

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of 2/1/22
Unapproved

Board members present: Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, John Painter, Carin McCarthy
Others present: Rebecca Elder, Mark Kingsley, Rebecca Elder, Tony Porter
Guests: Rob Liotard, Jill Paul, Anne Sasso, Jeff Dunham, Betsy Dunham

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Koran Cousino at the Town Clerk's office and via Zoom.

Changes or Additions

Change of order on agenda:

Visitor's Business

Susan Klaiber has prepared the application for site plan review and a waiver request for the proposed Fire Station #2 in South Starksboro, adjacent to the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. The hearing will be held this upcoming Thursday, 2/10 at 7pm. Koran and Rebecca will attend. The committee will take comments and offer an update at town meeting during non-binding business.

Fire Dept Update

Tom Estey described work that might be needed at fire station in the next year. The furnace has issues that are getting worse. It is a 25-year boiler and this is year 23 in its lifecycle. Tom has requested quotes for replacement boiler (oil vs. propane burner - \$600 difference). Oil boiler currently there is on a combustible platform (over the meeting room) and needs to be addressed.

Request from Preschool

The Starksboro Cooperative Preschool would like to have a portable fire pit by the community garden. The goal is to extend outside time during normal preschool hours. The board approved the request. Eric said there should be a training and ensure someone knows how to use a fire extinguisher, etc. Koran will convey safety etc. SCP should make a plan that is specific to them, which can also be an educational opportunity for the kids.

Town Report check in

Follow up review of procedure – debrief and document procedure for next year to help save time. The preparation of the report rests with the auditors and town clerk with support from the SB Assistant. The final town report is available in electronic PDF format and will be posted on the town website. Paper copies will arrive ~2/17 and can be picked up at the town clerk's office.

Selectboard Roundtable

Towns and boards now have the option to be fully virtual at future meetings with the passage of Act 74. A physical meeting location is not required for 2021. The Selectboard will continue to meet in a hybrid model with Zoom participation available.

Warrants

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.**

Minutes Review

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/4, 1/12, and 1/18 as presented with one addition to the minutes of 1/18. Carin McCarthy second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Review revised proposal from Mt. Abe Snow Sports club

The board received and reviewed the revised proposal from MASSSC. Board members agreed that sufficient information was submitted in the revised proposal to move forward with scheduling a special meeting. The board will also consider a site visit prior to the meeting. There was a question raised regarding local Sheriff's involvement: Koran confirmed with the Sheriff's office that they do not do any enforcement related to snowmobiles. That is handled by VT Fish and Game wardens and the State Police.

- Special meeting date will be **March 8, 2022** - Rebecca to confirm Robinson School availability
- Koran to follow up with legal counsel regarding warning and process

Selectboard Meeting schedule changes:

- Mar. 1 (Tuesday) – Town Meeting Voting Day – no Selectboard meeting
- Mar. 2 (Wednesday) - Regular Selectboard meeting
- Mar. 8 (Tuesday) – Special meeting re: snowmobile access request
- Mar. 15 (Tuesday) – Regular Selectboard meeting

Road Foreman Report

FEMA updates:

Rebecca participated in a FEMA call regarding mitigation evaluation of the Ben Roberts culvert project. Brent at Otter Creek Engineering is managing the bid process. There is discrepancy between state permitting rules and FEMA 100-year flood rules. Because a stream alteration permit isn't required, FEMA can only pay for certain upsized culvert. OCE will re-quote the options available and determine if the town will need to cover any additional costs, depending on the final culvert replacement chosen.

A similar mitigation evaluation is required for the Brown Hill bridge project.

Tony requested town cell phone so that all roads related calls go to that number. When Tony is on vacation or unavailable, another road crew member can have the phone for managing communications. The board agreed.

Visitor Questions re: Snowmobile Access

Rob Liotard asked when and how folks should submit additional comments. Koran stated that if there is new information to share, please send it in to the Selectboard either via email or mail. Betsy Dunham also asked for clarity about the special meeting process. Koran will be discussing further with legal counsel and details will be posted on the website in preparation for the special meeting on 3/8.

Motion to go into Executive Session

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Eric Cota second. Rebecca Elder and Tony Porter were invited into the session. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion: Eric Cota moved to exit Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. Nancy Boss second.

Motion approved unanimously.

No decisions were made as a result of Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm: Carin McCarthy moved, Eric Cota second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder
SB Assistant