

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting

July 15, 2025

Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, Carin McCarthy, David Schmidt, Eric Cota, Tony Porter

Others present: Josh Martell – Road Foreman, Amy McCormick – Town Clerk, Ali Thompson - Treasurer

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda: No additions or deletions.

Public comment: No public comment.

Road Foreman Update: Josh Martell provided an update about the work to be done this summer. The roadside mower is having an electrical issue. There are many projects on the list, and they won't all be accomplished this summer due to staffing and funding.

Action: Have Road Foreman return for the August 19th Selectboard meeting.

Town Parking Lot: Eric Cota updated the Selectboard that he let Susan know to talk to Keegan about the Meetinghouse would be willing to contribute to this project. No new updates at this time.

Current Business:

Jerusalem Community Center Project: There was a successful meeting on July 15th for the RFP for Construction Management. Breadloaf and Silver Maple were present. Luke McCarthy sent a list of grant opportunities to the Selectboard. The Selectboard will put out a call to action for grant writers. Bids will be opened at the August 5th Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard inquired about the DRB decision and where that stood.

MERP Grant: Electrical issues were uncovered in the Food Shelf building a while back. The Energy Committee and Food Shelf were wondering who paid for the repairs. Don McCormick is working up an estimate to bring this up to code.

Finances: The Selectboard reviewed financials from the previous fiscal year and the current fiscal year.

Action: Town Employees will investigate if one of the lease payments was booked incorrectly.

Setting the Tax Rate: The Selectboard worked with the Treasurer and Town Clerk to set the tax rate.

Carin McCarthy moved to set the tax rate at .4572. Second by Eric Cota. Motion approved unanimously.

Employee Raises: The Selectboard discussed merit-based raises for the Road Crew & Town Office Staff.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned that Paul will receive a 5% raise and the other two will receive a 2.75% raise with the option to earn up to an additional 2.25% raise in 6 months with improved performance. Second by David Schmidt. 4 in favor, 1 object. Motion carried.

Motion: Eric Cota motioned to give 5% raises to the Town Administrator and the Treasurer. David Schmidt second. 4 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion carried.

Motion: Tony Porter motioned to appoint the slate of candidates to the ACRPC board. Carin McCarthy second. Motion approved unanimously.

Eric LaRose is looking to rent space at the Old Town Garage. The Selectboard is not looking to rent out town buildings at this time.

Motion: Koran Cousino motioned to send a letter to Eric LaRose stating that the Selectboard is not willing to entertain renting out the Old Town Garage space at this time. Eric Cota second. Motion approved unanimously.

Capital Improvements/Maintenance:

Motion: David Schmidt motioned to accept the 2 bids from Friend Construction for the Food Shelf Roof and Town Office Roof for the amount of \$13,888 and \$2,000. Carin McCarthy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Eric Cota motioned to approve AP and Payroll. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

The hydrant next to the pavilion isn't working. Koran Cousino will reach out to Denny about it. Spencer Harris wanted permission from the Selectboard to host an event at Cota Field. Members weren't opposed to Spencer's event.

The Selectboard wants to look at the site for the ADA Parking space before making a decision on the removal of the fence. Koran Cousino will follow up with Richard Fasey on his questions.

Future Agenda Items: Rental of Town Buildings, Supervisory Unions, Investment Policy, Grant Committee

Motion: Eric Cota moved to adjourn. Second by Carin McCarthy. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Vincent, Town Administrator

DRAFT