

Starksboro Selectboard meeting

December 20, 2023

Unapproved

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

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Nancy Boss, Amy McCormick, Josh Martell, Dennis Casey, Dan Nugent, David Schmidt

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Review of agenda: Added an executive session for attorney-client privileged information regarding a zoning violation.

Planning Commission discussion

Dennis Casey, Dan Nugent, and David Schmidt joined the meeting to talk about the PC's work to date on planning for revisions for expanding allowed uses on Class 3 roads. The bylaws would provide additional guidelines for site plan and conditional use review by the Dev. Review Board (DRB) in these instances. The Selectboard expressed general support for allowing for lower impact uses that would be reviewed by the DRB.

Road Report

- State's Prison Hollow Ext. bridge repair work did not occur over Thanksgiving as planned. A notice from the State was received. Parent Construction will be performing the work to be completed by the end of the week. Local residents have been notified and accommodations for local traffic have been made.

Budget Planning FY24-25

- Draft budget projections presented with budget comparison to FY23 and FY24
- Selectboard instructed that the first payment for the new grader should come out of the emergency reserve fund. This transfer still needs to be made.
- Discussed repairs, maintenance, and major expenses for town buildings. New lines to be created for major maintenance for food shelf and fire station buildings.
- Overall expenditures are on track except for diesel and fuel and some highway expenses.
- Budget for FY25 should include placeholders for matching funds that are needed for bridge repairs on Jerusalem Road (Structures grant received).

Motion: Eric Cota moved to transfer \$5200 from the paving reserve fund to the general fund from FY22-23 for expenses for paving over the culvert replacement on State's Prison Hollow. Carin McCarthy seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion about changing the name of the paving reserve fund to Paving and Maintenance Reserve Fund to include expenses such as crushing and major maintenance. This will be proposed in an article to the voters at Town Meeting. The general use and intent for the fund is the same with some expansion of use and a name change.

Current Business

Town Administrator Report

- A request from FEMA has been received regarding the possibility of placing temporary mobile homes to house people who have been displaced due to the flooding of July 2024. Mark Lopez

(FEMA) and Chris Oulette (ACCT) will join a future meeting to discuss the request and how the program might work for the town and owner of the MHPs.

- A complaint from a resident on Big Hollow was received regarding the winter parking ban. He will attend a meeting in January to discuss his concerns.

Warrants

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll as presented with exception of the United Forestry payment which requires a correction of the amount. John Painter seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Review

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/5/23 with minor corrections as noted. Eric Cota seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Selectboard Roundtable

Baldwin Pond site visit: The Conservation Commission organized a site visit to Baldwin Pond with guest speaker Karina Dailey, who is a Restoration Ecologist on the Vermont Natural Resources Committee and on the VT Dam Task Force. A group of residents attended, including Carin McCarthy and Amy McCormick, Margi Gregory, Jennifer Lovett, Dan Hale (dam owner), Rick Davis and others.

Executive Session

Rebecca received information from the town's attorney regarding a pending zoning violation.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion that premature general public knowledge about a pending zoning violation would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

Motion: Carin McCarthy 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. Nancy Boss and Rebecca Elder were invited into the session. Eric Cota seconded both motions.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Motion to exit Executive Session: John Painter, Eric Cota second. Approved unanimously. No action was taken.

Motion to adjourn: Eric Cota made a motion at 7:51 pm. John Painter seconded.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Town Administrator