

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes of February 21, 2023  
Unapproved

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**Board members present:** John Painter, Carin McCarthy, Nancy Boss

**Unable to attend:** Koran Cousino, Eric Cota

**Others present:** Rebecca Elder, Dennis Casey

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Vice-Chair John Painter called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. at the town clerk's office and via Zoom.

### Additions/Changes to the Agenda

None

### Visitor's Business

Dennis Casey attended to discuss two topics:

- Library septic system questions: The library board is exploring what options are available for various upgrades to the Town Hall building and want the wastewater system to be in compliance in preparation for future renovations. The drywell is on the NW corner of the building and it is settling. A septic tank could be installed to bring up to date. Test pits are needed to determine if a leach field can be placed. Estimated costs would be +/- \$3000 for a tank. Leach field, plumbing, and excavation costs would need to be determined for a budget. D. Casey stated that Jeff Keeney has extensive knowledge of the land and soils and would be a good choice for completing the design plan. There was some testing on the hill previously done by Lincoln Applied Geology a few years ago.
- Winter sand capacity – There is a dwindling supply of sand for winter road maintenance. The town has hired D. Casey to do stripping of land adjacent to the Huber property on east side of 116 south of the village. The Town may wish to consider sand capacity for the future and whether acquiring additional land for this purpose is a wise capital investment or if the town will shift to purchasing sand from other sources. Financial comparison of options is needed.

### Warrants

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll as presented by the Treasurer. John Painter seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

### Review of Minutes

One correction was noted for the minutes of 1/17. There was no quorum for approving the 2/8 minutes and therefore approval postponed to future meeting.

### Town Meeting

BCA will meet to review schedule and duties. There will be childcare provided by volunteers.

### Certificate of No Appeal

The Listers presented the certificate of no appeal to the Selectboard. There were no grievances filed.

**Motion:** Nancy Boss moved to approve the Certificate of No Appeal as presented by the Listers. John Painter seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

### Town Clerk and Administrative Updates

Amy requested permission to make minor schedule changes to her hours through this spring to attend family events. The board expressed support for these schedule adjustments. Amy will provide advanced notice of changes to the office hours when needed.

Rebecca provided general updates:

1. Meeting with Addison Co. Regional Planning to discuss various grant opportunities for Starksboro. Andrew L'Roe is helping identify emergency mgmt. related funding streams. Maddi Shropshire is working on energy related grants including "MERP" (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) that offers up to \$500K implementation funds for energy related projects at town buildings. Current town projects that need funding (Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Fire House #2; Town Hall/Library; pavilion and town green) and long-range projects were discussed.
2. DPS Risk Assessment completed
3. Grant application for a generator for the town garage/emergency use is due 2/24; working with ACRPC to submit. Grant is through Homeland Security.
4. Energy Committee requested support for efforts related to an energy efficiency campaign (website updates, mailings, outreach).
5. FEMA projects admin costs are now being reimbursed at 90% instead of 75% and we should receive funds in the next 3 weeks for projects that have already been paid (Totals: \$72,018 Fed share/\$8002 local share. \$12,003 due to the town)
6. Reconciliation statements – Julie provided reconciliation for your review and signature. This is our internal review mechanism and needs to be done regularly going forward.
7. Met with ACCT park manager regarding several permits for projects in the MHPs. Two applications are for after-the-fact permits. ACCT is working cooperatively with the Town to alert residents that they must get permits for sheds and decks, etc.

#### Tobacco license application

**Motion:** Nancy Boss moved to approve the tobacco license application for "Distant Thunder LLC " (dba Jerusalem Corners Country Store". Carin McCarthy seconded.

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

#### Selectboard roundtable

Pavilion project: There is +/- \$12,000 raised so far. \$22K is needed for materials and erecting frame. The group requests permission to access funds available to purchase materials now to allow construction this spring (doesn't include roof or labor or solar). An ARPA request for \$20K is pending.

**Motion:** Nancy Boss moved to allow the use of the available pavilion funds. John Painter seconded.

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

**Motion:** Nancy Boss moved to enter Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. 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. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** Nancy Boss moved to exit Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. John Painter seconded.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

A special meeting will be scheduled: dates under consideration 2/27, 3/3, 3/6 – Rebecca will confirm.

**Motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.:** Nancy Boss moved, Carin McCarthy seconded.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Elder  
Town Administrator