

Starksboro Selectboard meeting
Aug. 20, 2024
Approved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, John Painter, David Schmidt, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Amy McCormick, Nancy Boss, Luke McCarthy, Tom Estey, Sheila Knight, Michael Knight, Hillary Knight, Todd Roscoe, Peggy Adams, Theresa Gile, Mellissa O'Bryan, Ernie & Sally Russell

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda:

- Removed road report
- Addition of Executive Session per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) re: personnel

Visitor's Business: none

Warrants

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll as presented. Carin McCarthy second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Mail review

- Received request for release of "Glebe lands" – warn on future agenda
- Received quotes for heat pump replacements at the Town Garage – warn on future agenda

Town Clerk Update

- Election – 361 people voted in Starksboro
- Tax bills have been mailed.

Zoning Update

- DRB hearing scheduled for 8/22.

Disaster Recovery and Potential FEMA Buyouts

Many residents were present for the board discussion about FEMA buyout opportunities. Koran summarized the information that the Town has received from VT Emergency Management, AC Regional Planning Commission, and FEMA. The board answered questions from attendees and a list of outstanding questions was created. Rebecca will seek answers from State and FEMA to assist residents.

Sally Russell expressed thanks to the Fire Dept. and Rescue Service for helping her and Ernie during the storm.

After extensive discussion, the Selectboard members all expressed support for anyone interested in the buyout process and for anyone who opts in after this meeting.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to support the residents in the identified flood areas to proceed with the FEMA buyout process. David Schmidt second.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Jerusalem Fire Station #2

Tom Estey and Luke McCarthy were present to discuss updates to the fire station project. Luke stated he started the building permit but will need assistance from a town staff member to complete some of the responses. Some members of the community and planning commission have offered in-kind support for the fire station construction process.

Library Check in

Cathy Townsend, new Starksboro Library Director, attended to meet the Selectboard and introduce some of the programs she has been working on since joining the Town a couple months ago. In addition to enhancing the library collection and working within the library, Cathy helped the library sponsor a few events including a meet & greet cookout with Vermont Lake Monsters players and a mini-golf course set up under the town pavilion.

Katie Antos-Ketcham was also present to follow up on the concept of a “memo of understanding” or similar agreement between the Town and the Library Trustees to clarify roles and responsibilities. Some of the areas that need clarification are building maintenance and capital planning and use of the upstairs once it is accessible. The library trustees have also been actively reviewing the Town’s personnel policy with the goal to use the same policy with an addendum that is specific to library personnel and operations. That project is ongoing.

The library is also hoping to expand programs and hours in the future if the budget allows. The library board will come to a Selectboard meeting prior to budgeting to discuss goals and plans.

Regional Emergency Management

Dan Kuzio has been attending regional emergency management meetings and is a resource for the community. He plans to send quarterly updates to the Selectboard in the future and is willing to be involved in community emergency management going forward.

Bylaw Revision Update

David Schmidt gave a summary of the status of the Planning Commission’s work on the bylaw revisions. There is an addition of an overlay district to allow for more recreational opportunities. The Selectboard asked for a timeline for when the PC planned to have the draft complete and prepare for public hearings. The process for approval involves a public hearing hosted by the PC, notice to town and adjoining towns, incorporation of public feedback, and then a public hearing hosted by the Selectboard.

Selectboard Roundtable

CDL testing pool – Rebecca asked the board to assign someone to take over the CDL testing pool management during the Town Administrator transition. The management of the portal and arranging of appointments should be managed by office staff (not Road Foreman) or a Selectboard member. The board will determine who can fill this role.

Executive Session

Motion: John Painter moved to enter executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) regarding personnel. Carin McCarthy second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: John Painter moved to exit executive session at 9:15 p.m. Carin McCarthy second.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously. No action was taken.

Motion: Eric Cota moved to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. John Painter second.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder, Town Administrator