

Town of Starksboro
Selectboard Meeting
June 19, 2018 minutes
Unapproved

Board members present: Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, Peter Marsh, Tony Porter, Keegan Tierney

Visitors: Tom Estey, Celine Coon, Jennifer Turner, Sheriff Peter Newton, Rebecca Elder (SB Assistant)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Koran Cousino.

Added to the agenda – recycling container quote from Jen Turner

Road Foreman report – Tom Estey

- Speed study will be done on State's Prison Hollow Rd – email from
- Koran asked about the VLCT notice about state salt purchasing. Tom buys from Cargill and doesn't go through VLCT or another entity.
- New pick-up truck arrived
- Bill expected for the culverts for next year; also bought a hydrant that the FD ordered and will reimburse for.
- Signed the Grants in Aid program/DEC - LOI
- Signed VT DEC Watershed mgmt. Div. of Stormwater Program NOI – MRGP \$240 fee deadline 6/30

Visitors' Business – no visitors

Regarding political signs on town property: the Town Clerk approved placement. The Secretary of State recommends that Town's adopt a blanket policy regarding political signs on town-owned land. Rebecca will ask VLCT for a draft policy and/or draft a policy for the Selectboard to review at a meeting in July.

Minutes of 6/5/18

Peter Marsh requested a change to the original charge for the Jerusalem Schoolhouse Committee as it was recorded in the minutes.

Motion: Tony Porter moved to alter the Jerusalem Schoolhouse Committee charge to change the word "paid" to "incurred". Keegan Tierney seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Motion to approve the minutes with minor corrections noted.

Motion: Tony Porter moved and Keegan Tierney seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 6/5/18.

Vote: All in favor

Peter Newton – Addison Co. Sheriff's Dept.

Peter spoke with Tony Porter recently about various items from the Selectboard. Peter came to the meeting today to ask if the board has concerns or questions about the current services. He asked how things have been in terms of patrols in the area. He heard from Tony about time spent around the mobile home parks. The Sheriff's office know there are some ongoing issues that cannot be dealt with by their officers and must be a joint effort with the State police and perhaps a task force in the future.

The board expressed concern that there have been few tickets issued despite ongoing resident feedback about people traveling over the speed limits on local roads. There is general public knowledge that Route 116 is patrolled but the smaller roads have not been monitored frequently. The board requested more speed patrol during commuting hours, when school buses are in service, and on a few roads that tend to

have higher speed travel. They also asked that the patrols be varied and the officers rotate where they monitor. Peter Newton said to contact him with requests or concerns at any time.

Peter Newton also explained that the Sheriff's office has been short on staff. They are planning to hire more people. If elected, he has plans for some additions and changes to help address some of the concerns he's heard from communities.

The number of hours worked for Starksboro has not resulted in an increased number of tickets issued. The selectboard members emphasized they are focused on safety of the local roads. The Sheriff's office currently provides speed control for 18 towns with a varied number of hours. They are changing their approach from 4-hour blocks in a town to shorter blocks of time and a presence in multiple neighboring towns per day.

There was discussion about threshold for speed tickets – i.e. how many miles per hour over the limit results in a warning vs. a ticket?

Peter N. asked if the town had any interest in contracting for animal control. Tony mentioned that the Town had contacted the Sheriff's office a few months ago to aid with animal control and was told those services aren't offered. Peter Newton clarified that the Sheriff will help with animal control and to follow up on complaints. They will accompany animal control officers when there is a safety concern. This can also be made explicit in the Town's service contract for next year. In the future, if there is any problem getting assistance, contact Peter directly.

Peter also noted that the Sheriff's office is starting to work with towns on ordinance enforcement. The Town can bring issues to him as they arise.

The board thanked Mr. Newton for coming to the meeting and he departed.

Action Items:

1. **Addition to agenda (noted at start of meeting):** Recycling container is needed. Jennifer Turner attended to describe the history of the recycling containers, how they were acquired, and how long they have been in use. Jennifer has been researching new container options and prices. Casella found a 40 yd container for \$7814. The Town needs to apply for a grant from ACSWD for a 50% match on the price. If matched, the cost for the Town would be \$3400+/- . A purchase order was submitted. The board agreed to apply for the grant and Jennifer will finalize and submit the application.

Motion: Tony Porter moved to purchase the recycling container (through Casella), with the purchase not to exceed \$8000. Eric Cota seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Jennifer plans to make a sign about the costs for recycling to remind residents that the service is not free. Maintenance will be needed on the other container. Eric will stop by and look at the crossbars that need replacing.

Bills/Orders – Treasurer Celine Coon was present.

