

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting

March 18, 2025

Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, Carin McCarthy, David Schmidt, Eric Cota, Tony Porter
Others present: Amy McCormick – Town Clerk, Nancy Cornell, Stephen Fortner, Robert Turner, Adam Augierre, Ann Bove, Denny Casey, Amanda Vincent – Town Administrator

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

Review agenda: Koran Cousino added an executive session for personnel.

Public comment: Ann Bove sought permission from the Selectboard to have Ellen Spring paint food related art on the walls of the Food Shelf and to put up a small, donated sign identifying the building. The Selectboard was in support of both ideas.

Vermont Rural School Community Alliance: The Vermont Rural School Community Alliance is working to support rural public schools and their communities with the proposed legislation of consolidating school districts. Nancy Cornell brought this information to the Selectboard to see if they would be interested in joining. If the Selectboard joins the alliance, they would need to designate a contact person. Nancy has offered to be that contact person.

Municipal Planning Grant: Robert Turner has filled out the Municipal Planning Grant application to do a study on the feasibility of a Community Land Trust to create and maintain a permanent supply of affordable housing in Starksboro.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to sign the Act 154 Good Standing Certificate. Eric Cota second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Eric Cota motioned to sign the Municipal Planning Grant Resolution. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Stephen Fortner was interviewed by the Selectboard for the vacancy on the DRB. Adam Aguirre was interviewed by the Selectboard for an appointment to the Energy Committee.

The Selectboard moved the slate of candidates for appointments to the executive session at the end of the meeting.

Employee Review Process: David Schmidt provided an update on the employee review rubric. The Selectboard would like to implement a process similar to 360 reviews where they get feedback from coworkers and board members along with the employee. All employees will be reviewed during the month of May.

Current Business:

Action: Amanda Vincent to send over old town garage rental details to Selectboard.

Action: Ali Thompson to investigate Bank Fees line item.

Action: Ali Thompson and Darlene to change all line item titles regarding 3056 to Food Shelf.

The Selectboard was in favor of having bimonthly staff meetings, one for the office staff and one for the road crew, where one or two board members are present. These meetings could be in the morning, at lunchtime or after 4pm with a virtual option.

Action: Amanda Vincent to reach out to Josh to find out what time of day works best for the road crew to have a staff meeting.

Action: Amanda Vincent to find Scenic Valley Landscape quote from 2024.

Motion: Eric Cota motioned to approve AP and Payroll. David Schmidt second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to accept the minutes from 3/5 and 3/10. David Schmidt second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to approve the three Department of Liquor and Lottery applications for Distant Thunder LLC. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Eric Cota motioned to approve the LEMP with the removal of the line Awaiting Selectboard Approval after Dan Kuzio's name under Public Information and Warning. Motion approved unanimously.

Carin McCarthy noted there was great turnout at the Chili Festival.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to enter into executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(F) re: attorney client privilege and 1 VSA §313(a)(1) re: personnel. Tony Porter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy motioned to exit executive session. David Schmidt second. Motion approved unanimously.

Executive Session Action: Amanda Vincent to send a letter from our legal team to the parties of interest.

Executive Session Action: Approved slate of candidates for appointments:

- Maple Broadband – Nancy Cornell, Richard Warren (alt)
- ACSWMD – Susan Jefferies, Erin Bent (alt)

- Tree Warden – Selectboard
- Fire Wardens – Tom Estey
- Energy Committee – Richard Warren (1 yr), Adam Aguirre (1 yr)
- Development Review Board – Arnell Paquette (3 yr), Richard Warren (3 yr)

Motion: Eric Cota moved to adjourn. Second by Carin McCarthy. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Vincent, Town Administrator

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