

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
January 5, 2017  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Acting Chair, David R. Tatro, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael Denault, and Sheila G. Lawrence.

Finance Committee: Rosemarie Curran, Joan Levine, Pat Sullivan, and Carl Taylor.

Visitors: Donna Engel, John Engel and Bill Levine.

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Sheila Lawrence to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 15, 2016, as written.

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 22, 2016, as written.

SECONDED by Sheila Lawrence. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #57 \$ 2,159.98 payroll

WARRANT #58 \$ 3,091.63 accounts payable

WARRANT # 1 \$ 6,506.09 payroll

WARRANT # 2 \$13,560.41 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway department has been very busy plowing and sanding.
2. They had a minor breakdown with the Ford and had to install new springs.
3. Allstate Asphalt will be coming in the spring to fix the chip seal coat.
3. Dan Potvin mentioned how bad the state road has been this winter compared to other roads. The snow and ice have created dangerous driving conditions. Dave Tatro mentioned 3 accidents which occurred at Christmas time from icy roads. Dave Tatro discouraged making a complaint, saying the state's policy is safe roads at safe speeds and he doesn't think it will help. The Selectboard decided to write a letter to the Agency of Transportation with a copy to Representative Laura Sibila.
4. A response was received from Patrick Gray, the landowner on Lincoln Road, concerning the car parked within the town's right of way. Mr. Gray stated that the tenants are parking in their designated parking spot which shouldn't be a problem. Dave Tatro stated the right of way is measured 25 feet out from the center of the road and the front of their car is definitely in the right of way. He doesn't want to hit the car with the wing plow during a snow storm. Another letter will be sent.
5. Nancy Bushika asked about the Stebbins Lane sign and the No Dogs Allowed at School sign. Dave Tatro has the Stebbins Lane sign but hasn't had a chance to install it. The dog sign has been ordered.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The radios have been ordered for the highway department and for the sheriff with the EMT background. In the meantime the town office radio was given to Mike Brothers.

#### LISTER VACANCY

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Luke McKay to fill the Lister position until the March election.

SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Selectboard received a letter of interest from Stephen Greene asking to be considered for appointment to the Planning Commission. It is a five member board with no vacancy. The Selectboard will send a letter thanking him for his interest and letting him know there is no vacancy at this time.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The contract was discussed at length. The sheriff's department no longer receives a grant to subsidize their costs so the charge for the same coverage increased substantially. The decision was made to keep the cost the same as last year with a reduced amount of service. A warrant article can be drafted to provide the additional coverage.

MOTION by Mike Denault to contract with the Bennington County Sheriff's Dept. for 14.5 hours per week, keeping the cost at \$32,000/ year to be divided equally into 3 days. SECONDED by Sheila Lawrence. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### TREES ALONG SCHOOL BORDERS

1. The 4 unhealthy trees were removed over Christmas vacation. Dan Potvin will look at the spruces this week. Deb Chesbro recommended that he contact School Director Cindy Lamore regarding the tree removal and where trucks could cross the school yard.
2. The signed permission letter was received from Mr. and Mrs. Cristofolini.

#### OFFER TO PURCHASE TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The deed transferring Lot 129 in Alpenwald from the town to Clayton and Kristen Knapp was signed.

#### DOG OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the final draft of the job description.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard worked on the budget. Carl Taylor made many suggestions to decrease spending. The Selectboard obtained several quotes to repair the tennis courts, but decided not to go forward due to financial reasons. There was much discussion as to whether the \$50 Green Up appropriation should be added as a line item in the budget. Dave Tatro wanted to make it a line item in his highway budget. Nancy Bushika felt it should be a warrant article under the terms of our Social Service Agency Appropriation Policy. It was ultimately decided to keep the request a warrant article.

Dave Tatro asked permission to contact Cold River Bridges, the contractor who submitted the proposal for The Lane bridge work. If the contractor will honor his proposal amount, Dave Tatro wants to grant him the job without putting the project out to bid. It was agreed.

The next budget work session will be January 12, 2016.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

SGL/las

Sheila G. Lawrence  
Clerk

## REMINDERS

### 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 19, 2017. 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 30, 2017, 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
- Town Clerk – 3 year term
- Treasurer – 3 year term
- Selectboard member - 3 year term
- Selectboard member - 2 year term
- Selectboard member – 1 year remaining on a 3 year term
- School Director - 2 year term
- School Director - 3 year term
- Lister - 3 year term
- Lister – 2 years remaining on a 3 year term
- Auditor - 1 year term
- Auditor - 2 year term
- Auditor - 3 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 – 4 years remaining on a 5 year term
- Library Trustee - 5 year term

The deadline to register to vote in the March 7, 2017 election is Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted during the voting hours of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.