

Starksboro Selectboard

Minutes of Sept 17, 2019

Unapproved

Present: Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, Keegan Tierney, Nancy Boss

Others: Tom Estey, Rebecca Elder

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

Additions to the agenda:

1. Request for motion for payment of the EV charging station installation balance pending completion
2. Discussion re: adding signatory to the town bank account

Road Foreman Report

- The crew has been worked at Mason Hill North: 1900' of road fabric has been placed and topped with gravel.
- Salt contract is in place for the winter: price went down slightly.
- New crew member is learning the roads and helping with all road maintenance work.

Review letters of interest for Selectboard vacancy:

Four individuals have expressed interest in the Selectboard vacancy. The board will invite candidates to attend the meeting on 10/1/19 for an informal conversation about their interest. An appointment will be made either at the 10/1 or 10/15 meeting. (Interested candidates: Greg Hahr, Jeff Dunham, Ryan Senna, and Nick Bissonnette)

Animal Control ordinance

Given the timing of the new model policy released by Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the board decided to postpone the adoption of the new policy until a later meeting so that they can review the changes recommended by VLCT and determine whether they should be incorporated into Starksboro's policy. Review to be added to the 10/15/19 agenda. Rebecca distributed the new VLCT template policy for review and summarized the most important changes to consider.

Community Garden requests – Pete Antos-Ketcham

Pete Antos-Ketcham attended on behalf of the Community Garden group to request approval for three projects:

1. Water barrels – There are 2 now for storing water and gardeners can also use the hose attached to the town clerk's office. Many users dip watering cans in barrels to fill and water their plots. The group proposes replacing the barrels with a square water tote. A low shed roof can be placed over the composting bins to collect rain water as well.
2. Greenhouse tunnel – They would like to install a non-permanent hoop house as a greenhouse. This would extend the growing season for gardeners and allow people to start seeds earlier in the spring. There is a natural break near the berm. The board looked at the site and approved pending confirmation of setback distance from the neighboring property. Pete will work with the ZA for a permit.
3. Wash station – request to install a washtub for a washing station near the garden.

The board approved all three requests. Pete has secured funds to pay for these projects.

Administrative Updates

- Municipal credit card: Research on different credit card options has been done. Community Bank N.A. (the town's bank) offers a business card with competitive rates and features needed for municipal accounts. Rebecca will work on the application and acquiring new cards and closing out the previous card account(s).
- IT update: The town's new IT services provider was on site last week to complete the installation of a new firewall and security features to better protect the town from cyberattacks.

Zoning updates

The ZA informed the board of a noise complaint in South Starksboro related to a conditional use approval and permitted business.

Selectboard concerns

- The board would like to further understand what Treasurer's duties are being done by staff in the town office. The board will invite Amy McCormick and Celine Coon to the 10/1 or 10/15 meeting for a discussion.
- The board reviewed a budget status report provided by the Treasurer.
- Food Shelf: The board will invite a representative of the food shelf to the 10/15 meeting to discuss process and procedures related to the food shelf operations. There has been a transition since Laurie Webber stepped down as coordinator and the board would like to ensure there are procedures in place.
- Generator – Still needed at the Town Clerk's office for back up power. The board is collecting additional quotes on electrical installation costs for on-demand generator.

Minutes of 9/3/19

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/3/19 as presented. Nancy Boss 2nd
Motion carried.

Bills/Orders

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the bills and orders as presented by the Treasurer. Eric Cota 2nd
Motion carried.

Request for approval of EV charging station bill: The payment to Cummings Electric to be held until site work is completed satisfactorily per Jeff Dunham. The bill should be submitted for review at 10/1 meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.: Eric Cota moved, Keegan Tierney 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder