

Starksboro Selectboard
Minutes of 5/18/21
Approved

Board members: Koran Cousino, Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy, John Painter
Others present: Rebecca Elder, Herb Olson, Liz Fairchild, Nancy Cornell, Amy McCormick and 3 individuals interviewed for finance position

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Koran Cousino.

Changes or Additions:

Visitor's Business

Library Board questions: Liz Fairchild attended to speak about a couple of issues related to the library operations and re-opening plan.

- New board members: Susan Thompson, Becky Trombley, and Christa Finnern
- Liz Fairchild and Katie-Antos-Ketcham are the Library Board co-chairs.
- Library staff wants to reopen in June. They will continue requiring masks indoors to protect children under 12 who cannot receive vaccination yet. They are seeking guidance from the select board re: outside groups/individuals who request use of library space and what protocols should be observed for town buildings.
 - The select board plans to discuss health conditions and re-opening protocols in sync with the recommendations from the State of VT and the CDC. The topic will be a standing item for the next several meetings as circumstances evolve.

MAUSD school district update

Herb Olson and Nancy Cornell attended to update the select board on the facility planning process and the proposals received by the MAUSD board and superintendent. Three proposals were submitted. A merger study committee has been formed with ANWSU to explore possibilities for the future. If the districts were to merge, this would necessitate a governance change. The original Act 46 approval designated one governing board for the district. The Lincoln Select Board will hold a special meeting on Thursday this week to hear about the 3 proposals. Herb will send information to participate online.

Road Foreman's Report

- A small trailer was ordered to replace an old trailer that was made by Tom Estey years ago. The cost is roughly \$4000.
- Tony met with ACRPC Transportation planner Mike Winslow re: funds for stone lining ditches for the Act 64 ongoing road improvements. Town priorities have been Ireland and Hillsboro roads, but the work plan will be adjusted based on ACRPC recommendations.
- Paving reserve – The post office lot paving was to be paid for via funds from the emergency reserve and to be transferred back to the main operating fund. The municipal lot needs resurfacing and Tony would like to do that before the next winter season. Carin mentioned the potential "Town Green" project and possible needs for a walking path and access to parking lot. These should be taken into account when planning the paving work.

Executive Session

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. to conduct interviews for the finance position per 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(A) and (a)(3). Carin McCarthy second. Rebecca Elder and Amy McCormick were invited into the session. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to end the Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Carin McCarthy second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

The board discussed a timeline for reviewing information from the interviews, checking references, and making a formal offer. John will follow up on references for the preferred candidate and will report back to the group, then a special meeting will be scheduled for follow up action.

Warrants for Bills, Orders, and Payroll

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 4/22/21, 5/4/21, and 5/11/21 as presented. Eric Cota second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Mail Review

- Resignation of Assistant Treasurer Amy Mansfield effective June 4, 2021. The Selectboard accepted the resignation with regret and extends thanks to Amy for serving the town as the Assistant Treasurer for several years.
- Annual Landfill Report – The former landfill was inspected to ensure there continues to be no evidence of leakage of any substances or gases detrimental to health or environment. The report was received, all activity was normal, and information was submitted to the State.

COVID Relief Funding

Carin attended the VLCT webinar about the incoming funds that will be designated to municipalities from the federal COVID-19 relief bills. She will share the slides with everyone and send along more information as it becomes available. The board will plan to discuss further in late June once more is known about how the funds can be used and what systems are required for managing the funds (e.g. separate DUNS number, independent auditor review, process of certifying funding, etc.)

Motion to adjourn: John Painter made the motion at 8:26 p.m. Nancy Boss second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder
SB Assistant