

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting

Jan. 8, 2024

Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, Carin McCarthy, David Schmidt, John Painter, Eric Cota
Others present: Amanda Vincent, Amy McCormick, Susan Thompson, Robert Turner, Susan Klaiber, Andrew L'Roe, Keegan Tierney

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda: None.

Public comment: Susan Thompson gave an update on the Town Hall project. Robert Turner informed the board that the Conservation Commission is applying for a grant to repair the bridge at the Creekside Trail.

Addison County Regional Planning Commission: Andrew L'Roe stated that ACRPC is in the process of applying for mitigation grants for projects in Starksboro.

- Sugarhouse Lane – ACRPC is using information already put together by Lewis Creek Association for the application. This project wasn't a state priority, but ACRPC is going to put in an application regardless.
- Lewis Creek Bend – Flood Plain Restoration & Wetland Restoration
- Hillsboro Rd Bridge – FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) needed for this project. Andrew isn't confident we will get funding, but they are going to try.
- Baldwin Pond Dam Removal – VNRC put in an application, but only the town or RPC can apply. ACRPC would be willing to help with an application only if the town was on board. VNRC has offered to administer the grant if the RPC or town wants to apply. Applications are due April 30th.

Budget:

The Selectboard discussed the budget line by line. Budget discussion ensued.

Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Firehouse

Carin McCarthy noted that we are in a good place to move the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Firehouse project forward given the ARPA funds, the MERP grant and the fact that town meeting is approaching.

Action: Amanda Vincent to investigate funding opportunities beyond the USDA loan. Amanda Vincent will work with the Luke and Susan of the JSchool Committee to put together an application for the USDA loan. Amanda Vincent to look into funding through

Vermont Bond Bank and Community Ban. Amanda Vincent will work with Robert Turner to figure out the impact on property taxes.

Current Business:

Motion: John Painter motioned to appoint Emily Fisher to the Starksboro Public Library Board of Trustees.

Nancy has been given permission from the board to continue working as the Treasurer.

Action: Koran Cousino, Amy McCormick and Amanda Vincent will discuss Treasurer options outside of a meeting to be presented to the board at a later time.

Action: Amanda Vincent will reach out to other towns and the local RPCs to see if they have ZA capacity.

Motion: John Painter motioned to approve the Certificate of Milage year ending February 10th, 2025. David Schmidt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: John Painter motioned to sign the FY23 Audit Draft. Eric Cota seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

The Selectboard authorized the Energy Committee to spend up to \$800 to hire someone for data entry.

Motion: Eric Cota moved to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll minus the one bill for Champlain Valley Fuels. Seconded by David Schmidt. Motion approved unanimously.

Action: Amanda Vincent will check in with Nancy Boss about the one-to-one heat pump quote from Jackmans.

Motion: John Painter moved to approve the minutes for 12/18 with the correction of typos and adding who made a motion and seconded adjourning the meeting. Seconded by Eric Cota. Motion approved unanimously.

Action: Eric Cota will speak with Josh Martell about roads concerns.

Motion: Eric Cota moved to adjourn. Second by John Painter. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Vincent, Town Administrator