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Town of Starksboro
Selectboard Meeting minutes
January 1, 2019
Unapproved
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Board members present: Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, Tony Porter, Keegan Tierney, Peter Marsh
Others present: Rebecca Elder, Tom Estey, Celine Coon

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Koran Cousino.

Road Foreman's Report

- The rear axle on the one-ton truck is broken. Repairs are needed. Tom hopes to find a used truck rear-end with the right gear ratio.
- The other new pickup truck will be ready for use in a couple weeks.
- Sand and salt have been used quite a bit so far this winter. Tom reported they are down to a third of the stock. The crew will need to haul in more sand and screen more material.
- Roads were icy on New Year's Eve and crews were out.
- Tom purchased an iPad for ongoing road inventory with support from and in conjunction with the Better Back Roads program.
- Orders include the final bill from Otter Creek for the interconnected roads/waterways inventory. Keegan has an electronic copy of the report.

Current Business

Budget development

Celine Coon attended to answer questions and assist the board with budget considerations.

- Add a line for the new truck payment under Municipal Financing – amount in red is correct but it includes the truck payment in addition to the town garage amount.
- Health insurance increases – $130-140K is needed. Family plan for 2019 cost = $27K. The board needs to anticipate potential plans for new hires when current staff members retire. The board will include a buffer as well. Gap coverage costs are roughly $4K/annually for Medicare recipients.
- Eric asked about a capital building fund. The board reviewed why a capital fund had not been established in the past and whether to ask the voters to consider starting a fund this year. Like the paving reserve fund, the town would contribute the same amount each year (a percentage of the total budget) to build a reserve to cover capital expenses as they arise as opposed to trying to budget for repairs and needing to make emergency decisions when things break out of cycle. Peter noted that because Starksboro doesn't have municipal water, police department, or other hard costs, the board had not felt the need to establish a fund in the past. The group agreed by consensus that they would like to establish a fund soon.
- Mowing bids: Cota field mowing is under contract for 2019 but new bids are welcomed for the town clerk's office and other mowing needs.
- Cemetery Commissioner requested an increase in funds for FY19-20 for maintenance.
- Emergency Preparedness – Increased amount; last year the additional cost was for generator expenses.
- ADD a line for Parcel Map costs - $2K
- Increase budget for Asst. Clerk and Asst. Treasurer for a total of 30 hours per week.
- Cost of Living increase = 2.8% per Social Security administration. Current budget draft includes 3% in the calculations. Board will determine final

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- Discussion about VMERS – would require a bigger investment from both the employee and the town. The Board will review the information and then discuss whether to consider a switch for the next fiscal year.

Motion: Keegan Tierney moved to instruct the staff at the Town Clerk's office to discontinue production of the Gazette on a monthly basis and to continue on a quarterly basis instead due to budget considerations. Eric Cota 2nd.

Vote: 4 yes, 1 no (Peter Marsh).
Motion carried.

Minutes of 11/27/18
Motion: Keegan Tierney made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/27/18. Peter Marsh 2nd.
Motion carried. Tony Porter and Eric Cota abstained (were not present on 11/27/18).

Minutes of 12/18/18
Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/18/18. Keegan Tierney 2nd.
Motion carried.

Peter Marsh and Celine Coon departed at 4:00 p.m. The Board continued discussion of various budget considerations. The group will review the VMERS retirement plan information before the next meeting.

Motion: Keegan Tierney made a motion to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. Eric Cota 2nd.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca T. Elder

Selectboard Assistant