

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
January 25, 2018  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Carol Fachini, Daniel J. Potvin and Michael Denault.  
Visitors: Helen Fields, Stephen Green and Bill Levine.

Rosemarie Curran, Pat Sullivan and Carl Taylor, Finance Committee.

Deborah Darling, Board of Listers.

James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.

Paul Ethier, Fire Chief

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the special 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 the Listers/Assessors matter was added.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Finance Committee had several concerns. Carl Taylor compared the 2017 budget to the 2016 budget. If all the anticipated warrants passed at town meeting, the budget would be \$123,076 higher than last year's budget. Mr. Taylor does not want to be difficult but feels he was appointed to the Finance Committee to review the budget and many people in Stamford could not afford such an increase. This figure does not even include the school numbers which he hasn't seen in final form. Nancy Bushika noted that the raise and appropriate, without warrant articles is only up 1% over last year and the warrant articles are not part of their budget, nor part of their control. The town decides on the warrant articles. The first concern was the fire department's request for \$20,000 to re-establish a fire truck replacement fund. Nancy Bushika noted that the warrant article request was received after the January 18th's deadline, but she was willing to honor it if the rest of the board approved. Paul Ethier said they used to reserve funds. The fire department paid \$16,000/year for the fire truck payment so this is only \$4,000 higher. Since the fire department borrowed from the town, the truck payment amount has been around \$9,000/year. The Finance Committee also wanted to discuss Article 12: borrowing \$100,000 to repave the school parking lot. Dave Tatro said the blacktop is in extremely poor condition. The crew has to be careful plowing because it just crumbles up. The \$100,000 estimate is the most practical and economical repair, and does not address the poor base or drainage issues, which would increase the repair cost well over \$300,000. The Selectboard explained the money would be borrowed over a five year term resulting in a yearly payment of around \$24,000. The Selectboard considered if there were areas in the budget to reduce the raise and appropriate amount in Article 5. The money to build a dog kennel is new this year. Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, contacted North Adams who is unable to take dogs across state lines without all their papers, so building a dog kennel in town is necessary. Other increases are hiring an assessor, employee benefits and raises. Carl Taylor noted that although one commission member came in asking for a higher stipend, the Selectboard increased the stipend for all commissions, even those that do not meet regularly. Helen Fields spoke that she supports modest raises for the town employees who all do a great job. Bill Levine acknowledged that the Selectboard has been very conservative in estimating the revenue this year and we may have a fair fund balance at the end of the year. Dave Tatro and the Selectboard discussed Article 11. It was ultimately decided to purchase the Freightliner if the article is approved.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the Warning as revised. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD REPORT

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the report drafted by Nancy Bushika

## BOARD OF LISTERS

Debbie Darling reached out to other listers but was unable to find another who was familiar with our NEMRC system and could help. She also contacted John from NEMRC who would be the assessor assigned to us. Debbie Darling agreed that the town had no other choice but to hire NEMRC since she doesn't have the knowledge needed to assess houses and complete the job.

MOTION by Dave Tatro to hire NEMRC as the assessor and sign the contract for services from March 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 for 8 days of service at \$625.00/day. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING

Nancy Bushika would like to invite Michael Batchter from the Bennington County Regional Commission to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss boundaries of river corridors and holding a hazardous waste collection day in Stamford.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin  
Clerk

DJP/las

## REMINDERS

1. New recycling punch cards for use beginning November 1, 2017 are available at the Town Office.
2. 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.