

Starksboro Selectboard meeting

January 2, 2024

Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy, John Painter

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Nancy Boss, Amy McCormick

John Painter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Changes to agenda: none

Visitor's business: none

Mail review

USPS sent correspondence regarding lease renewal for the post office building. No action is needed now. Lease renewal will be reviewed next year.

Equity and Inclusion statement

The group reviewed information about the equity and inclusion statement that has been adopted by towns throughout Vermont. A group of citizens requested the Selectboard consider adopting an EI statement last year. The board will place the topic on the next agenda for board discussion. Follow up action will be determined after the discussion.

Warrants

Motion: Eric Cota moved to pay the warrants for A/P and payroll with corrections noted to not pay for tax withholding. Carin McCarthy seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion: Eric made a motion to for the State's Prison Hollow extension bridge repairs in the amount of \$36,500 be paid from the emergency reserve fund. Carin McCarthy seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Minutes

Motion: Eric Cota moved to approve the minutes of 12/20/23 with one correction. Carin McCarthy seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Roundtable

Pavilion roof - Galen Helms, the selected roofing contractor, has been running behind schedule. The board wants to see the roof materials covered with a tarp, as promised, if the work is not to be completed this week. Helms had contacted Carin to ask if roof stops were needed and he is sending a quote. The board specified the work must be done by 1/31/24. The materials have already been purchased.

Wood bank storage – The wood bank storage has been located at the old town garage but the location is challenging because of the lack of accessibility in the winter. Pete Antos-Ketcham coordinates the requests and must contact the road crew for plowing and sanding to the building. If this becomes burdensome, a different location will be considered for easier access in the future. Rebecca will coordinate with Josh and Pete as needed.

Budget discussion

The board continued review of expenses anticipated for FY24-25. Discussion included salaries, health insurance increase, and various other major drivers for expenses. The board will consider cost of living increases and a potential employee contribution to health care premiums.

Major drivers in the highway budget include gas, diesel, chloride, and equipment repairs.

At the next meeting, the fund accounts will be reviewed with Robert Turner. Staff will continue researching various questions about expenditures and projections.

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. – Eric Cota moved, Carin McCarthy seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder, Town Administrator