

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 20, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Mike Brothers and Theresa Denault.
Joan Levine, Pat Sullivan and Tyna Senecal, Finance Committee.
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 6:30 p.m., opened with the pledge of allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for employee review and salaries. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:31 p.m. Dave Tatro, Mike Brothers, Sally Bohl, Lori Shepard and Theresa Denault were each invited individually to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:35 p.m.

Results: Nancy Bushika will review the salary results with the treasurer.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 6, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #53 \$13,598.78 payroll

WARRANT #54 \$66,293.11 accounts payable

2018 AUDIT

The Selectboard signed the engagement letter for the firm of Love, Cody & Company to conduct the 2018 audit of town accounts. This confirmation agrees to provide the auditors with all information necessary to conduct the audit which will begin January 28, 2019 at a cost of \$10,200.00. Last year the cost was \$10,000.00.

WEBSITE POLICY

Chris Warren provided updated language for the board's review as a result of the attorney's opinion from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. The final draft will be reviewed and signed at the next meeting.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The board discussed signing the six month contract from January through June 2019. Mike Denault is researching the pros and cons between keeping the Bennington sheriff, hiring Vermont State Police to patrol, or appointing a constable. He recognizes the voters showed support for law enforcement in town at a previous town meeting. The board hopes to have information available at town meeting so the voters can make an

informed decision. The Selectboard would like to invite a State Trooper to their January meeting. The Bennington County Sheriff contract was signed.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard reviewed and discussed the 2018 budget.

2019 TAX SALE

Sally Bohl asked if the Selectboard wanted to hire Attorney Kevin O'Toole to conduct the spring tax sale. The Selectboard agreed and gave Sally Bohl permission to hire him.

TOWN MEETING/YEAR END BUDGET PREPARATIONS

Pat Sullivan reminded the board that they had agreed to add a line item in the budget to hold any donations or grant money that the Community Building Group receives. A line item will be created.

DEDICATION OF TOWN REPORT

The Selectboard discussed ideas for the dedication.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
2. The town office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Years.
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 17, 2019. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 33 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 28, 2019, 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 (*William Levine*)
School Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Michael Denault*)

Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Nancy Bushika*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Jessica Tatro*)
School Director – 2 year term (*Erika Bailey*)
Auditor - 3 year term (*vacant*)
Auditor - 2 year term (*vacant*)
Auditor - 1 year term (*vacant*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally Bohl*)
Grand Juror -1 year term (*vacant*)
Town Agent - 1 year term (*Sheila Lawrence*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 1 year remaining on a 3 year term (*Sally Bohl*)
Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Caroline Burch*)

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 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 4, 2019. 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.