

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Tony Porter, Keegan Tierney, Koran Cousino, Susan Jefferies (Chair)
Others present: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential projects and long term plans.

Several topics were discussed, including:

Capital Maintenance Projects - P. Marsh reviewed a list of capital projects indicating which ones have been completed. Items to be addressed this year include roofs over the heat pumps at the town office and village center, painting/refinishing porch floors at the town office and town hall, repairing the floor in the listers' office, and adding ramps at the commuter shelter. The recycling containers also need repair, and the Selectboard should determine whether to pay for the repairs or look for grant money to purchase used containers or replacement doors.

T. Porter noted that Starksboro has had several FEMA events in just a few years, and that FEMA funding may be reduced. The Selectboard will consider asking for an increase to the emergency reserve fund if this happens.

Financial Reporting – The town's auditors (Telling and Associates) have recommended the town consider upgrading its accounting system. The Selectboard is very interested in having quarterly financial information compared to budget for planning purposes during the year. S. Jefferies will ask Treasurer Celine Coon to discuss the auditors' proposal at a future Selectboard meeting.

Selectboard Liaison with other towns – P. Marsh would like to invite other Selectboards in the area to meet and discuss common issues/problems. He noted that county road foremen meet regularly, and is hoping to establish a similar group of selectmen. K. Cousino will provide him with a list of Selectboard members from other towns and contact information.

Communications – The Selectboard considers this to be an important topic for the coming year. The consensus was to select methods of communication (FPF, website, Gazette) and provide consistent updates. The website is currently under review. P. Marsh will draft articles to publish in the Gazette and FPF.

Town Buildings – Many maintenance projects have been completed, but some of the town facilities need more than ongoing maintenance. Fire Station #2 in South Starksboro should be replaced with a building that is up to code and of an adequate size for the equipment. The Jerusalem Schoolhouse water must be turned off in the winter, making the building difficult to use year round. K. Tierney pointed out that old buildings need a purpose in order to survive. A meeting of representatives of the Selectboard, Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department, Friends of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse, and the Ladies' Home Circle is scheduled for May to discuss options for the schoolhouse.

K. Cousino asked about plans for the old town garage land and building. T. Porter said that the land is used for sand, and that we have approximately 12 years of sand left before we will need another source. This is also the site of a capped landfill that is subject to monitoring.

Reclassifying Certain Class 4 Roads – The Selectboard may consider discontinuing some Class 4 roads at the request of the landowners. We will have to consider the pros and cons of keeping the right of way and any responsibilities that brings with losing the ROW. K. Tierney said that the town may be able to get help with conversion from Class 4 to a trail.

Liability Insurance Requirements – T. Porter brought up the issue of liability insurance for contractors who work on town property. We have several individuals and companies who maintain town property, and have not consistently required proof of insurance coverage. The Selectboard agreed to establish a policy for next year, and to not hire contractors who do not comply. The Selectboard also agreed to renew our contract with Scenic Valley for the town office, town hall, post office, village center, and to add the new town garage. Scenic Valley also submitted a bid for the Jerusalem Schoolhouse that is lower than our current contractor. This will be discussed in a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies