

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Tony Porter, Susan Jefferies (Chair)

Others present: Dan Baker, Norman Cota, Eric Cota, Dennis Casey, Kerry Kurt, Gary Kessler

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

Minutes: T. Porter moved to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2016 Selectboard meeting. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

Bills: T. Porter moved to instruct the Treasurer to pay the bills as presented. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved. P. Marsh moved to authorize the Treasurer to pay bills as needed for payroll, debt payments and other liabilities that may be due before a Selectboard meeting is scheduled.

Visitor's Business:

- **Petition to Vote on Zoning Regulations** – Dan Baker asked about the timing of a vote on the petition. The Selectboard will hold an informational meeting before the vote and will check with Robinson School to see whether voting on September 20 or September 27 better fits the school schedule.
- **Town Cemeteries** – Norm Cota and Eric Cota discussed maintenance needs at the town cemeteries. The most pressing issue is to remove a dead cedar tree and widen the gate at the Starksboro Village cemetery. T. Porter will get estimates for this. Other items include repairing the fence and removing brush at Butler cemetery, repairing headstones at Jerusalem cemetery, and tree trimming at the Norton cemetery. T. Porter mentioned that grants may be available to help with the cost, and asked N. Cota to check with the Vermont Cemetery Association for assistance with grants.
- **Green Mountain Stage Race** – Gary Kessler discussed safety concerns about the four day bicycle race. T. Porter said that he has noticed motorcycle officials driving on the wrong side of the road and being somewhat aggressive with vehicle traffic. G. Kessler will review procedures with all race officials. There was discussion about the effect of closing Rte 17 for part of Sunday. G. Kessler will talk with local businesses. G. Kessler also provided a certificate of insurance naming Starksboro as an additional insured. P. Marsh moved to approve the consent to use public roads for the race. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.
- **Sale of Land at Gravel Pit** – Kerry Kurt expressed concern about possible Development Review Board requirements related to the sale. She stated that additional DRB requirements could impair the value of her contract with the town. S. Jefferies noted that the contract has always been subject to DRB approval. K. Kurt said that the DRB should not be allowed to impose any additional conditions.

K. Kurt also noted that the backup alarms at the town garage are extremely loud and the noise comes right into her house. There was discussion about the berm to be constructed now that the garage is complete, and also about K. Kurt's preferences for road location. The road has not been completed, and she is planning to have the mobile

slaughtering unit on her property around August 5. The Selectboard agreed that she could use the town road for access.

Mail:

- **Telling and Associates** – P. Marsh moved to approve the letter of engagement with Telling and Associates for the FY15-16 audit. T. Porter seconded. Voted and approved.
- **Cortland Construction Contract** – T. Porter moved to authorize Tom Estey to sign on behalf of Starksboro the contract with Cortland Construction for culvert replacement on Ben Roberts Road. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.
- **Celebration of Community** – The Conservation Commission is coordinating a celebration of community and would like the fire station and town garage to be open for visitors during the celebration.

Old Business:

- **Town Garage Construction** – T. Porter said that the lights still need to be fixed. Russell Construction is aware of this and will schedule the electrician.
- **Class 4 Roads and Trail Policy** – The Selectboard reviewed a draft policy. P. Marsh suggested changed to include requiring a bond or deposit for third party work, and to indicate what areas are the responsibility of the Selectboard. There was discussion about reclassifying parts of Mason Hill and Perry Sweet Roads as trails instead of class 4 roads.
- **Increasing Selectboard to 5 Members** – The Selectboard will schedule a town meeting to vote on this issue at the end of November or early December. The increase has to be approved by a voice vote at a warned meeting in time for petitions to be submitted for the Australian ballot vote in March 2017.

New Business:

- **Tax Rate** – The tax rate cannot be set until the education tax rate is available. This is necessary to calculate the amount of education tax that must be raised for the excess disabled veterans' exemption.

Agenda Items for August 2, 2016:

- Class 4 Roads and Trails Policy
- Appointments to Development Review Board

August meetings will be on the 2nd and 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jefferies