

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 4, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Christopher Warren, Daniel J. Potvin, Carol Fachini and Michael Denault.

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Allen Desautels, Michelle Desautels, Victoria Jefferies, James Stimpson, Pat Sullivan, and Carl Taylor.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Coordinator.
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 two items were added: the FEMA Grant and a uniform municipal excess weight permit. The order of the agenda was not changed.

COMMUNITY BUILDING GROUP

Pat Sullivan and Victoria Jefferies confirmed that they will be on the October 18, 2018 Selectboard agenda. They will give a presentation and will have a lot of new information.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Carol Fachini questioned the motion made in the public hearing to rename Old County Road. Nancy Bushika and Mike Denault felt the motion could not be changed because that was how it was made.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the minutes from the public hearing for the renaming of Old County Road on September 20, 2018, as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. 3 in favor, 1 abstained. (Dan Potvin abstained since he was not at the public hearing. Chris Warren was not yet present.) Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #41 \$ 6,294.26 payroll
- WARRANT #42 \$15,714.19 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro drove to the Freightliner dealership to see the new truck. H.P. Fairfield will add the dump body and plow mechanisms and it should be ready in December.
2. The highway crew spent some time getting the trucks ready and cleaned up for inspection.
3. Dave Tatro met with Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) this week. The town has received a grant through the Clean Water Act. The grant is for \$6,100.00 and the town's 20% match will be \$1,525.00 for a total project cost of \$7,625.00. Since we will be using our own equipment, the town will only need to buy stone. The state is requiring all ditches within 50 feet of a waterway to be stone lined. Dave Tatro has already started this project on Mill Road.
4. The Collins Road project will be done next year.
5. Dave Tatro contacted the Agency of Natural Resources concerning the culvert on Clough Road. There was some erosion during the last storm. The town will need a state permit because we will be removing more than eight yards of material.

6. Michael Batchner from the BCRC suggested the town apply for a FEMA grant to update our hazard mitigation plan. Although our plan is good until 2020, it is worth applying for funding that will help us update the plan. The board agreed and will let Michael Batchner know they would like to proceed.

7. Dave Tatro spoke with Chris Taft to schedule the hydraulic study for the Lincoln Road culvert that washed out during the last storm. Chris Taft agreed the culvert will need to be replaced with a concrete structure which will cost between \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00. Carol Fachini asked if the state has repaired the bottom of Sumner Road yet. They have not done any repairs as yet, but Dave Tatro thinks they are planning a paving project in Stamford soon.

RECYCLING

1. The board made minor changes to the recycling update. The fees and amount of punches per card will remain the same.

2. Nancy Bushika asked about TAM's cost compared to our previous hauler. Dave Tatro feels we are saving much more money with TAM.

3. The compost bin at the school had a problem with maggots a few weeks ago. There were maggots in the parking lot and on the sides of the building.

WEBSITE

The town website is up and running. Please visit townofstamfordvermont.org.

NEMRC/ASSESSOR CLERK

1. Sally Bohl spoke with NEMRC about the CAMA cost tables through Marshall Swift. Although the costs are not finalized, she feels the town will save money over the former \$250.00/year bill from the state.

2. Sally Bohl showed the board the Marshall Swift Cost Tables book which the assessor uses to value buildings. The tables are imported into the NEMRC software and provide the base value system. They do not change unless there is a reappraisal. She also showed the Apex Sketching Program which is used to create a sketch of each house/building as well as the Microsolve software. The land schedule was created for Stamford by our District Advisor and all land in town is valued using a two acre lot starting point. She cautioned Dan Potvin that if the Planning Commission changes the two acre minimum lot size when they update the zoning by-laws, the whole land schedule will have to be redone.

