

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 15, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Christopher Warren, Daniel J. Potvin and Michael Denault.
Carol Fachini was not present.

Visitors: Luke McKay, Dog Officer.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Coordinator.
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 the following items were added: review of 3rd quarter income and expense reports, review of 911 compliance letter, website request, and an incident at the school. The order of the agenda was not changed.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

1. No school directors attended to discuss the school merger and other issues. The topic will be moved to the next meeting's agenda and hopefully someone will come to the next meeting.
2. Nancy Bushika recalled discussion about an email from Rep. Laura Sibilia concerning the state's determination to continue to recognize our school as an isolated district.

CASELLA CONSTRUCTION/VELCO

Jeff Desoto from VELCO and Brad Matteson from Casella Construction phoned in (instead of travelling in the snowstorm) to request permission to plow the Class 4 section of County Road to continue their work on the power lines. They have several more structures to install next summer. The Selectboard asked that the contractor they hire to plow submit a Certificate of Insurance with the town's minimum requirement of \$1 million liability insurance. They agreed to provide it before plowing.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 1, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #47 \$ 6,512.99 payroll
- WARRANT #48 \$219,044.41 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew is done with summer maintenance and is ready for winter.
2. Allen Desautels is working out well.
3. The Ford broke down recently and the parts have been ordered.
4. Dave Tatro has not received prices for the septic system yet.
5. Nancy Bushika received a call from Ruth West concerning water running down the road, into her driveway and the road. With the weather turning cold, the water will freeze causing unsafe conditions. Dave Tatro looked at the area and noted that this problem has existed for a long time. There used to be a culvert across Poplar Drive but it no longer works so the water spills out into The Lane and onto Ruth West's property. The Selectboard has sent letters before asking that the culvert be replaced but nothing has been done. Our road ordinance allows the town to fix areas within the town's right-of-way to protect potential damage to town roads. The Selectboard will send a letter to the landowner and property owners on Poplar Drive asking that they

correct the drainage problem next construction season. If the problem is not rectified by late summer, the town will complete the work and will bill the landowner and property owners accordingly.

RECYCLING

1. Trevor Mance from TAM has not contacted Dave Tatro yet concerning the dumpster at the recycling center.
2. The town has received 2019 hauler registration forms from Scott Smith and Scott Wood. The due date is December 31, 2018.

TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Al McLain cannot install a new outlet at the flag pole because there is no ground wire. A bucket truck is needed which McLain Electric does not have. Various options were discussed. The tree will be positioned near the Honor Roll and plugged in there. The tree lighting ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at the school. Luke McKay will bring Santa to the ceremony by horse and wagon. Mike Denault offered to donate lights for the tree. Nancy Bushika thought the kids could sing some Christmas songs.

VETERANS DINNER

Anyone interested in helping to set up should meet at the school at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 17, 2018. Dan Potvin has the speakers ready.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine received a response from Al McLain at McLain Electric concerning the generator fumes. The quote to install a control device to automatically shut the fan off when the generator comes on is \$600.00-\$800.00. After some discussion, it was noted that the fans could be manually turned off easily. During an emergency if the school is being used as a temporary shelter, the fans can be temporarily shut off.
2. The Selectboard accepted the draft letter to send to all residents who are not in compliance with state laws for 911 emergency house numbers. He hopes to get the letters out by December 31, 2018 and will give all residents sixty days to comply.
3. Bill Levine requested that our updated Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) be sent to North Adams since they assist us during emergencies.
4. Bill Levine recommended that the Selectboard members take the Incident Command Center (ICS) 100 and 200 courses. They can be done individually online. Bill Levine will speak to the principal to involve the school and discuss using the computer lab. Being NIMS certified is one of the eligibility requirements for FEMA funding.
5. Nancy Bushika asked about the town's Red Cross response group and would like to schedule a training session to review and set up the trailer.
6. Bill Levine noted that managing the addiction population within your emergency shelter is a topic the Selectboard should consider. He said you cannot isolate drug users and the board should be aware that it may need to provide for them.

ORDINANCE REGARDING STREET NAME AND STREET ADDRESSING

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the Ordinance Regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The ordinance was signed and will become effective on January 15, 2019 if no petition is received objecting to the ordinance prior to that date. Lori Shepard was asked to publish the required notice in the Berkshire Eagle.

HIGHWAY GARAGE WATER AND SEPTIC PLANS

The Selectboard signed the Landowners Signature Sheet agreeing to the conditions of the Department of Environmental Conservation and to allow its employees to enter town property to ensure compliance. The forms and payment will be returned to Trinity Engineering.

FINANCIALS

Financial reports for the first three quarters were discussed. Nancy Bushika sat with the treasurer prior to the meeting to review some of the figures. Mike Denault would like to take a more active role in reviewing the reports. The treasurer encouraged the board to come in to review reports and ask questions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Selectboard received a letter from Tyna Senecal expressing her interest in the Finance Committee. The Selectboard was pleased to appoint her along with Carl Taylor, Pat Sullivan and Joan Levine. Rosemarie Curran has served in the past and has chosen not to serve this year. Letters will be sent.

TOWN WEBSITE

Lori Shepard received a request from Donna Engel to post an update from Wreaths Across America on the town website. They want to announce that they have reached their goal of sponsoring enough wreaths to lay at each veterans' graves in both Houghton and Millard Cemeteries. The ceremony and wreath laying date has been changed to Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 12 p.m. They will be marking the grave sites with orange flags and ask that the flags not be removed prior to the wreath laying. The Selectboard discussed whether any flyers which would be hung on the front door should be posted on the website. The board considered the various types of requests and does not want to be liable for promoting one group and not another. VLCT will be consulted concerning the town's liability.

DOG COMPLAINT

Luke McKay received a complaint from a resident indicating that the neighbor's two dogs and cat are loose on a daily basis. They stated that the neighbor became very hostile and confrontational when they asked that the dogs be tied up and there has been no resolution. Luke McKay contacted the dog owner but has not received a call back and looked to the board for assistance. They recommended that Luke McKay not go to the home alone and suggested that a Bennington sheriff accompany him. Luke McKay will bring a copy of the Dog Ordinance and request compliance with the town's leash law.

STAMFORD SCHOOL

There was a break-in at the school over the weekend. Nothing seems to be missing and it appears that the alarm scared them away. The Vermont State Police were contacted but they chose not to come to investigate. Mike Denault was upset by their decision and feels they should have come down. Mike Denault said his opinion of our law enforcement has diminished considerably. He would like to research the benefits and costs of hiring a local constable and thinks we may have better coverage and protection by hiring/appointing a town constable. James Stimpson offered to sit down with him to discuss the required certifications and costs. Chris Warren suggested the state police be invited to the next Selectboard meeting. Dan Potvin recalled that the last time the police came to a meeting, they told us we were basically on our own. The board will start with a letter to the state police voicing our concerns and the lack of police coverage in our area.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Dan Potvin advised that Jim Sullivan from the Bennington County Regional Commission continues to work with the Planning Commission regarding the energy initiatives. Jim Stimpson asked if there was any town-owned property that might be good for solar panels. There is a map at the town office which highlights the favorable and not-favorable areas of Stamford. Soon the Planning Commission will be working on the town zoning by-laws.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The board entered executive session at 8:10 p.m. Jim Stimpson was invited 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 8:42 p.m.

The Selectboard will send a letter to both parties.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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. The town office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, 2018 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
5. 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.