

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of 8/3/21
Unapproved

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

Others present: Herb Olson, Mark Kinsley, Robert Turner, Rebecca Elder

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Koran Cousino.

Changes or Additions:

None

Visitor's Business: none

Road Foreman's Report

- Green Lantern Solar – Rebecca will remind them about mowing the former landfill area per lease agreement and confirm date for access with Tony.
- FEMA project update – Some emails have been received but no material updates; engineer has settled on a size for Brown Hill bridge replacement. Nancy will contact Brett at OCE for a prompt response to FEMA's questions.
- Paving of Park & Ride – a matching grant is available with a quick turn around. Tony would like to pursue and will be in touch with Rebecca re: date for submission.
- Mason Hill North traffic concerns – The sheriff has been informed of a variety of issues related to speeding on this road. Tony has looked at the intersection with Big Hollow and does not recommend any other changes at this time. Speed monitoring will take place.
- Parking ordinance – Tony reminded the board of his proposal for a parking ordinance several years ago. The board is ready to consider this again. Tony will send around his suggested draft again to start the conversation.

Treasurer's Report

- Mark presented a Revenue and Expense report and a fund balance report for the board's information and discussion. FY21 books have been closed out. The opening for FY22 is solid. Mark has been working with Robert to confirm balances and note any journal entries needed for clarification with the auditors.
- Mark is working through the grant reporting and income to ensure funds are being tracked appropriately and will be easy to run reports in the future.
- Office operations and expenses are on target: Zoning expenses are down, IT expenses are up, but overall funds are even. The same is true for the highway budget.
- The board reviewed a draft balance sheet with comments from Mark and Robert.
- Robert noted that they have come a long way in confirming numbers and correcting problems. There has been a lot of painstaking work that Mark has done. The work is priming the board for a more effective budget planning process this year. Robert thanked Mark for his work and hopes for continued engagement and more familiarity for everyone on the financial systems.

Warrants

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the warrants for bills, orders and payroll as presented. Eric Cota second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Jerusalem Schoolhouse Zoning permits

Susan Klaiber submitted two zoning permits on behalf of the Town from the Jerusalem Community Center Committee:

1. ZP for construction of Fire Station
2. ZP for addition to the Jerusalem Schoolhouse

At least 7 Starksboro firefighters came to the site visit a couple weeks ago to review the location and proposal. Though the consensus was that a different location would be a better option for the town long term, they did support proceeding with the zoning permit for the current location. Kris will review the applications and determine what DRB review is required.

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve and sign two zoning permits for the construction of a new fire station and construction of an addition to the Jerusalem Schoolhouse as presented. Carin McCarthy second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Current Business

Future of Robinson School forum & MAUSD reorganization

John contacted Lincoln and Ripton selectboards and will be meeting with them to learn more about their research and considerations. John also spoke with Starksboro MAUSD board rep. Brad Johnson and has requested a meeting with Sup. Patrick Reen. John presented a draft agenda for the community forum that the group reviewed and discussed. Nancy Cornell and Herb Olson will participate to present their proposal and will answer questions as they come up during the forum. Nancy shared talking points from the discussion with Lincoln for reference.

The group agreed that the purpose of the forum is provide residents with information so they can process and consider the options that will affect Robinson and the community. Eric stated he does not think the board should take a position. Others agreed. Group consensus is that the board's role is to disseminate the facts and work to ensure taxpayers have the right to vote; the people should decide. The board discussed how to get the word out and encourage attendance. Messages will be put out on FPF, the town website, FB, and a note was included in the recent Addison Independent. Rep. Caleb Elder and Mari Cordes will be invited along with other local officials. Nancy has sent a note to her contact list as well.

Forum date: August 10, 2021, 6 p.m.

Town Green Pavilion Update

Carin reported 10 responses were received so far to the Google form and others have been return to the office. There will be a meeting on 8/11 to do additional planning and to create fundraising plans.

ARPA Funding guidelines

Carin described the need for creating a process to consider opportunities and requests for use of the incoming ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. She suggest establishing a rubric for evaluating proposals and grounding the work in the town plan. The funds are intended to seed opportunities that will create more prospects in the future and *investing in the community*. The goal is to create long-standing impacts. What is needed in Starksboro that we haven't been able to invest in? Examples include: improvements to municipal water systems, year-round childcare system, co-meeting space to provide professional workspace with broadband internet access, etc. This topic will be a focus at the next meeting. Future uses of the former pottery studio are related to this topic.

John suggests that representatives from the PC and other committees be a part of the process to ensure a well-rounded town focus.

Check-ins with committees

The Selectboard will invite 1-2 members from each committee to attend a future meeting to update the board on committee activity and goals. It will be an opportunity for the SB members to learn more about committee work and be a resource for future planning before budget season. PC to be the first invited in September followed by the Energy, JCCC, and Conservation Committees.

Minutes of 7/20/21

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021 with one correction as noted. Eric Cota second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Animal Control Ordinance

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the Animal Control Ordinance as edited. Eric Cota second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

The notice of changes will be posted in town, in the Addison Independent, and on the town website to allow for public comment and opportunity to petition. If no petition, the ordinance goes into effect in 60 days.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Eric Cota second.
Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
SB Assistant