3. She asked the board to consider hiring another Assessor Clerk to learn the job because there is a lot to it. It would be beneficial to have someone with construction/building experience who could help with the fieldwork. If we could measure the decks and small additions in house instead of hiring NEMRC for every value change, we could save a lot of money. The listers always viewed and inspected the camps in the fall since it is difficult to get to them in the spring before April 1st. The Selectboard suggested she prepare a job description for their review at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. There is a discrepancy between the town's 1996 Ordinance regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing and the 9-1-1 State Board Standards for addressing. Nancy Bushika reviewed the state law which says the requirements will be set by the 9-1-1 State Board. Although the standards only require a 3" high number, our ordinance requires house numbers be 4" high. Bill Levine asked that the board keep the 4" high requirement. The standards require reflective address numbers, but our ordinance only requires numbers to be in a contrasting color from the building background. Mike Denault noted that we have another ordinance which the town is not enforcing. The ordinance does have provisions for penalties and fines for non-compliance.

MOTION by Chris Warren to add to Section IV of the ordinance that numbers be a reflective, contrasting color.

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

The Selectboard will start the process of changing the ordinance officially.

2. Bill Levine advised that he has surveyed all roads except Risky Ranch Road and Alpenwald. Mike Denault offered to take him up Risky Ranch Road. He hopes to have a revised draft of the 9-1-1 compliance letter for the next meeting.

HALLOWEEN

Jen Ryan, Assistant Librarian, asked if the town provides safety information for children who will be trick or treating. Dan Gigliotti offered to give a presentation at the Stamford Library to teach children safe practices for Halloween. The firehouse will be open at 5:30 p.m. on Halloween since parents still meet there and walk to the school to begin trick or treat.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Selectboard reviewed the values and considered whether any should be reduced. They ultimately decided it wasn't worth making changes.

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the values as presented on the renewal. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Carol Fachini to approve a Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from ABC Supply Co. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Mike Denault would like to see a Christmas tree on the school front lawn. There used to be one years ago and several other towns have them. Electricity is available at the flag pole. Mike Denault knows someone who will donate an 8-10 foot tall tree and Dave Tatro will help put it up. Nancy Bushika suggested we talk to the principal, Micah Hayre, to see if the school children would like to have a tree lighting ceremony.

VETERANS DINNER

Dan Potvin has been working on the speakers for this year's pot luck dinner on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the school. Nancy Bushika offered to supply the paper products. If you would like to help or donate, please contact Dan Potvin at 694-1301. The board will discuss this further at the next meeting.

NEW HIGHWAY LABORER POSITION

Carl Taylor asked the board to be fiscally responsible in making the decision to hire a third full-time laborer. He charged the board to look at the whole picture. Dave Tatro said this position should reduce the overtime pay and eliminate the part-time position. Nancy Bushika said safety was a main concern when making this decision because our highway guys sometimes put in excessive hours during snowstorms. We don't want them falling asleep at the wheel and causing an accident. Dave Tatro said he gets calls at home from the state police and residents wanting their road plowed and the needs of the town are growing beyond what two people can manage. Dave Tatro said he really pushed for a third laborer and told the board he would not be here next year if they didn't seriously consider it. Mike Denault told Carl Taylor he appreciated his input. Carl Taylor expressed that he was not trying to tell the board or Dave Tatro how to do their job, he just wanted to ask them to be fiscally aware.

WATER SYSTEM AT TOWN GARAGE

Carl Taylor asked about the status of the water at the town garage. John Dupras completed the perc. tests and is in the process of designing a system for state approval. Dave Tatro would like to have the cost listed as a separate warrant article for town approval and not included in his highway budget. Carl Taylor feels that the highway department should have access to clean water and the decision should not be a separate warrant

article for town vote, it should be a Selectboard decision. Nancy Bushika stated if we ask for funding through the future needs fund, we will need voter approval to release the funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of an employee matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The board entered executive session at 7:30 p.m. Dave Tatro was invited into the executive session. Later Allen Desautels was also invited briefly into the executive session.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to hire Allen Desautels as the full-time highway laborer for \$17.00/hour with a six month review. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. The potluck supper to honor our veterans will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. All are welcome.
2. Forms to purchase wreaths are available at the town office, on stamfordvt.org and on facebook (please use the code VT0006).
3. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
4. Halloween trick or treat hours will be 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31, 2018.
5. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
6. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day.
7. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 2, 2018. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
8. 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.