Board member questions on the bills:

- Community Garden – money flows through the general fund, but the garden project incurs no expense. It is seasonal use and there is not a bank account for this project. Water usage for the garden affects the water supply for the village. Currently, the garden is watered using the hose from the Town Clerk's office. The issue is not just about \$ (municipal water usage is paid for by the Town) but rather that there is an impact on the overall water supply that village residents rely on. This needs further discussion as there is an Equity issue related to water usage
- What is the relationship with the broader group? Is there an MOU for the community garden? What is the mechanism for oversight and management?

- 2009: there was a grant received and some funds were used to establish the community garden plots.

Authorize signer for year-end close out:

In final days of June, one board member will need to review and sign checks to be delivered on 7/1/18.

Motion: Peter Marsh moved and Keegan Tierney seconded the motion to authorize Tony Porter to sign year-end bills.

Vote: All in favor

Year-end close out requests:

Motion: Eric Cota moved to implement raises that were budgeted to take effect on July 1, 2018 and voted on at Town Meeting. Keegan Tierney seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 yay, 1 abstained

Authorization for Treasurer

Motion: Peter Marsh moved and Keegan Tierney seconded the motion to authorize the Treasurer to pay the payroll and essential liabilities for the beginning of the fiscal year starting July 1, 2018 and before the July 10, 2018 Selectboard meeting.

Vote: All in favor

No State budget has been passed yet therefore the education tax rate is not yet confirmed.

At the first meeting in July, the Selectboard will need to set the town tax rate, which was basically established in the town report. A formal motion is required.

Financial system upgrade to NEMRC – NEMRC promised to have the Town's financials up and running for use on July 1. To ensure systems are in order, Celine is prepared to continue operating in Quickbooks and transfer data over to the new system as needed.

Various deposits have been made to Lanny Smith (painting projects), Mitch Horner (porch repair), and will be made to Murphy's Metals (vault roof replacement). Celine will follow up with Murphy's Metals for a commitment.

There will be a tax sale on Wednesday, 6/27 at 11:00 a.m. Koran will attend.

ACRPC annual dues = \$2200

VLCT annual dues = \$3100

Motion: Tony Porter moved and Peter Marsh seconded the motion to pay the order and bills as presented.

Vote: All in favor

Reappointment of DRB members:

Motion: Peter Marsh moved and Tony Porter seconded the motion to reappointment of Ben Campbell and Dan Nugent to the DRB for 3-year terms, with Denny Casey and Norman Cota reappointed as alternates. **Vote:** All in favor.

Discussion: Keegan noted that a town resident called to attention the difficulty to engage in town government and not knowing how to become more involved or serve. The Selectboard agreed to do broader outreach on the FPF when opportunities arise (i.e. Jerusalem Schoolhouse Committee). The predictable annual cycle for appointment will help make the process more clear.

The board will ensure it is clear to residents that positions will be posted prior to vacancies being filled.

Palmer grievance – No executive session needed. Results of the independent appraisal were not yet received. Add to the July 10 agenda.

Town Plan report

Koran and Keegan attended the public hearing. They reported hearing advocacy for economic development and growth, which hadn't been heard much before with both comments from younger people/residents.

Pottery Studio Lease

The lease from 2017 was distributed for review. Peter submitted some notes and edits to the contract. Rent has been prepaid and proof of insurance received.

- Rental is for the interior of the building.
- Rebecca will incorporate the handwritten notes and dates, and bring back to the board for signature for the next meeting.

Land swap with School District

Koran has contacted Jim Runcie. He is on vacation and will follow up upon his return. There is not a rush according to the school district. Follow up after 7/4.

Motion: Tony Porter moved and Eric Cota seconded the motion is to issue a town credit card to the Selectboard Assistant/Zoning Administrator for town purchases.

Vote: All in favor

Building maintenance updates

- The north wall of the Post Office has been cleaned and painted. The work was done by an anonymous good Samaritan.
- Deposit for porch work was received and work will begin as soon as possible with contractor's schedule.
- Painting: West side of town clerk's building next – Peter to follow up

Animal control – No update

ACRPC appointments

Rich Warren was already reappointed. Marjorie Dickstein completed her term of service.

Motion: Tony Porter moved to reappoint Susan Reit de Salas to the Addison County Transportation Committee pending her acceptance. Peter Marsh seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Municipal Diversion Grant Application

Motion: Keegan Tierney moved and Tony Porter seconded the motion to sign the Municipal Diversion grant application.

Vote: All in favor

Jennifer Turner will complete the application and submit.

Motion to adjourn: Tony Porter moved and Keegan Tierney seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.
Vote: All in favor

- **Next meetings:** July 10 and July 24

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Selectboard Assistant

DRAFT