

Starksboro Selectboard Special Meeting
Minutes of January 24, 2023
Unapproved

Board members present: John Painter, Koran Cousino, Carin McCarthy, Nancy Boss, Eric Cota (via Zoom)

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Robert Turner, Tom Estey

Chair Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. at the town clerk's office and via Zoom.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additional of one AP warrant for Cargill invoices.

Executive Session

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) to discuss potential employee contract negotiations at 4:08 pm. Carin McCarthy second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to exit executive session at 4:35 p.m. Nancy Boss second.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

No decisions were made as a result of executive session.

Budget FY23-24 discussion

Tom Estey was present to discuss the fire department request for purchase of new pumper. The pumper cost will be \$496,849 which will be included as an article with request to the voters.

Robert Turner gave updated information and analysis of the Road Equipment schedule and reserve fund. There is a projected deficit in FY31-32 based on current equipment replacement estimates but it not a cause for concern given the expected changes that may occur over the next several years.

The group discussed budget impact on property taxes. Though the proposed budget is an increase, it contains only necessary expenditures and planned costs that cannot be cut. The education portion of the taxes is large and the out-of-date CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) has a negative impact on that overall taxes assessed. The municipal portion of taxes is roughly 1/3 or 33% of the average property taxes.

The final budget was reviewed and approved as follows:

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to approve the proposed FY 23-24 General Fund Budget, being expenses of \$1,149,578 less receipts of \$270,410, less the FY 21-22 carry over surplus of \$105,306, for an amount of \$773,862. Nancy Boss second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to approve the warning for Town Meeting 2023 to include the general fund budget request and other articles including in-town and out-of-town appropriation requests. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to approve the AP warrant for expenses related to the Ben Roberts FEMA project. John Painter second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to approve the AP warrant for Cargill invoices. Nancy Boss second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.: John Painter, Carin McCarthy seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder
Town Administrator