

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**January 11, 2018**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Michael Denault and Carol Fachini.  
Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Micah Hayre, Sheila Lawrence and Bill Levine.  
Rosemarie Curran and Carl Taylor, Finance Committee.  
Deborah Darling, Board of Listers.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., opened with the pledge of allegiance, welcomed everyone and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and an anticipated executive session was added.

**MINUTES**

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2017 as written.  
SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 3, 2018 as written.  
SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**SELECTBOARD ORDERS**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #56 \$ 8,514.93 payroll  
WARRANT #57 \$ 8,820.03 accounts payable  
WARRANT #58 \$ 6,122.44 accounts payable

**BOARD OF LISTERS**

Debbie Darling referred to previous Selectboard meeting minutes noting that she was asked to provide an explanation of the lister's duties and responsibilities. She asked for justification of the Selectboard's decision to give the listers a fifty cent raise. Nancy Bushika suggested that the Selectboard discuss the matter during executive session. The Pownal lister who provided assistance in 2017 has taken a new job as District Advisor and may not be able to help this spring with assessments to finalize the 2018 grand list. Nancy Bushika referred to Vermont law stating that if the number of listers fall below a majority, the Selectboard may appoint an assessor to perform the duties of lister. Nancy Bushika has contacted NEMRC who has 12 employees already working in towns throughout Vermont as assessors. They are willing to provide assessment services for \$5,000.00/year which would include property inspections, data entry, attendance at grievance hearings, among many other things. NEMRC would charge \$125.00/hour to go to court or the state board. The town would still need a clerk to handle the day to day functions, such as telephone calls, entering transfers and scheduling appointments. The Selectboard anticipates the state will require a town-wide reappraisal in the next few years and Deb Darling recommends that the town start the process now. Mike Denault finds it difficult to choose salary figures for an elected employee. He would prefer to appoint someone to the position. No one has come forward to serve as lister. The town could try NEMRC for a year without a contract or commitment and see how it goes. The board will discuss the matter further in executive session.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Sheila Lawrence provided the proposed Planning Commission budget to the Selectboard. She requested that the Planning Commission stipend be increased from \$10.00/year to \$25.00/year since they have had many meetings revising the town plan and now the zoning by-laws. Nancy Bushika agreed that working on these plans back to back was very time consuming, but asked if they would return to the \$10.00 stipend once the by-laws were finished. Sheila Lawrence did not feel the \$25.00 would break the town. Nancy Bushika thought if the Planning Commission stipend was increased, then all the board stipends should be also. Some boards have not met even once in the past year and the board discussed whether they should receive \$25.00 also. There are approximately 50 people who are eligible for the stipend and many waive it. The Selectboard agreed to increase all \$10.00 stipends to \$25.00 beginning in 2018.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The road crew is busy with winter weather and keeping the equipment running. It's supposed to rain hard tomorrow and hopefully our roads will be ok.
2. There is a light on in the Ford truck. It is probably a sensor since the truck is still running. It will have to go to Carbone Ford when time allows.
3. Mike Denault recalled discussion about designating the rest of County Road and Klondike Road a Class 3 road and whether there were plans to begin widening areas to make it happen. Dave Tatro said at the pace of the funding we have right now, it will take a long time before the road is ready. Dave Tatro said if the Selectboard wants to give him the money, he would do it this spring.

## RECYCLING

The hauler picks up the composting every other week in the winter. It is no problem since everything is frozen. Dave Tatro said the town really needs a compactor for the single stream recycling.

## DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

Amanda Kurpiel attempted to license her dog and paid the fees but did not have a valid rabies certificate. Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, will work with her to obtain the rabies vaccination. The Selectboard would like this wrapped up in the next month.

## EMPLOYEE POLICY – SICK LEAVE LAW

The Selectboard made last minute changes to the policy.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the revised Employee Policy Handbook. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The policy was signed.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

No update.

## TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The Board of Abatement did not agree to abate taxes on property acquired by the town through tax sale. Taxes, penalty and interest in the amount of \$4,896.83 are owed on four properties. The Selectboard agreed to pay this amount to the Delinquent Tax Collector. The amount will be included in the Selectboard's 2018 budget.

## CEMETERY COMMISSION RESIGNATION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the resignation of Sheila Pecor as Cemetery Commissioner with regret. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### THANK YOU CARD

A card was received from Buzz Wheeler and his family for the gifts sent by townspeople to help during his recovery.

#### 8% PENALTY

Rosemarie Curran asked if the Selectboard was considering changing the 8% penalty. Nancy Bushika said old town reports showed in the early 1990's that the town voted to increase the penalty from 6% to 8%. They must have wanted to increase the incentive for people to pay on time. The Selectboard will leave the rate as is.

#### SELECTBOARD REPORT

Nancy Bushika drafted the report for inclusion in the town report and asked the Selectboard to review and add their thoughts.

#### ACT 250 PERMIT

The Selectboard acknowledged receipt of a notice that Nelson Dunn, Jr. has applied for an amendment to his Act 250 permit for property at 4957 Main Road.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard reviewed and discussed the 2018 budget.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for employee review and salaries. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 9:03 p.m. Deborah Darling was invited to participate.

Deborah Darling left executive session and the Selectboard continued the executive session.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:50 p.m.

Results: Nancy Bushika will review the salary results with the town clerk.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika  
Clerk pro tem

NLB/las

#### REMINDERS

1. New recycling punch cards for use beginning November 1, 2017 are available at the Town Office.
2. Anyone interested in serving as a lister until the next election should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.
3. The Town Clerk's office hours are: Monday: closed; Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Wednesday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thursday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 18, 2018. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 32 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The required signatures on a petition to run for an elected office are 1% of the registered voters or at least 7 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 29, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

- Town Moderator - 1 year term
- School Moderator - 1 year term
- Selectboard member - 3 year term
- Selectboard member - 2 year term
- School Director - 3 year term
- School Director - 2 year term
- Lister - 3 year term
- Lister – 2 years remaining on a 3 year term
- Auditor - 3 year term
- Auditor - 2 year term
- Auditor - 1 year term
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term
- Grand Juror -1 year term
- Town Agent - 1 year term
- Cemetery Commissioner - 5 year term
- Cemetery Commissioner - 3 years remaining on a 5 year term
- Library Trustee - 5 year term
- Library Trustee - 4 years remaining on a 5 year term

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018. Please call the town office at 694-1361.