

Starksboro Selectboard meeting  
March 12, 2024  
Unapproved

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**Board members present:** Koran Cousino, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy, John Painter, David Schmidt  
**Others present:** Rebecca Elder, Amy McCormick, Josh Martell, Nancy Boss, Luke McCarthy, Susan Klaiber, Alan Quittner, Tom Estey

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Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Changes to agenda:** Adjustment to hold board reorganization votes to later in meeting when all board members would be present.

**Public comment:** none

### Road Foreman's Report

- Brief discussion about the repairs to the loader and predicted equipment life. Josh received an estimate for a replacement with trade in amount. This piece of equipment is on the replacement schedule for FY26-27.
- Josh reported he had to purchase stone to help maintain the dirt roads with the large amount of mud this year. Stone was needed instead of the usual town stock gravel. They dropped 980 yds on several unpaved roads throughout town.
- 3 trucks broke down yesterday – various repairs required
- FEMA drawn down request – The board chose not to submit a draw down request now. The request will be held for a later date after the final FEMA review of the cost change request has been processed.

**Motion:** John Painter made a motion to reimburse the library director's reimbursement request. Eric Cota second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

### Jerusalem Committee

Luke McCarthy, Susan Klaiber, Tom Estey, and Alan Quittner attended on behalf of the JCC committee. They reviewed the most recent estimate information received from the architect's estimator. It included several items that did not need to be in the estimate because funds were already set aside for the wastewater replacement and other work. The group agreed that the estimate was too high and they are looking to have a more accurate estimate done by a building company that constructs metal buildings similar to the proposed Fire Station. No further information or work is needed from the architect.

Discussion included ways to utilize and leverage the ARPA allocated funds and planning for finding a general contractor. Luke will contact some builders such as Neagley and Chase, Naylor and Breen, and others who construct similar buildings and request cost estimates.

The septic replacement is scheduled for late spring when the roads are no longer posted. Lead remediation work will also happen in the next couple months which will allow the building to be used by the public.

It was noted that the estimates from the architect were based on their assumptions about materials. The committee hasn't been involved in those conversations and there may be savings in costs for flooring, windows, doors, etc. The most important work is to make the building usable.

### Warrants

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll with one correction. John Painter second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

## Review of minutes

**Motion:** John Painter made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/6 and 2/20 as presented. Eric Cota second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

## Seasonal Road Crew compensation

- The board reviewed when a seasonal hire would be deemed a contractor (using contractor equipment) vs. when to be paid as an employee (using town equipment under direction of road foreman).
- John noted that there should be parameters on the number of hours and scope of work as determined by the road foreman (# of hours needed, not working full days unless specified)

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to pay \$30/hr for a seasonal substitute road crew member when employed and using town equipment. John Painter second.

**Vote:** Motion approved EC, CM, JP, DS (KC recused)

**Motion:** John Painter made a motion to disburse ARPA funds in the amount of \$50,000 allocated to the Starksboro Meetinghouse and Preschool projects. David Schmidt second.

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

*Note:* The Meetinghouse and Preschool are working together on the project. The Preschool will serve as the financial recipient per memo from K. Tierney/Meetinghouse.

## Mail review

- Reviewed and signed the certificate of highway mileage with no changes.
- Reviewed and signed the certificate of compliance of Town Road and Bridge Standards (required by the State of Vermont for grant eligibility).
- Thank you notes were received from several recipients of town appropriations.
- Letter received confirming annual landfill monitoring was completed and reported to the State of Vermont.

## Annual Business

**Meeting schedule:** Tuesdays at 5:30 - first and third week of the month

**Meeting location:** Town Clerk's office and Zoom

**Physical posting locations:** Town Clerk's office, Post office, Jerusalem Country Store

**Newspaper of record:** Addison Independent

**Motion:** Koran Cousino nominated John Painter as vice chair. Eric Cota second.

**Vote:** Motion approved KC, CM, EC, DS (JP recused)

**Motion:** Eric Cota nominated Koran Cousino as chair. John Painter second.

**Vote:** Motion approved EC, CM, JP, DS (KC recused)

**Selectboard Roundtable:** Chili cook off event Saturday, 3/16

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm: Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy second.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder, Town Administrator