

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Mathew Norris, Susan Jefferies (Chair)

Others present: Tom Estey, Marjorie Dickstein, Dennis Hysko, Rick Burroughs and Kate Coffey (Black River Design), Ashley Zimmerman (Addison County Community Trust), Amy McCormick

S. Jefferies called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: P. Marsh moved to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2014 Selectboard meeting with one correction. S. Jefferies seconded. Voted and approved.

Bills: M. Norris moved to instruct the Treasurer to pay the bills as presented. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

Road Foreman's Report: None

Town Garage Advisory Committee: Kate Coffey presented three options for locating the town garage and salt shed. The Committee agreed that the best option was to be near the fire station. The Selectboard asked BRD to schedule a state biologist to look at the possible wetlands near the fire station. K. Coffey asked whether there were plans to expand the recycling facility, possibly by adding an area for items that might be reused. The Committee thought it would be a good idea to leave expansion room for an 8 x 12 building.

Visitor's Business:

Addison County Community Trust – Ashley Zimmerman (ACCT) and Amy McCormick (Starksboro Delinquent Tax Collector) reviewed the delinquency status of properties in Starksboro's mobile home parks. Nonpayment of taxes is an ongoing problem for the town, with many owners also delinquent in lot rent payments to ACCT. There was discussion about ways to improve the situation, including:

- ACCT collecting the taxes as part of their lot rent, establishing an escrow account to be paid to the town when taxes are due. Starksboro would consider paying a fee for this service to ACCT. A. McCormick will check into whether this is allowed under Vermont law. We would have to agree in advance how to handle partial payments.
- ACCT purchasing the properties at tax sale, possibly with an agreement for taxes to be partially or fully abated after the redemption period.
- Starksboro purchasing the properties at tax sale, if ACCT agrees not to charge lot rent to Starksboro.

M. Norris questioned whether lots that had not been used for more than a year were still able to be used, or whether their grandfathered status as nonconforming lots would have expired.

Old Business:

- **Community Center** – The Selectboard agreed to install electric baseboard heat as a backup for the heat pumps. P. Marsh reviewed plans for additional insulation. There were several books and records stored in the attic. Cheryl Estey (Town Clerk) has removed all town records. The Starksboro Historical Society will look at the other items.
- **Community Center Proposed Rental Agreement** – P. Marsh recused himself from the Selectboard for this discussion due to a conflict of interest. He moved to the visitor area for the remainder of the discussion. P. Marsh presented a proposal from Judith Bryant to rent the space not

being used by the food shelf. She is a commercial potter and would be creating pottery in the space and using a small portion as a display and sales area. She plans to work with two students one evening a week. S. Jefferies and M. Norris asked that a decision be postponed for one week to have time to review the proposal and get more information if necessary.

Mail:

- **Wrestling Group** – Emily Gibbs (Wellness Teacher at Robinson School) requested that tow parents in Starksboro be allowed to use the upstairs area in the town hall for a wrestling group. The Selectboard questioned whether this would be considered a school activity, whose insurance would cover any problems/injuries, whether they would provide mats, and if this could be scheduled to avoid interfering with library hours.
- **Flagpole Lighting** – The Selectboard received a price quote to install flagpole lighting at the town office. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meetings are scheduled for December 9th and 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies