

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting

October 7, 2025

Unapproved

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

Others present: Josh Martell – Road Foreman, Denny Casey, Keegan Tierney

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda: None.

Public comment: None.

Road Foreman Update: Road Foreman Josh updated the Selectboard on the status of the two trucks needing work. The Selectboard asked how they can support the road crew to reduce incidents moving forward, as we've had to make quite a few insurance claims this past year.

Action: Road Foreman will get security camera costs to Selectboard.

Bylaw Revisions: Denny Casey and David Schmidt provided an overview of the updated Bylaws. The Planning Commission is ready for the Selectboard to move forward with their public hearing. The Selectboard plans to review the Bylaws and bring questions at the next meeting and potentially schedule the public hearing.

Current Business:

MAUSD: The MAUSD Community Engagement Committee is asking everyone to fill out a survey that has been posted on Front Porch Forum and around town at normal posting locations.

Town Parking Lot: The Selectboard provided an update that they haven't come up with a plan for this project yet.

Jerusalem Community Center Project: Silver Maple submitted zoning permit applications, Zoning Admin Steve is waiting for the final site plan. The Bond Bank webinar is October 29th. Bond Bank Application is due on December 15th.

Budget: The Town Admin and Treasurer are hoping to have the draft budget for the October 21st meeting. The Selectboard discussed the Sheriff contract and there was no decision made at this meeting. The Selectboard sees the value in a Capital Maintenance Plan but is interested in consulting with VLCT to ensure we make the best use of our time developing this plan.

Staff Meetings: There is a staff meeting on October 20th at 12pm. Part of the staff meeting discussion will be about the office space.

Ongoing Projects: MERP Projects are continuing to moving forward. There are no new updates on FEMA Buyouts. FEMA PA – FEMA upped the available cost for the Brown Hill Bridge project to \$452,000.00. Both this location and Ireland Site #8 are waiting for an H&H study to determine next steps. For the local match, the Selectboard hopes that the road crew can contribute to the project for in-kind match as much as possible.

Action: Town Admin Amanda to provide Selectboard with cost from the other Brown Hill East bridge.

Unemployment Insurance: We have been covered through SoV unemployment. The Town of Starksboro is listed as a taxable employer whereas most municipalities are reimbursable. It's at the advice of Treasurer Ali to switch to reimbursable and sign up for VERB Unemployment Insurance starting January 1, 2026.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to sign the letter to the Vermont Department of Labor to be a reimbursable employer instead of a taxable. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to accept the limited power of attorney for Kelley Avery to represent us through VERB UI through VLCT. David Schmidt second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to accept the VERB agreement for coverage starting January 1st, 2026. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Policies: The Selectboard discussed what they would like to see in a town buildings policy.

Action: Town Admin Amanda to find a model Use of Town Buildings Policy to put on a February agenda.

Motion: Eric Cota motioned to approve AP and Payroll contingent upon documentation on the circled items. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Tony Porter motioned to approve the minutes from 9/16 with the suggested edits. David Schmidt second. Motion approved unanimously.

The Harvest Festival was successful. The Chili Fest is the next community event.

Future Agenda Items: Budget, Capital Maintenance Plan, Current Financials

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to enter executive session. David Schmidt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Tony Porter motioned to exit executive session. Eric Cota second. Motion approved unanimously.

Action: Town Admin Amanda to post a position for a seasonal plow driver.

Motion: Tony Porter moved to adjourn. Second by Eric Cota. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Vincent, Town Administrator