

Starksboro Selectboard special meeting

Minutes of 12/10/19

Unapproved

Board members present: Eric Cota, Keegan Tierney, Nancy Boss, Greg Hahr, Koran Cousino

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Tony Porter

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Koran Cousino.

Changes/additions to the agenda:

- Reordered the agenda so Highway budget discussion is first. Animal control updates will be after the budget discussion.

Roads/Highway Budget

- Building maintenance line re: heat – increase
- Diesel fuel costs – could change and alter budget significantly
- Bridges – no funds currently allocated. There are bridges that need repair.
- Crushing – T. Porter will confirm the pricing for next year.
- Paving – The budgeted amount has already been used. Hinesburg Hollow Road will need additional repair in the future. The post office/town building parking lots need to be paved.
- Ireland Rd – Road crew plans for work on a segment from Hurlburt to Parker; guardrails may be needed as well.
- To meet the State requirements for Better Back Roads for the ditching work to be complete by 2025, T. Porter estimates he could use 2 workers in trucks and 1 in an excavator for 2-3 days a week in the summer.
- T. Porter recommends the Town consider purchasing an excavator in the future, as the budget allows in the equipment purchase rotation. It would be a cost savings over time and allow work to be done more efficiently instead of having a machine brought in for each job.
- Foreman requests a cell phone for use by the road crew.
- Highway budget requests are up, some of which cannot be trimmed due to hard costs and purchases that are necessary.
- T. Porter is identifying areas where he wants to do work as part of a longer-term plan for the next couple of years. There likely won't be time for these projects in the next year. (e.g. culvert replacements, lining of ditches, etc.)

Budget Review

The board reviewed line by line, identifying areas where savings could be found and areas that need more investment.

Next steps: Koran and Keegan will go through line by line, ensure edits from their working copies are compiled, and will present the board with another draft for the 12/17 meeting.

Animal Control update

K. Cousino has spoken with Attorney Jim Carroll and the Addison Co. Sheriff about the ongoing complaints regarding dogs on Shamrock Drive.

- The tickets issued have not been paid to date. The law allows the Town to pick up dogs that are not registered.
- When tickets are issued as a deterrent and ignored, the next legal action is issuing a notice of violation.
- A search warrant is required if the dogs are not relinquished to the Sheriff or law enforcement upon request. All information from the Town is submitted to the Addison Co. Superior Court. The warrant gives the sheriff the authority to pick up the dogs.

Motion: Keegan Tierney made a motion to ratify the warrant issued regarding the 3 unregistered dogs at the Shamrock Drive residence and signed by Koran Cousino, Selectboard Chair. Nancy Boss 2nd.

Motion carried.

Motion: Keegan Tierney made a motion to authorize Koran Cousino to sign a warrant to authorize the Starksboro Animal Control Officer and the Addison County Sheriff/law enforcement officers to seize any unregistered dogs in the Town of Starksboro. Nancy Boss 2nd.

Motion carried.

To cure the seizure and regain custody of the animal(s), the owner shall pay all the fees, have a public hearing conducted by the Selectboard, and remedy the violation (e.g. register and vaccinate the animal).

[Animal Control/Dog Ordinance Public Review](#)

The Selectboard finalized and approved the revised, amended Animal Control Ordinance (“Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-hybrids”) on November 19, 2019. The public is notified through the posting of the ordinance in public posting locations in town and in the Addison Independent. The board is making a motion anew (no changes to ordinance) and the 60-day public review period will begin on December 10, 2019. Per VSA Citizens can present a petition within 44 days of the approval. See public posting or call town clerk for more information.

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion anew for the approval of Animal Control Ordinance as presented and approved on 11/19/19. Eric Cota 2nd.

Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.: Keegan Tierney, Greg Hahr 2nd

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder, SB Assistant

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

2nd public hearing on Bylaw Amendments: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

DRAFT