

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Tony Porter, Susan Jefferies (Chair)

Others present: Tom Estey, Matt Estey, Kerry Kurt, Heather Ragsdale, James Zeno, Trixie Zeno, Chris Zeno, Craig Breslen (Green Mountain Power), Carol Caroscio, Todd McInturff, Brad Johnson, Kurt Kling, Lin White, Susan Eckhardt (Green Mountain Power)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Minutes: T. Porter moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Selectboard meeting with corrections. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

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

Mail: The Selectboard reviewed the Agency of Natural Resources' Announcement of Prohibited Floor Drains, noting that Starksboro's municipal buildings do not have any prohibited floor drains.

Road Foreman's Report: T. Estey noted that the lights at the town garage are still not working properly. The final construction payment of \$5,000 has not been paid, and will be held until the issue is resolved.

Volunteer Fire Department: The Starksboro VFD is looking into purchasing a new tanker to replace the 1986 tanker, which is rusting and no longer has repair parts available. The estimated cost is \$290,000, which is significantly higher than the estimate included in the reserve fund projection. Matt Estey reviewed reasons for the increase, which include:

- Increased capacity from 2,100 to 3,000 gallons – This is recommended due to a frequent lack of water in streams and ponds, and because newer construction materials burn at a higher temperature, requiring more water.
- Automatic transmission
- Anti-roll (stability) feature
- PTO pump instead of a gas powered pump
- Heater to keep the pump from freezing

M. Estey said that the VFD had looked into used tankers, but had not found any that would meet our needs. He noted that they will probably be able to delay the purchase of new pumpers, and that the new tanker would be poly material so it would not rust. M. Estey will provide information on the new expected lives and cost of fire equipment and S. Jefferies will update the reserve fund forecast.

Executive Session: P. Marsh moved to go into executive session at 6:25 pm to discuss a real estate transaction. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved. Executive session ended at 6:40.

Visitors' Business:

- **Sale of Land at Gravel Pit** – Kerry Kurt joined the meeting to discuss the status of the purchase and sale agreement. The agreement expired on October 1, and she would like it to be extended to give her time to resolve an ongoing issue with the Vermont Land Trust. T. Porter

suggested that all parties come to a future Selectboard meeting to make sure we all know what needs to be done, and who is working on it. S. Jefferies will check with Dave Wetmore to make sure all the DRB conditions have been met, and let K. Kurt know if they have not. K. Kurt noted that she is working on grant requests, and only found out about the VLT requirement a couple of days ago. P. Marsh asked K. Kurt how much time would be required to resolve the issue. K. Kurt said it should be done within 6 months. P. Marsh noted that the Selectboard might not agree to another extension.

P. Marsh moved to extend the deadline for the purchase and sale agreement to June 30, 2017. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.

- **Animal Control Officer** – Heather Ragsdale agreed to be Starksboro’s Animal Control Officer. There was discussion about the job requirements and ongoing situations. T. Porter has been acting as ACO for the past two months and will work with Heather during the transition.

P. Marsh moved to appoint Heather Ragsdale and Animal Control Officer. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved. Pay was established during a previous Selectboard meeting at \$15/hour plus \$100 per quarter for administrative duties. Mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS allowed rate.

- **Brown Hill Road Power Line Installation** – Several residents of Brown Hill Road and representatives of Green Mountain Power joined the meeting to talk about plans for the installation of power on Brown Hill Road. Since the last Selectboard meeting, the right of way has been marked and Craig Breslen of GMP is preparing a sketch plan showing where power lines could be installed. T. Porter has confirmed that this would not require Development Review Board approval. Discussion items included (initials indicate the person speaking):
 - TP – The Selectboard has not made a decision on this issue. Our understanding is that we can approve work in the ROW, and that additional conditions can be imposed. For example, we could ask that the power lines be buried.
 - SE – GMP must install power lines next to the road (not in the woods). There is a process GMP can use to install power lines without Selectboard approval, but it is time consuming.
 - LW – According to 30 VSA 2506, the Selectboard must decide on the necessity of the project. Approval to cut trees should not be necessary since the power lines can be buried.
 - CC and BJ – They both buried their power lines so they wouldn’t have to see them.
 - KK – Zoning regulations say “whenever possible, power lines should be buried”. The number of trees removed when lines are buried is far less, and the trees can grow back if the line is buried.
 - CZ – Burying power lines is twice as expensive as above ground power. Other property owners on Brown Hill have cleared trees in the past.

- PM – This is the first time the Selectboard has considered an issue like this, so we will be setting a precedent with this decision. We will want to consider it carefully after reviewing GMP's sketch plan.

The Selectboard will meet with any interested parties and GMP on Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 am on Brown Hill Road to review the sketch plan and how the proposal would impact the road.

New Business: None

Old Business:

- **Road and Trails Maintenance Policy** – The Selectboard will review the policy with the Road Foreman at our next meeting.
- **Increase Selectboard to 5 Members** – A special town meeting to vote on this items is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Robinson School multipurpose room.

Agenda Items for November 1, 2016:

- Class 4 Roads and Trails Policy
- Brown Hill Road Power Line Installation
- Purchase and Sale Agreement for Gravel Pit

November meetings will be on the 1st and 22nd. This is the first and fourth Tuesday of November. There will be a special Selectboard meeting on Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 am to review the Brown Hill Road power line sketch plan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies