,830.33 per month; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**4. Reappoint/Appoint Conservation Board Members:**

**#26-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to re-appoint Russell Barten, Lamont Beers, Mary Jane Bolo, and Judith Striebich for a two-year period beginning 2/1/24 and ending on 12/31/24; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**#27-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to appoint Deborah Condon to the Conservation Board for a two-year term beginning immediately and ending 12/31/2025; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**#28-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the appointment of Lamont Beers as Chairman of the Conservation Board; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**5. Amend Contract with Rotella Grant Management:**

**#29-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the one-year contract with Rotella Grant Management to be paid at \$1,800 per month and ending January 31, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Sam; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**6. Acknowledge Resignation of Police Chief:**

The Town Board acknowledged the resignation of Gregory Savage as Police Chief effective February 5, 2024, with gratitude for this service.

**7. Acknowledge Resignation of Part Time Police Officer:**

The Town Board acknowledged the resignation of Matthew Cross as Police Officer with gratitude for this service.

**8. Acknowledge Resignation of Part Time Police Officer:**

The Town Board acknowledged the resignation of Philip Tripi as Police officer effective February 29, 2024, with gratitude for this service.

**9. Bucket Truck, Highway:**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR RICHARD S VENTRY TO EXPEND FUNDS FROM THE HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE OF THE TOWN OF EDEN SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM**

The Town Board of the Town of Eden, duly convened in a regular session does hereby resolve pursuant to the provisions of Section 6-C of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York that the Town Supervisor of the Town of Eden be and is hereby authorized and directed to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$80,000 from the Restricted Highway Equipment Reserve Account D878.2 of the Town of Eden for a Used Bucket Truck subject to permissive referendum.

**#30-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve the Permissive Referendum at presented; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**10. Appoint Nicholas Blasz as Police Chief:**

**#31-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to appoint Nicholas Blaszczyk as temporary interim police chief at his current rate of pay; seconded by Councilmember Wilhelm; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**11. Appoint Louis DeCarolis at Part-Time Police Officer:**

**#32-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to appoint Louis DeCarolis as part-time police officer at a rate of \$27.00 per hour; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**12. Stipend for Meetings:**

**#33-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry to approve a stipend for David Rice to attend Town Board Meetings when requested by the Supervisor at \$75.00 per meeting effective February 1, 2024; seconded by Councilmember Byrnes; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

**Supervisors Report:**

- Attended meeting with other Supervisor's from surrounding towns regarding the windmill law

**Susan Wilhelm:**

- Library: in 2023 Eden Library welcomed 15,913 patrons through their doors who collectively checked out 46,592 items, used computers 1,350 times and accessed the library's WIFI network 2,114 times. 1,351 people attended 129 in-house programs during the year, with offerings for all ages. Program attendance increased 33% over 2022; the number of program offerings increased 54%.

**Gary Sam:**

- Summer Recreation applications, Summer Recreation will be moved back to the Elementary grounds
- Eden & East Eden Fire, EMS to do training on grain bin rescue with local farmers

**Hearing of Visitors:** None.

**Dave Rice, Code Enforcement Officer:**

- Update on Cannabis Retail Code, Code Review Committee has been working on it but requested another extension to the current moratorium
- New Code from NYS for a Truss Placard that needs to be placed on electrical box of new constructions alerting fireman of the roof structure

**#34-2024: MOTION** was made by Supervisor Ventry adjourn the Regular meeting and enter Executive Session for personnel in the Police Department; seconded by Councilmember Vacco; Ayes: All; Opposed: None; Abstain: None; Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM

Executive Session Ended at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Emily Hawkins, Town Clerk