

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes of 1/4/22  
Unapproved

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**Board members present:** Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, John Painter, Carin McCarthy  
**Others present:** Rebecca Elder, Amy McCormick, Robert Turner, Mark Kingsley, Jim Carroll  
**Guests:** More than 40 attendees in person; 8+ people attended via Zoom (sign in sheet maintained)

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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Koran Cousino at the Robinson Elementary School and via Zoom.

### Changes or Additions

**Change of order on agenda:** Executive Session to be held at the start of the meeting. Discussion to follow.

Visitor's Business – none

### Request from Mt. Abe Snow Sports club re: snowmobile access

#### Executive Session

**Motion:** Nancy Boss made a motion to go into executive session per 1 VSA 313(a)(1) for attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. John Painter second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** Nancy Boss made a motion to exit executive session at 7:01 p.m. Eric Cota second.  
**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** John Painter made a motion to authorize the chair of the Selectboard to set up a special meeting with 10 days warning to provide the opportunity for interested parties to present evidence and testimony after a written request has been received by the snowmobile club to open up some roads to snow mobile travel under Title 23. Nancy Boss second.

**Discussion:** none

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Chair Koran Cousino explained that the board would hear questions and comments about the process as described but will not hear comments about the snowmobile access request itself at this meeting. In advance of the special meeting, the board will accept written or email testimony, letters, and evidence. The process is intended to provide ample opportunity for all interested parties to express their point of view on the request the board receives. There will be a system for confirming receipt of information and for that information to be shared upon request. John Painter stated some of the information needed in the MASSSC proposal includes where the trail would exactly enter, where it would exit, expected travel on the trail, demonstration of the need to connect the trails, demonstrated effort to connect with and collaborate with members of the community. The board will follow up with the group about what they want to see on the proposal, then post on the town website, then set a date for a public hearing once the proposal is complete.

The Selectboard will create a log of the communications received. Rob Liotard asked if the communications received thus far would become part of the record. Koran confirmed they would be. Jeff Dunham asked if the testimony would be limited to immediate landowners or people in the neighborhood. Koran stated that anyone can submit a letter, email or testimony related to this request for access. It is not limited. The Selectboard will vet the information that is received. Another audience member asked how the decision will be made and if it will be done at the special meeting. The board plans to hold the meeting and take testimony. They will deliberate in public. There will be a decision delivered in writing

therefore the decision will not be made the night of the hearing to allow the Selectboard time to process the information received at the hearing.

When asked about the timeline for a decision, the board said it will move the process as quickly as possible. They have chosen to go to this special meeting process and commit to a 10-day warning process once a complete proposal is received.

### Budget discussion

- Mark and Robert presented revised budget draft and updated schedules for various reserve funds. The board discussed line items and asked for some updates prior to the 1/12 work session.
- Mark will prepare a full budget with all notes and suggestions incorporated. Special budget meeting to be held on Wed., January 12, 2022 to review in detail and finalize.

#### **Action Items:**

**Motion:** Nancy Boss made a motion to approve payment to Lincoln Applied Geology for the annual monitoring review of the capped landfill as invoiced. Eric Cota second.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

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

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/21/21 as presented. Nancy Boss second.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to approve the annual certificate of mileage from VTrans. Nancy Boss second.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** Nancy Boss moved to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Eric Cota second.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Elder, SB Assistant

Budget Meeting 1/12/22

Next regular meeting 1/18/22

**TOWN MEETING – FEBRUARY 26, 2022**