

Starksboro Selectboard
Minutes of 10/20/20
Approved

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

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Tony Porter, Celine Coon, Robert Turner, Carin McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Koran Cousino.

The board reviewed the agenda for any changes or additions:

Road Foreman's Report

- Grant was received was bale mulcher that covers 75% of the total cost. The town will share the equipment with Hinesburg. Regional Planning requires reporting on # of acreage covered and photo submitted of the final project.
- RPC grant still not received for work from last year; Tony communicates with Mike at ACRPC regularly. Funds should come by the beginning of 2021.
- RPC grant opportunity for next construction season re: hydraulically connected roads – LOI was sent. If approved, work must be completed by June.
- USDA grant – 120 day extension received for Stokes Hill segment and Tony will apply again to extend until next spring.
- FEMA – No funds have been received for Brown Hill yet. Temporary permit was granted and Tony is waiting for the application for the perpetual permit for the town pit.
 - Ben Roberts and Brown Hill East repairs are idle. FEMA requires 3 bids for the work. The board agreed that Tony should seek 2 additional quotes for the 3 options presented by Otter Creek Engineering for comparison. Rebecca will send Tony the list of firms to contact.
- Unifirst contract proposed for 5 year renewal. Tony will research other options, including costs to purchase uniforms and a washer/dryer to use at the garage. Other considerations in the contract: shop rags (provided and washed); utility carpets for garage entry, kitchen and office.
- Rental bill from Nortrax should be recoded for crushing line item.

Road Reserve Fund discussion

Robert Turner presented a spreadsheet for board members tracking reserve fund expenditures and projections. A variety of options for adjusting the schedule were discussed including trading the tandem 2 years earlier to avoid the peak in expenses as projected. Its important to remember that equipment usually takes a year for delivery from order time, so that should be anticipated as well. Robert suggested it would be helpful if a statewide organization would collect some of the key data points so that all towns could be more efficient with budgeting and projections. Perhaps VT Local Roads program or RPCs could take this on. John expressed interest in looking at the calculations and will follow up with Robert directly. Robert noted he used 2.5% as the financing rate for projections. He will present similar information in November on the Fire Dept. Reserve fund.

Recycling Center Update

Koran spoke volunteers who have joined together to carry on recycling efforts as a committee in Starksboro. Erin Bent, Steve Rooney and Louis duPont and others have stepped into the role Jennifer Turner held. Recycling hasn't brought in as many donations recently and we are currently \$600 over budget for the year. The board discussed some concerns and options for changing the structure of the recycling program but decided to leave things as is for now. The town wants to promote recycling and no have barriers for doing so locally. Roadside trash is reduced as well.

Selectboard vacancy

Carin Hoffman McCarthy responded to the Selectboard vacancy posting. She has lived in Starksboro for much of her life, attended Robinson elementary and Mt. Abe. She and her husband Luke live in South Starksboro and own a small B&B business there. She expressed interest in how decisions affect people and the importance of equity. She appreciates different perspectives that board members bring.

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to appoint Carin H. McCarthy to fill the vacant seat on the Selectboard until March 2021. Eric Cota second.

Motion approved unanimously.

This seat will be up for election at Town Meeting in March. Rebecca will send Carin introductory materials and policies. Carin will connect with Cheryl to take the oath.

Bills/Orders

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the warrants for bills and orders as presented by the Treasurer. Eric Cota second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes – review postponed.

Post office lease:

Koran gave an update on the final updates made to the lease per the discussion at the 10/7 board meeting. The commission fee was removed. All the rest of the issues were resolved and incorporated. Jim Runcie reviewed the lease on behalf of the Town.

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the US Post Office lease for five years for the existing building with conditions as proposed in the lease. Nancy Boss second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Mail review

1. **MAUSD** – Sup. Patrick Reen requested a one-hour meeting with the Selectboard regarding the town's input on potential school closures and affects on Starksboro. The meeting is needed soon and prior to the next regular SB meeting. The board designated John Painter and Carin McCarthy to schedule a meeting with Sup. Reen and to report back to the full board on 11/10.
2. Cota field bridge – Louis du Pont sent an email regarding the proposed repairs to the Cota field foot bridge. Eric said he thinks the town should not continue with repairs if the design will not meet FEMA standards. The board does not support use of town funds for repairs. It will likely be fixed with volunteer labor and donated materials via the Conservation Commission.
3. BCA meeting – Cheryl will confirm the BCA meeting regarding election day.

Zoning Administrator position

Rebecca provided draft copy of an employment ad and application form for board review. The group agreed on the text. The position will be advertised in the Addison Independent, on Front Porch Forum, the town website, Linked In, and other free job posting boards online. Applications are preferred by November 13; interviews tentatively planned for 11/17 at the regular board meeting.

Pottery Studio lease

Koran provided an update on the lease status. Rent has been paid. Proof of liability insurance has not been presented. The 30-day warning period has passed. The board will follow up with Jim Carroll regarding next legal steps.

Animal Control Policy review

Attorney Kevin Kite (Carroll, Boe, and Pell) is reviewing the Town's current animal control policy to help provide better language to address certain sections of the policy. The board will review the suggestions at a future meeting.

Green Lantern Solar lease amendment

An amendment to the GLS lease was proposed. The information was sent to Jim Carroll for review. The responses have been forwarded back to GLS. Rebecca will follow up to coordinate communication between GLS and the town attorney. When the issues are resolved, the final amendment will be brought back to the board for approval and recording.

Executive Session

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to enter Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) re: contracts and/or labor relations agreements with employees. John Painter second. The board invited Carin McCarthy into the executive session.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to end Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Nancy Boss second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Action as a result of ES:

Rescind the approval of warrants as noted earlier in the meeting.

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve all warrants except certificate #V8675888740 on the BCBS bill. Nancy Boss second.

Motion approved (3 yes – Cousino, Boss, Painter; 1 abstained – Cota)

Motion to adjourn: John Painter moved to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Nancy Boss second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Selectboard Assistant