

2021 January Newsletter

The VDOE 2021 annual meeting and election are approaching quickly and this newsletter provides critical information on key dates and process. Please review this carefully as some processes have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Running for Office

Eidelweiss is governed by a 3-person Board of Commissioners that makes all critical recommendations and day-to-day decisions about the VDOE budget, Department of Public Works and the Water System. Recommendations made by the board can impact both the tax rate and the water system fees. Each year at the annual meeting, one seat on the Board is up for election for a 3-year term. Any VDOE resident who is a registered voter can run for this seat. If elected, you would be required to attend weekly meetings and help manage a variety of projects throughout the year, usually amounting to 3-8 hours per week. It pays \$3,600 annually and is a great way to contribute to your local community.

The Treasurer and Clerk 2-year term positions are also up for election this year. The Treasurer's pay is \$3,000 per year and requires that you assist with financing and bank business for the district. The Clerk is paid \$275 and is responsible for taking minutes at the annual meeting.

If you want to be on the ballot for any of these seats, contact Donna MacKinnon at the VDOE office after January 19. Applications must be submitted by Friday, January 29th at 5 pm. (The office is usually closed on Friday's but someone will be there from 3-5 pm on 1/29/21 to accept any last minute applications.)

Budget Hearing & Optional Annual Meeting

Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and the associated risks and difficulties in maintaining social distancing, the District's Moderator and Board of Commissioners have agreed to hold the 2021 VDOE Annual Meeting using the "Optional Annual Meeting" format that will be "virtual" per the rules set forth in HB 1129, Paragraph 8:3. If you would like to better understand the law and its interpretation, we have posted links on the district website. The annual Budget Hearing will also be held virtually.

If you do not have a computer or internet access or prefer not to attend online, you can attend all meetings via phone @ ~~971-224-6602~~ **enter code 992407**. A Microsoft Teams call-in number will be provided prior to the meeting.

How to Attend Virtual Meetings

We will use Microsoft Teams software. If you have not used Teams before, we recommend you download the software prior to the meetings. We are having 2 practice sessions if you need help downloading or connecting and want to be sure that it is working properly. More details below.

Important Dates & Process

Monday January 25, 2021 @ 7:00 PM-Microsoft Teams Practice Session #1

Purpose: Lead those who want help with use of MS Teams and answer questions about how the process will work.

To Join: Call **971-224-6602 - enter code 992407. Have your computer nearby and turned on.**

Wednesday January 27, 2021 @ 7:00 PM - Budget Hearing

Purpose: Present the proposed drafted budgets and warrant articles and gather feedback from the public. The Commissioners will share the information in a presentation and attendees will be able to comment and ask questions.

To Join: The invite/link will be available in a later Newsletter as well as on the website along with the call-in only number. The proposed warrant will be posted on the website. For a printed copy of the presentation, please call the office.

Wednesday February 3, 2021 @ 7:00 PM - Budget Hearing Continuation (only if necessary) Same format as above.

Friday February 12, 2021 @ 7:00 PM-Microsoft Teams Practice Session #2

Purpose: See above.

To Join: Call **971-224-6602 - enter code 992407. Have computer turned on and nearby.**

“Optional Annual Meeting” – Replaces in Person Annual Meeting

The Optional Annual Meeting will consist of 2 virtual meetings followed by drive-through voting on both the Official Ballot and Alternative Ballot. Links/invites and call in only number will be available in a newsletter and on website.

Tuesday February 16, 2021 @ 7:00 PM: Virtual “Informational Session”

Purpose: Review of process and Presentation of Posted Budgets and Warrant Articles

Participation: The public will not be speaking during this session, but your input is important. Following the meeting, send all comments, questions and feedback via email to office@vdoe-nh.org or via written mail dropped off or sent to the district office.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 @ 7:00 PM: Virtual Meeting

Purpose: This is essentially the replacement for the in person annual meeting. We will share all written feedback from the info session, discuss each budget and warrant article and consider additional comments from the public. Commissioners will discuss each item and decide to either move article as is or to amend for the Final Warrant (this is considered “Being Amended on the Floor”.)

Participation: The Moderator will manage comments & questions.

Friday February 26, 2021 – Final Warrant will be posted on VDOE website. Printed copies will be available in the mailbox at the VDOE office. There will be 2 ballots available for Drive Through Voting on March 6th:

1-*Official Ballot* – Vote for Commissioner, Treasurer & Clerk. Can also be voted on by Absentee Ballot.

2-*Alternative Ballot* – Vote on Final Warrant (budgets and warrant articles). Voting only on March 6 at Drive Through Voting. Note that per HB 1129, the first article shall ask whether voters approve the optional meeting procedures.

Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:00 am – Noon: Drive Through Voting **MASKS REQUIRED**

Location: Madison Elementary School - Rear Drive Thru Parking Lot

How it works: Each registered voter will get 3 items: Official Ballot, Alternative Ballot and copy of the Final Warrant. Complete each Ballot and drive to poll worker to hand in completed ballots.

Saturday March 6, 2021 by 5:00 pm - Ballot results to be posted on VDOE website. Printed copies will be available in the mailbox at the VDOE office.

Absentee Ballot

Absentee Ballots will be available for the voting of officers. The Absentee Ballot Application must be completed to receive the Absentee Ballot.

Application for Absentee Ballot will be available by January 15th on the website or at the office. The Absentee Ballot will be available February 1st.

Thank you!

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we progress through this new, and hopefully one time only, process. We anticipate that there will be technical difficulties and that the virtual process may frustrate some people. We also acknowledge that while this will not permit the type of debate that we're accustomed to at our annual Town Meeting, we do want and value your input. We are committed to listening to everyone who provides feedback through this process and will act accordingly to revise and/or amend the warrant and budget based on the sentiments and expectations of the community as well as what is in the best interests of the District.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the weeks ahead.

Board of Commissioners

Jay Buckley, Kathy Koziell, Paula Doyle