

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of 1/18/22
Unapproved

Board members present: Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, John Painter, Carin McCarthy
Others present: Rebecca Elder, Robert Turner, Mark Kingsley, Anne Sasso

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Koran Cousino at the Town Clerk's office and via Zoom.

Changes or Additions - none

Visitor's Business – none

Budget discussion

Discussion included whether to propose to establish a fund for major community improvements. The board decided to hold this discussion for the next budget year. In a normal year, this could be something proposed from the floor at town meeting for discussion. However, because this year will be an Australian ball to vote (due to COVID precautions) there will not be an opportunity for such discussion.

- During the fundraising for the community pavilion project, folks asked about Jerusalem school project and how that would be funded as well. Need to look at community priorities and where/when to deploy funds.
- Board talked about maintenance needed at Jerusalem schoolhouse and upgrades that are needed after the roof work is complete in the spring.
- IT budget – shift one laptop purchase to current year from surplus funds and likely won't need to purchase one next year
- Discussion of surplus uses: Paying down debt, level fund budget, emergency reserve, paving reserve. There are many unknowns that are beyond our control. The board wants to make investments in the community and also keep tax increases to a minimum when possible.
- Town administrator position – the board would like to explore this further for the next year, but is not prepared to add that to the budget for now. Increase in hours for various staff was anticipated and may help cover the gap for now.
- Major Maintenance Fund – Again the board wants to research this and plan well ahead of the budget season.

The board elected to use \$90K of FY21 surplus to offset anticipated budget growth from 21/22 to 22/23. The proposed budget remains flat at \$707,768. The remainder will go to the Emergency reserve fund and paving reserve fund, split 60/40.

The in-town appropriation requests are as follows:

Robinson Mentoring Program	2000
Starksboro Cooperative Preschool	6000
Starksboro Food Shelf	2000
Starksboro Village Meeting House	3000
Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department	24,000
TOTAL IN-TOWN REQUESTS	<u>\$37,000</u>

The out-of-town appropriation requests total \$34,536.

Approved warning:

- FY 22-23 General Fund Budget, being expenses of \$1,068,546 less receipts of \$270,890, less the FY 20-21 carry over surplus of \$89,888, for an amount of \$707,768
- Fire Equipment Reserve Fund \$52,268
- Road Equipment Reserve Fund \$106,216
- Paving Reserve Fund \$40,000
- Library \$39,478

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the Town Meeting warning for 2022 as described above. John Painter second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Article will be included for the vote regarding Lincoln’s request to withdraw from the MAUSD.

[Warrants for Bills/Orders](#)

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the warrants for bills, orders and payroll as presented by the Treasurer. John Painter second.

Motion approved unanimously.

[Request from Mt. Abe Snow Sports club re: snowmobile access](#)

Proposal was submitted. The Selectboard reviewed and requested additional information before considering the proposal complete. Once the application is complete, the Selectboard will set a public meeting date for comment.

[Mail/Correspondence:](#)

- Hillside water system was out starting on Sunday evening and affected the entire park.
- Trash and tires that were dumped at Cota field parking area were removed by road foreman.

Town meeting prep:

Edorah Frazer will send a report from Robinson. Sen. Hardy and Rep. Cordes will both attend via zoom. Invitation was sent to Rep. Elder and Sen. Bray as well.

Town Report check in:

Selectboard report needs to be written.

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to adjourn at X p.m. Eric Cota second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder, SB Assistant

Next regular meeting 2/1/22

TOWN MEETING – FEBRUARY 26, 2022

DRAFT