

Starksboro Selectboard meeting  
July 16, 2024  
Unapproved

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**Board members present:** Koran Cousino, John Painter, David Schmidt, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy  
**Others present:** Rebecca Elder, Amy McCormick, Nancy Boss, Luke McCarthy, Tom Estey, Susan Thompson, Katie Antos-Ketcham, Alex Davis

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Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office.

**Review agenda:** none

**Visitor's Business:** none

### Storm Report

Koran Cousino gave an extensive review of the storm response measures and actions since the July 11-12 flooding. Emergency response has been ongoing. There were more than 20 roads in Starksboro that were affected. Ireland Road has experienced extreme damage and is not passable. The road crew has worked to make all other roads passable with at least one lane open. Damage in the areas of State's Prison Hollow Extension and the Shamrock Drive/Ireland Rd/Hillsboro Rd were extensive and some homes were significantly damaged. The Selectboard and staff have been working with the State of Vermont, Vermont Emergency Management, Addison Co. Regional Planning, and the Agency of Transportation to address the issues residents are facing.

Residents have looked to the town office, town clerk, and the emergency management director for support throughout. Resources and information is being distributed to residents via Front Porch Forum, the town website, and Facebook.

Residents should continue to direct road concerns to the town garage.

### Road Report

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to hire Tom Estey to help manage the information and data management for the emergency response and to work with the Road Foreman. John Painter second.

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

### Roadside mowing seasonal help

**Motion:** Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve hiring of seasonal help for roadside mowing not to exceed \$2500 (rate of pay \$20/hour). John Painter second.

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

- A building on State's Prison Hollow Ext. was hit by a town truck – minor damage. Rebecca will file an insurance claim.
- Road signage – Josh will reevaluate the number of road closed signs and other emergency related items (parking cones, barriers, etc.)
- Communication during emergencies: the group discussed improving communication and sharing information among EMD, town officials, road foreman, town administrator, and selectboard members. The LEOP (local emergency operations plan) includes a triage plan. A practice drill would be a beneficial exercise for this group to test the systems in place and run through various scenarios to continue improving internal responses.

## Town Hall/Library Lift project

Katie Antos-Ketcham, Susan Thompson, and Alex Davis attended. The Selectboard reviewed the sealed bids received for the purchase of a lift for installation in the library/town hall building. Three bids were received.

**Motion:** Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the bid from Nationwide as presented in the amount of \$39,700. John Painter second.

**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

### Next steps:

1. A deposit of \$19,850 is required to order the lift.
2. Details about the fire-rated doors need to be reviewed with an architect. Susan is contacting Megan Nedzinski to inquire about consulting.
3. A request for bids needs to be drafted for the construction of lift shaft and to address fire doors and other tasks. Susan will draft and send to Rebecca in next couple of weeks.

## Current Business

1. **Jerusalem Community Center and Fire Station #2:** Luke McCarthy and Tom Estey attended to continue planning for Fire Station #2. There is still a need for a GC or clerk of the works. Tom has not heard from contractor in who is considering the GC role. He requested estimates from Parent Construction re: concrete slab – no information yet.
2. **LHMP update:** The LHMP committee is meeting on 7/17 to advance the plan to completion for a draft to be sent to the State of Vermont. An approved plan is required for FEMA public assistance projects. SEAM Solutions is the consultant preparing the draft on behalf of the town.
3. Mail review:
  - a. EV charging station contract for services:
  - b. **Motion:** Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the 3-year service contract as presented. John Painter second. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.
4. **Motion:** John Painter moved to approve the warrants for payroll and A/P as presented and to authorize David Schmidt to sign on behalf of the board. Carin McCarthy second.  
**Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.
5. **Selectboard roundtable:**
  - a. **Thank you to the Lincoln road crew for helping with disaster response on roads.**
  - b. **Thank you to the Bristol road crew for helping with town road repairs.**

**Motion:** John Painter moved to enter executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) to discuss personnel and contracts after having determined that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage. Eric Cota seconded. Rebecca Elder was invited into the session. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** Eric Cota moved to exit executive session at 8:55 pm. Carin McCarthy seconded.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion:** John Painter moved to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Eric Cota seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder, Town Administrator