

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes of 4/5/22  
Unapproved

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

**Unable to attend:** -

**Others present:** Rebecca Elder, Herb Olson, Dennis Casey, Amy McCormick, Nancy Cornell, Rob Liotard

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The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Koran Cousino at the Town Clerk's office and via Zoom.

### Changes or Additions

- Maps – GIS mapping proposal (current biz)
- VT Homeowners Assistance Program – Town needs to register
- Quick pavilion question – SB roundtable
- Website request Conservation Commission

Visitor's Business - none

### Road Foreman's Report

FEMA – Two remaining projects are moving slowly. We continue to wait for FEMA's response.

Job applications – only one has been received; applicant should be interviewed soon.

Tony reported that the truck ordered is likely delayed in production. Many towns are seeing the same.

Advertising will be run again. Koran suggests looking for contracted truck for hauling new crushed materials to help take stress off the crew. There is work needed for grants that are in progress.

Koran received an email about another grant opportunity for bridge work, which the town did not pursue last year. She will forward.

### ARPA Funding Discussion

Response to the FPF post was good and 10 people have expressed interest in serving on the committee. Ideal group size is 5 to 9. Discussion included the variety of options for committee formation and ways to achieve representation of a cross-section of Starksboro residents. Some towns have included *ex officio* members from other town entities (Planning Comm., Conservation Comm., Energy Comm., Library, etc.) Koran has contact VLCT for additional guidance regarding whether committee members must be registered voters. Carin noted that several people on the list are not currently serving in another capacity and this is an opportunity for newer community members to get involved. Board members will consider and decide on structure at future meeting.

The group reviewed the draft rubric, which a tool for the committee to have a structure for evaluating proposals. It is one of the tools to be used but it is not a "highest score wins" structure. There may be other ways that choices are made based on a variety of factors. The committee and Selectboard will determine how priorities are weighted and not necessarily decided quantitatively.

### Next steps:

- Carin will make edits to the rubric as discussed and send out to board and Rebecca
- Committee application – 500 words about why you want to participate and serve; include the description of the charge from VLCT model; Rebecca will send to those interested

- Board will consider dates and format for public planning session for information gathering and community input

### MAUSD Withdrawal Petition

Nancy Cornell and Herb Olson attended to update the Selectboard on the petition and review the dates, materials, and warnings for a special town meeting that will be required in response to the petition from the voters. The SOS petition was presented to the Town Clerk and Amy verified 208 signatures.

Informational meetings needed: to be held in person and Zoom for the Selectboard meeting. Proposed dates – Apr 28, May 5 – to be confirmed depending on availability of the Robinson School.

Special election to be held at a special town meeting – May 10

If the article passes, the next step is a ratification vote from the other towns. There is an Aug 8 primary election when this could be scheduled.

Nancy Cornell reminded the group that it is a comingled vote, not a vote by town.

Koran asked what the impact on the district is from Lincoln and possibly Starksboro withdrawing. The SOS group is working on that information and seeking additional info from the school administration.

The board wants to verify everything with Jim Carroll, who is the town's legal counsel for this process. 30-day warning is required. The town plans to use Australian ballot unless otherwise directed by counsel. The warning will be signed by the Selectboard and provided at posting locations, website, and the Addison Independent.

Herb will send the warning draft to the board, Amy and Rebecca after the meeting. There will be a special meeting on Thursday, 4/7 at the town clerk's office and in person at 5pm to look at the final warning, approve and sign after counsel has reviewed.

### Current Business

Nancy Boss asked about the status of the CLA. She said there may be reason to contest the CLA; Ferrisburg successfully grieved the CLA. It wreaks havoc with the tax rate. Koran agrees and noted that the town now has back to back years with numbers going down. Amy will inquire with the listers about grievance process.

### Town Clerk's updates:

Requests for consideration of equipment to support work in the Town Clerk's office include:

- Survey scanner to be used for scanning all existing parcel plat maps into the land records digital system. New Haven recently purchased. Cost = \$2700. Amy recommends submitting proposal for ARPA funds or include in next budget.
- Postage machine for town office: Cost = \$57/mo plus postage. The machine allows for exact postage to be determined instead of using stamps and overpaying for larger and odd-sized envelopes and packages. It also saves staff time and streamlines large mailings. The board supports this investment.
- Land records indexing: \$12,675 quote to complete an additional 39 volumes covering 15 years. Amy will create proposal for use of ARPA funds.

### GIS mapping proposal

**Motion:** Nancy Boss made a motion to pay for the GIS mapping as quoted by Christine Chamberlain Mapping from the general fund. Eric Cota second.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

### VT Homeowner Assistance Program

Amy spoke with a town resident today about the VT Homeowner Assistance program. There is an agreement the town needs to fill out to participate. Amy will find out more information about the program, the town's role and permission needed, and provide the board with more information at the next meeting. The program can aid residents with back taxes from during the pandemic emergency.

### Warrants Review

**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.**

### Mail review

Library requests to install a little free library by the commuter shed – have grant funds to do the work. Board agreed by consensus.

### Scheduling special meetings

- Snowmobile access request deliberation – tentatively set for Tuesday, 4/12 at 6pm at the town clerk's office and via Zoom. Alt. date 4/26
- Selectboard retreat – tent. 5/24 (usually in April; delayed due to special town meeting)

### Town Appointments

**Motion:** Eric Cota nominated and Nancy Boss seconded the slate of town appointees as follows:

AC Solid Waste Management District rep. = Susan Jefferies

ACRPC rep = Richard Warren

Maple Broadband rep. = Nancy Cornell

Maple Broadband alt. = Richard Warren

Tree Warden = Tony Porter

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Energy Committee** – Rebecca will confirm the number of positions up for appointment and Koran will follow up with Digger Faesy.

**DRB appointments in June** – Two positions up for appointment; Luke McCarthy expressed interest.

**Motion:** Nancy Boss made a motion to approve minutes of March 8 and March 15 as presented. Eric Cota second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

### SB roundtable

- Fire station – budget discussion for items (furnace repairs, etc.) \$20K est for wall and furnace
- Reserve funds – if you want to use \$ for a project; no concern about surplus, use of funds, can change minds.
- Add LEMP approval for the 4/19 meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Elder, SB Assistant