

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of 11/17/20
Approved

Board members present: Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, John Painter, Carin McCarthy
Others present: Rebecca Elder, Cheryl Estey, Robert Turner, Amy McCormick, Susan Klaiber, Alan Quittner, Megan Nedzinski, Luke McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

The introductory statement regarding open meeting law and how public meetings are being conducted in the Town of Starksboro due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously, however the meeting was conducted with public access via internet or telephone with the ability to listen/interact contemporaneously.

Road Foreman's Report

- **FEMA** – Finishing the final completed roads submission. H&H study estimates are still outstanding from 2 firms. Once those are received, they will be submitted to FEMA and a vendor can be selected.
- **Mutual aid agreement** – Addison Co. Road foremen in surrounding towns will be meeting to discuss how to proceed through the next few months for sick coverage, especially in light of COVID-related absences.
- Tony will keep the board informed of the local agreements for coverage.
- **Road budget** – Tony will review the budget worksheet and will be prepared to discuss road budget at the next meeting.

Jerusalem Community Center Committee Update

Committee members present included Susan Klaiber, Alan Quittner, Megan Nedzinski, Luke McCarthy

- Committee recognizes the budget limitations on the broader project and vision for the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and fire station.
- **Roof:** This is a high priority and is contributing to the overall deterioration. The roof needs repair ASAP on the schoolhouse portion only. It has a standing seam roof that's ~75 years old. Light can be seen through and there is consistent leaking. The Committee suggests an allocation for roof replacement. A budget estimate for standing seam roof was received last year, though it was high (\$30-40K) and included some other work (soffit repair, trim replacement).
 - Committee will seek additional quotes for better pricing: standing seam vs. metal
 - New underlayment is needed as there is significant damage and rot
 - Historical nature of building – standing seam is preferred
 - If amount is high, an article will be proposed to the voters for town meeting.
- Alan Q. noted that water continues to run downhill and may be causing damage to the schoolhouse wall. Perhaps a temporary drainage fix is needed (gravel, drainage pipe).
- Structural fixes are likely needed for the fire station lean-to but wasn't part of the assessment. Given that the larger renovation project may be on hold for an indefinite period of time, it is hard to know what issues are affecting the building and the scope of quick fix(es).

Budget discussion

Robert Turner prepared a working draft of the current budget and actual budget numbers for projections. Koran worked on a draft with projected numbers inserted based on standard salary COL increases and annual increase for health insurance. The board reviewed the budget line by line on screen and discussed areas that needed more research and information.

Robert will review questions with Celine and bring more information back to the 12/1 discussion:

- Snow removal costs and agreements
- SS/Medicare accounting issue with NEMRC
- COVID related expenses – anticipate for next year
- Electric bills to be distributed to budget lines like the cleaning services
- Major maintenance – flooring for the town clerk's office (remove carpeting)
- Paving of parking lot – post office and town clerk's office/discuss with Tony

Special budget meeting to be held on 12/8/20.

Action Items:

Bills and Orders

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the warrants for bills and payroll as presented by the Treasurer. Eric Cota second.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes – To be reviewed at the next meeting

MOU for EVSE Charging station

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the MOU for the AOT matching grant for the EVSE charging station and to authorize Eric Cota to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. John Painter second.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mail review:

Add the request from ACCT for a letter of support to the next meeting agenda.

Current Business:

Website update: Rebecca will follow up with VC3 regarding their proposal for site redesign.

ZA position: The Selectboard and members of the PC interviewed one candidate for the Zoning Administrator position. The group agreed that the candidate would be a good match for Starksboro. Nancy will contact the candidate to offer the position. Update and final steps will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Eric Cota made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Carin McCarthy second.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder
Selectboard Assistant