

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting  
June 16, 2026  
Unapproved

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**Board members present:** Carin McCarthy, Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, Tony Porter

**Board members absent:** David Schmidt

**Visitors:** Herb Olson, Michael Miller, Karen Leuders, Nate Gusakov

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Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:52p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda: Add items for Roundtable, Remove Bylaws discussion & Animal Ordinance  
Public comment: None.

**State Representatives Herb Olson and Karen Leuders provided a recap of the recent legislative session.**

Herb Olson discussed education and property tax issues, including school spending caps, reduced local flexibility, and opportunities to lower costs through shared services. MAUSD is participating in a regional merger study that may impact the future structure of the district, and continued advocacy will be important. Concerns were also raised about property tax burdens related to second homes and short-term rentals.

Housing discussions focused on land use changes (Act 181), challenges with rural housing development, and growing community engagement around finding solutions.

Karen Leuders provided updates on civil rights and data privacy, including new protections against the sale and misuse of personal data, civil rights cause of action legislation, and school policies to protect students. The Equal Protection Clause ballot measure and privacy concerns related to genetic data were also discussed.

Health care costs and their impact on insurance, employment, schools, and taxes were reviewed. Cost-saving measures included medication price caps, future pricing reforms, improved access through primary care, and more efficient care models.

Transportation updates included concerns about road conditions, increased transportation funding, town-directed TIFF funding, and new electric vehicle fees to support transportation needs.

**Nate Gusakov was interviewed for the open seat on the Energy Committee.**

Nate Gusakov shared that his interest in this work was sparked through involvement with the MERP program, including audits and renovations at Holley Hall. He discussed the importance of addressing risks associated with aging buildings and taking a proactive approach to energy and maintenance planning. Nate confirmed he can attend monthly meetings and contribute additional time as needed. His flexible schedule, due to owning his own company, allows him to participate effectively. Nate emphasized that durability is a key part of efficiency and highlighted approaches such as embodied carbon modeling, which evaluates the full lifecycle impact of materials, and building failure forensics to better understand and address building needs.

### **Road Foreman update moved to the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

#### **Library Accessibility Project**

Katie Antos Ketcham and Town Administrator Amanda V. put out a bid for engineering work for an accessible pathway to the Library. The library has \$25K in grant money to improve the path to the library and \$10K of that needs to be spent by October 31st, the remaining \$15K doesn't have a deadline

Two strong bids existing, with preference to Civil Engineering Associates

- Dicot Land Studio - complete scope of work from design through implementation.
- Civil Engineering Associates, Inc – Engineers with lots of experience with larger scale projects, including municipalities (Shelburne, Charlotte, Winooski, VTTrans), Civil Engineering Associates has permitting experience which would be helpful given the project is in the State right of way.

Want to address pooling water, ice, slope, angles, proximity to road, permitting with AOT in right of way along roadway. Address pathway between town office and library as one campus.

Katie will contact the firm tomorrow (6/17) and will seek info about additional cost for town related portion. Amy or a selectboard member will be the point of contact for the town.

**Motion:** Carin M. moved to accept the bid from Civil Engineering Associates, Inc, for the projects to be combined and to find out cost for Town related portion of the project to be covered by town budget. Tony P. seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Sherriff's Dept Contract**

**Motion:** Tony P. moved to approve 23hrs/month (the medium plan, less time because their cost went up). Tony asked that we ask for stricter enforcement of speed patrol service in town (more tickets, fewer warnings) and to shift their schedule. Carin M. seconded. Eric C. opposed. Motion carried.

**Town Office Painting** – One bid received and a written quote has been requested from a second provider. Neither will be available for this year. Site evaluation will be done asap to provide quote for the second provider.

**Approve Town Meeting Minutes** – Tony P. moved to approved Town Meeting Minutes 2026. Eric C. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Bylaws - interim adoption of River Corridor Protection\*** - David sent email – revised bylaws will be provided at next meeting. Anticipate statewide River Corridor overlay district in the next two years, but the FEMA financial benefits may not be applied if we don't implement proactively. The River Corridor Protection outlines what can happen in floodways, conditional use, exemptions, prohibitions, etc. Floodway, Flood Hazard area, River Corridor.

The Selectboard is requesting the PC provide Maps of Overlay districts so they can understand landowner restrictions and how much of the town will be impacted by overlay districts.

**Vote on Surpluses** – The Selectboard had questions for Treasurer Ali T. before they made a decision on what to do with any deficits/surpluses. Raises will be determined at a special meeting on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Town Office Updates** – The Jerusalem Center Project is underway. The back half of schoolhouse and fire station have been removed.

**Motion:** Tony P. moved to sign promissory note to refinance the '24 Weston Star Dump Truck with the State of Vermont Municipal Revolving Loan Fund. Eric C. seconded. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Eric C. moved to approve the warrants for A/P and Payroll. Tony P. seconded. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Koran moved to approved minutes from 6/2. Eric C. seconded. Passed.

**Paystubs – Motion:** Tony P. moved to cancel and reissue checks. Eric C. seconded. Motion passed. Carin M. abstained.

### **Round Table**

**Huber Property** – The Selectboard will have Amy reach out and get the site visit in July approved with Seph Huber. Future meetings will discuss acreage, permitting, and budget.

**Banner** – Out of cycle payment, more expensive to pay with credit card so asking for blessing to pay for the banner. **The Selectboard approved a check to pay \$190 to 802 Print.**

Mark Adams approached Tony to dig into his property to change the approach off of the bridge and reset the guard rails better. This would allow the guard rails to move about 7' in from where there are now. There will be a corner to Ed Orvis Road. Mark Adams asks that we do it officially, with legal process and it will need to be contracted out. It will require 1500-2000 yards of material. Pursue legal easement, survey, draw up legal document stating that and get signatures. The Town will seek legal input now and potentially start the project next year.

**250th Celebration** – Many events scheduled. Selectboard is encouraged to attend.

**Motion:** Eric C moved to adjourn. Tony P. seconded. Passed.