

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of November 15, 2022
Unapproved

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

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Matt Harding, plus 4 candidates interviewing for positions.

Interviews for two positions – Finance/Treasurer and Town Administrator – were conducted from 5 to 6:15 in Executive Session prior to the opening of the public portion of the meeting.

Chair Koran Cousino called to the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. at the town clerk's office and via Zoom.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Visitor Matt Harding attended. He is purchasing property in Starksboro and there is a request for release of lien rights pending Selectboard approval. It will be discussed later under mail review.

Road Foreman report

Sheldon Trucks is going out of business as of 12/31/22. A new truck had been previously ordered but the actual build won't start until January. Josh recommends that the town consider terminating the order and ordering a different truck. Sheldon is the closest Mack dealer and with its closing, the trucks would need to go to Albany or Manchester for repairs. Parts will have to be shipped in. There is no penalty if the order is cancelled by this Friday.

Josh will collect quotes from 3-4 dealers and bring information back to the board.

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to cancel the Sheldon Trucks order. Eric Cota seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Other road maintenance updates:

- Guard rails on Jerusalem Rd
- Stone lined Ireland Rd ditches – should address some of the mud issues because the water has somewhere to go now. See how it fares over the next few months.
- Using the old garage for storage – reducing clutter in the main garage
- Plows ready to go for the winter
- Crushing by McCullough – everything is going up \$1/yd; note for budget
- Change locks on the gate to the garage – a truck came through that was not known

Warrants

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to approve the warrants for bills, orders, and payroll as presented with addition of \$160 for ANR permit for salt shed. Eric Cota seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Mail Review

Motion: Eric Cota moved to approve the release of leased land rights on Quit Claim Deed on 991 Rounds Road, currently owned by Dean Marchacos, and to authorize Koran Cousino to sign on behalf of the town. Nancy Boss seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Selectboard Roundtable

- Discussion of wood remaining from tree that was cut down behind the preschool.
- Pavilion group wants to send a postcard to the grand list suggesting tax-deductible fundraising to support the town green pavilion project at year end. They are a bit over the half way mark to the goal.
- Animal control – A dog owner requested a conversation with a town official other than the ACO to follow up on a complaint and ticket(s) issued. Koran will follow up.

Motion: John Painter made a motion to enter Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1) confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body. Eric Cota seconded. 7:30 p.m.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to exit Executive Session. Eric Cota seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Motion: John Painter made a motion to enter Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) to discuss employment interviews and personnel at 7:30 p.m. Rebecca Elder was invited into the session.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to exit Executive Session. Eric Cota seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

The Board decided to make employment offers to one candidate for the finance position and one candidate for the Town Administrator.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.: Eric Cota, Nancy Boss 2nd.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Selectboard Assistant