

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
September 2, 2025
Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, Carin McCarthy, David Schmidt, Tony Porter, Eric Cota
Others present: Herb Olsen, Kristen Toy, Brad Johnson, Nancy Cornell

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda: None.

Public comment: No public comment.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to enter executive session for personnel. David Schmidt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: X motioned to exit executive session. X second. Motion approved unanimously.

No action taken.

MAUSD – Robinson Central School: There are two topics at play here. One is at the State level where there is a Statewide redistricting task force. On the local level, Superintendent Reen has stated the district needs to find \$3 million in savings. Of the 7 proposed solutions, all but 2 of them reduce the number of schools in the district from 5 to 3. The Selectboard is in favor of writing a letter to the State of Vermont and to MAUSD, along with help from Save Our Schools.

Library: The Nationwide Technicians will finalize the details of the lift in the week of September 15th. On the same day, the lift inspection will be conducted.

Katie Antos-Ketchum is going to check in about the key that's currently in the lift.

As for the RFB, the Library has two grants, one from the American Libraries Association for \$10,000 and one from Association of Small and Rural Libraries for \$15,000. The slope and service of the walkway continue to be an issue and the library board is hoping to use this money to hire a landscape architect firm to design plans to fix the walkway. The library board is also waiting for grant monies from the Department of Public Libraries for small rural libraries. There is a minimum of \$60,000 worth of work needed to be done to the upstairs of the library which would entail a fire alarm system, a second form of egress, modify rear stairway, upgrading to HVAC and paint for fire safety. Carin McCarthy is happy to be the point person between the library and the Selectboard for this project. Koran Cousino will reach out to the Shepards about putting the egress on the south side.

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to accept the RFB with changes to appropriate dates as needed. Second by Eric Cota. Motion passed.

Current Business:

Town Parking Lot: According to Lisa Daudon's contact, a stormwater permit is not needed for this project. The budget the Town has for this project is the cost to pave the driveway.

Jerusalem Community Center Project: The Project Kickoff meeting went well, and a spring groundbreaking was discussed. Applications for Vermont Bond Bank are due December 15th and we have already received a Preliminary Letter of Opinion from Bond Council. Fund 24 will be used to track this project. The Declaration of Official Intent

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to adopt The Declaration of Official Intent to reimburse certain expenses from proceeds of indebtedness. Tony Porter second. Motion approved.

Budget: The Selectboard would like to start by looking at what buildings and maintenance should occur in FY 26-27 with security cameras being one area of focus.

Ongoing Projects: MERP Grant is in a good place for both the food shelf and Jscool. FEMA Public Assistance – The cost to repair the Brown Hill Bridge may have been underestimated. FEMA is going to cost again. The Town is responsible for a 12.5% match for Brown Hill Bridge and Ireland culvert. FEMA Buyouts – our applications are still pending review.

Unpaid Intern: There is a relative of a resident living here for the next year and is interested in an unpaid internship.

Action: Amanda Vincent to interview candidate and provide recommendation to the Selectboard.

2023 Audit Agreement: RHR Smith noted we didn't have a 2023 agreement on file.

Motion: David Schmidt motioned to sign the RHR Smith agreement from 2023. Second by Carin McCarthy. Motion passed.

Investment Policy tabled to a future meeting.

Carin McCarthy reached out to every committee in town regarding the Harvest Festival encouraging participation. The Harvest Festival will be held in the gym at Robinson Central School from 11-2pm. The Auxiliary is still looking for community members to be involved.

Koran Cousino reached out to Ali Thompson regarding a VC3 invoice and an RHR Smith invoice. The Selectboard pulled out the VC3 invoice. The RHR invoice doesn't match the AP

sheet. **Motion:** David Schmidt motioned to approve AP and Payroll. Eric Cota second. Motion approved unanimously.

Carin McCarthy requested an adjustment to the 8/19 minutes regarding the MAUSD potential school closures to include there is a risk of Robinson closing or enrollment being drastically reduced. Wording to include multiple scenarios with one option being closure or reduction of enrollment at Robinson **Motion:** Tony Porter moved to accept the minutes with the amendment to the school discussion from 8/19. David Schmidt second. Motion approved. Eric Cota abstained.

GMVS is hosting a bike race with 11 students that will take place on Starksboro Roads.

Action: Amy McCormick to follow up about insurance.

Carin McCarthy encouraged the other board members to attend the MAUSD board meetings.

Future Agenda Items: Road Foreman Update, Budget – Facilities & Security, Investment Policy, Rental of Town Buildings Policy

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to enter executive session. David Schmidt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to exit executive session. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Action: Eric Cota motioned to accept the changes detailed in the Treasurer's report regarding vacation and sick time. David Schmidt second. Motion approved.

Motion: Tony Porter moved to adjourn. Second by Carin McCarthy. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Vincent, Town Administrator