

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting

April 4, 2017

Selectboard members Present: Peter Marsh, Tony Porter, Susan Jefferies (Chair), Koran Cousino, Keegan Tierney
Others present: Tom Estey, Celina Aiguier

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Bills/Orders: P. Marsh made a motion to approve bills and orders. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.

Minutes: S. Jefferies moved to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 Selectboard meeting. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

Road Foreman's report:

- T. Estey reported that the drive shaft had twisted off the sander which was later fixed. He also mentioned that the grater with chains was used after the heavy snowfall on Saturday. He mentioned that new springs will need to be put on the 1 ton truck. T. Porter mentioned that dirt roads will be ready for scraping and sanding once they dry out. T. Estey let the board know future projects include lining road ditches with stone, and rebuilding part of Big Hollow and Jerusalem road.

Mail:

- **Vermont Woodlands Newsletter.**
- **Certificate of Liability Insurance** from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for a charity bike race.
- **Addison Northeast Supervisory Union** sent a letter seeking an applicant from Starksboro for the 13 member school board due to a recent vacancy.

New Business

- **Green Lantern Solar Proposal:** S. Jefferies will invite a representative of Green Mountain Solar to the next Selectboard meeting to hear their proposal. She has mentioned to them that there are other pieces of land in Starksboro that could also be potential spots for the proposed solar array.
- **Website:** The board discussed some website designs they thought could be beneficial to consider for the Starksboro website update. S. Jefferies is unsure if the Snelling Institute is still available for website help but she will contact them. If they are available for assistance she will ask a representative to meet with the board and discuss the changes they would like to implement in the website and to also get design ideas and feedback. K. Cousino noted that Erin Buckwalter and Rebecca Elder have experience with website design and the board may consider contacting them as well. K. Cousino volunteered to work on a mock up design for the website with the ideas they discussed.
- **Community Involvement:** The Selectboard discussed strategies to do a better job getting information out to the townspeople ahead of discussions at their final stages. The topic turned to the Town Plan that is currently being reviewed with the Planning Commission and whether the Selectboard and the Commission could coordinate their respective communication campaigns. K. Cousino volunteered to follow up with the Chair of the Commission regarding this strategy.
- **Selectboard Assistant Position:** S. Jefferies reported that she put a job posting for the Selectboard Assistant in the Gazette and the Starksboro website. She will also add a posting to the Front Porch Forum. One applicant has responded. A deadline for the applications was discussed and it seemed mid-April or the beginning of May may be appropriate. This issue will be discussed further at the April retreat meeting. The Selectboard will also come up with a list of interview questions for the applicants and questions for the applicants' references at this upcoming meeting.
- **Town Mowing bids:** T. Porter contacted Paul at Scenic Valley Landscaping. He received bids for the town garage and the Jerusalem school house in the amount of \$45.00 per mow/trim at each location. T. Porter

reported the new bids fall within range of mowing prices at different locations in Starksboro. The board agreed that the bids are reasonable. S. Jefferies requested that T. Porter check with Cheryl Estey to ensure that the town office is happy with the mowing that is done by Scenic Valley around the town buildings. T. Porter will contact the person that has mowed the Jerusalem site in the past regarding the liability insurance requirement for all mowing in Starksboro. K. Cousino contacted the sports program and they supported the 3 year mowing bid from Dan Gebo for Cota Field in the amount of \$2995.00 per year. T. Porter made a motion for a 3 year contract at \$2995.00/year. P. Marsh seconded. Board approved. K. Cousino agreed to ask D. Gebo for proof of liability insurance.

- **Signage research:** T. Porter discussed a possible sign change needed at the intersection of Route 17 and Lafayette road as this can be a dangerous intersection. He indicated that it could be helpful to contact the Starksboro Regional Planning Commission to see what the next step forward is to get a new sign there. He will follow up with Jan McCleery at the Regional Planning Commission.

Old Business:

- **Friends of Jerusalem school house (FoJS) committee:** T. Porter reported that a FoJS committee meeting is set for May 10.
- **Judith Bryant Pottery Studio Lease:** S. Jefferies followed up on Bill Coon's letter of concern specifically regarding insurance coverage of the Starksboro Community Center building. She verified with Jim Runcie that all steps have been taken so that the whole building is covered under insurance. P. Marsh mentioned that after review of the lease he discovered language of liability and indemnity that appear to show that the renter could be liable for the whole building not just the pottery space. He is following up with Jim Runcie to ensure this is not the case and whether updating the language of the lease is needed before it is signed.

Agenda Items for April 18, 2017:

- Green Lantern Solar Proposal
- Website
- Mowing
- Judith Bryant Studio Lease

The next meeting will be on April 18, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Minutes submitted by Celina Aiguier