

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
January 18, 2018  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Donna Engel, John Engel, Bill Levine, and Ruth West.  
Rosemarie Curran and Joan Levine, Finance Committee.  
Deborah Darling, Board of Listers.  
James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 there were no changes made.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

James Stimpson advised that the Planning Commission feels he will be enforcing the town ordinances and policies in the future. Mr. Stimpson felt he should have a conversation with the Selectboard as to how this will happen. The Selectboard stated that our ordinances are designated as civil and certain individuals are already in place to issue tickets and appear in court if needed. The Judicial Bureau appointments will be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### MINUTES

Nancy Bushika would like the January 11, 2018 minutes to reflect that the January 4, 2018 regular meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm and was rescheduled to January 11, 2018. MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 11, 2018 as revised. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #2 \$ 7,189.90 payroll  
WARRANT #3 \$67,693.56 accounts payable

#### FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of December.

#### BOARD OF LISTERS

Nancy Bushika provided the proposed contract with NEMRC for assessor services. The contract would run from March 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 and would encompass assessing new construction, reviewing permits and updates, and more, for a maximum of eight days. The cost would be \$625.00/day and will increase if more time is needed. Debbie Darling feels \$625.00 is ludicrous and would like to make some phone calls to see if she can get help finalizing the grand list without NEMRC for less money. Carol Fachini felt the cost was high for only 8 days of work. Dave Tatro agrees the cost is absurd. Nancy Bushika agreed to wait until next week to see if Debbie Darling can find another solution, but wants to be part of the meeting with NEMRC if that is ultimately the route taken.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The weather has brought a roller coaster of conditions. The town sustained around \$7,000-\$8,000 in damages from Friday's storm. There was a small washout on Mill Road. A large culvert on Lincoln Road was undermined by water and traffic was diverted through Dave Tatro's yard while the road was being repaired. Both Sportsman Road and Sumner Road had minor shoulder damage. Dave Tatro had to call Jon Bohl and Tietgens Excavating for excavator work during the storm. There are a few more repairs to be completed and the total cost will be around \$10,000. Bill Levine asked that Allison Strohl at the Bennington County Regional Commission be contacted with that estimate. If the county sustained enough damage as a whole, FEMA money may be available. Dave Tatro noted that a representative from the Agency of Natural Resources was in town on Saturday and issued a permit for the bank work needed on Mill Road.
2. There is an ongoing water issue on The Lane. Dave Tatro stated that the culvert on Poplar Drive is squashed and water from the Beaupre residence is running from the ditch line into the road and freezing, making dangerous icy conditions. Dave Tatro wonders if there is a drain in the Beaupre's basement because he recalls having this problem before and after he spoke with the former owner, the water problem ceased. Ruth West spoke about the icy conditions, problems with the snow plowing contractor, and a water pipe easement. She requested the Selectboard's help as fence viewers concerning a water easement and ditch line. She thinks the pipe is leaking which is where the water problem is coming from. The Selectboard did not want to get involved. They felt it was a private matter and not a town issue. The Selectboard agreed to send letters to the Poplar Drive residents and Mr. and Mrs. Beaupre concerning the water running and freezing on the Lane which could cause an accident.
3. It is time to replace the Ford. Dave Tatro has the specifications for two different trucks: a Freightliner for about \$140,000.00 and a Dodge Ram for about \$100,500. The Freightliner is a bigger, stronger truck that should last for 10 years. The Dodge is the same size as the white Ford and will last 5-7 years. It was noted that for 40% more in price, the town would get double the use from the Freightliner. Dave Tatro described the advantages and disadvantages of each. The truck could be funded by using the Equipment Replacement Fund and borrowing from the town's Land Sales fund like the Fire Department did five years ago.

## RECYCLING

Dave Tatro obtained a quote from Al McLain to install 3 phase electricity at the recycling center for \$1,500.00.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The generator timer has not been reset. They are planning to reset the switch this Saturday. Al McLain is getting a quote from Kingsley Systems for the installation of a relay switch to shut off the fans when the generator starts up.
2. The Regional Emergency Planning Commission (REPC) met in North Adams. If a road is closed due to an emergency, it is important to notify the REPC through the North Adams Dispatcher. They will notify emergency personnel so that traffic can be re-routed. Dave Tatro acknowledged that he often calls Bill Levine or Paul Ethier with road situations. He notified the bus company during Friday's storm and a couple bus routes were cancelled.
3. The REPC also discussed handling social media. Everyone has cell phones and photos should not be taken of people's injuries or situations.
4. Nancy Bushika asked about the portable radios. Bill Levine had ordered new ones and considered fixing the older ones. At one point he considered giving one to the Bennington Sheriff but that did not happen. Dan Potvin should have one as highway liaison and Sheila Lawrence's radio antennae needs replacing.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard reviewed and discussed the 2018 budget. The board discussed the renewing and vacant terms coming up in March's election. It was suggested that a reminder be put on the board in front of the school. Nancy Bushika did not want the town clerk climbing over the snow bank to use the board and feels the positions are posted around town, on the website and are at the end of the Selectboard minutes.

#### SELECTBOARD REPORT

The Selectboard reviewed the proposed report for inclusion in the town report.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Ruth West asked if the increase in hours voted at town meeting last year was beneficial. The Selectboard agreed that there is less dumping on the back roads and acknowledged seeing them patrol the back roads more, not just sitting in the center of town.

#### SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING

A Selectboard meeting was scheduled for next Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 6 p.m. to review and sign the warrant.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 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.