

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 6, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Laura Champagne, Rosemarie Curran, Kelly Holland, Cynthia Lamore, Barbara Malinowski,
Katelyn Millard, Kimberly Roberts-Morandi, Tyna Senecal, and Trevor Tatro.
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 6:05 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: email concerning 911 re-numbering, Grant-in-Aid submittal, bank account paperwork, sheriff's contract, response from Vermont State Police, and webinar. The order of the agenda was not changed.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Kim Roberts-Morandi provided information on the proposed school merger with Clarksburg. The interstate committee met last night to approve a rubric to examine firms to conduct a study to look at the academic, legal and financial aspects of the merger. The study is funded through a grant and should give the facts to confirm we are moving in the right direction. Nancy Bushika asked if the state still considers us an isolated district. The state will revisit this every year and there is no guarantee that we will maintain that status. The school intends to apply each year for a small schools grant. There have been no changes to the Articles of Agreement. The school building would have to belong to the newly formed, merged school district and Cindy Lamore said the School Directors intend to work with the Selectboard. The next merger meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. at the Clarksburg Elementary School. Since this is still a year or two away, the School Board will have the benefit of seeing what has worked and not worked with other merged schools. The Selectboard asked for copies of the merger meeting minutes and will add them to the town's website.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 15, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #49 \$ 7,304.60 payroll
WARRANT #50 \$ 36,568.02 accounts payable
WARRANT #51 \$ 9,030.70 payroll
WARRANT #52 \$127,901.43 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the months of October and November.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has been dealing with snow and ice. The roads are rough from the freeze and thaw cycles.

2. The highway department had several breakdowns. At one point last week there was only one truck working.
3. Our new truck should be here by the end of December, early January.
4. The highway budget will be over on sand and salt. Dave Tatro was hoping for a mild November but it has been very snowy which required a lot of sand and salt.
5. Dave Tatro has completed the stone-lined ditches along Mill Road. The grant reimbursement submittal is ready to be signed. The total cost of the project was \$4,695.66. The grant will provide \$3,756.53 and the town's 20% match is \$939.13. Having an excavator and third laborer to complete this project is actually making the town money.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign and submit the grant reimbursement spreadsheet. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

6. There has been no response from the Poplar Drive residents concerning the recently mailed letter requesting that the culvert at the entrance to Poplar Drive be replaced.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE

The Selectboard thanked Robert and Debra Burchard for donating the Christmas tree, Luke McKay for providing the horse drawn wagon carrying Santa, Mary Lou McKay for organizing the event, the Denault family for buying the Christmas lights, the Shepard family for donating the candy canes, Sally Bohl for helping to decorate the tree and the fire department for directing traffic and keeping the area safe. Everything came together and it was great time. There were close to 100 people and it was nice to see such community spirit.

VETERANS DINNER

The Veterans Dinner was a complete success. The atmosphere was relaxed and comfortable and the board looks forward to next year.

TOWN MEETING/YEAR END BUDGET PREPARATIONS

Nancy Bushika asked everyone to start thinking about what topics should be in the Selectboard's Report which is included in the Town Report. The Selectboard's first budget work session will be Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6 p.m. They will also review the budget at their December 20th meeting.

TOWN WEBSITE

Susan Senning from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns provided an opinion as to the Selectboard's liability for posting various events and information on the town website. She said the Selectboard has to post all or nothing when it comes to the website; they cannot pick and choose what events or what type of information they want to post. Either nothing but town business/information goes on the website, or the board must accommodate all requests, regardless of content. The board decided to only post municipal business on the website since CJ Vadnais' website is already a place for community information. Susan Senning also suggested the board amend the website policy to reflect this. Chris Warren will prepare an amended website policy for the board's review.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine received an email from Tyler Hermanson, the GIS Specialist on the Vermont Enhanced 9-1-1 Board. He stated that when the Selectboard changed the name of the easterly side of Old County Road to Brown Brook Road, it made the 9-1-1 numbers on the remaining portion of County Road out of proper sequence. He recommends that the buildings/residences on Old County Road be renumbered. Laura Champagne voiced her frustration over the difficulty and expense of changing addresses. The Selectboard tried very hard to avoid this problem. Bill Levine recommended that the Selectboard take no action at this time and leave the numbers as is.

At some point the 9-1-1 Board could demand that the town renumber Old County Road. Mike Denault said the board would deal with this if it happens, and discussed changing the name of Brown Brook Road back to Old County Road which would solve the renumbering problem.

2. Bill Levine will begin sending out letters to all residents who are not in compliance with state laws for 911 emergency house numbering. The first batch will have a deadline of March 2019.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Chad Schmidt forwarded a new contract for the board to review and sign. The board will discuss the contract at budget time. Mike Denault will meet with Jim Stimpson. He would like to explore the benefits and costs of a town constable instead of hiring the sheriff.

VERMONT STATE POLICE

Lt. Wayne Godfrey called Nancy Bushika in response to the Selectboard's recent letter. The Selectboard would like him to attend the next meeting.

BANK PAPERWORK

Nancy Bushika signed several bank documents to add Theresa Denault's name to the town's bank accounts.

DOGS

1. Luke McKay continues to receive complaints from an Alpenwald resident concerning their neighbor's dogs running free and being a nuisance. Luke McKay contacted the dog owner who said he would come down with his paperwork to ensure that his dogs are licensed with the town. He did not show up. Luke McKay will call him again and issue a verbal warning and then a written warning if the resident does not take steps to license the dogs. A copy of the town's Dog Ordinance will be given to him with advice on our leash law. Mike Denault cautioned Luke McKay not to put himself in a dangerous situation.

2. Luke McKay asked for the status of the dog kennel. Luke McKay's livelihood revolves around animals and he doesn't want to get in trouble for not having an adequate shelter if he picks up a stray dog. Nancy Bushika has not yet approached the alliance to discuss forming a kennel. It was suggested that maybe the Pownal or Readsboro dog officer could take our stray dogs. Mike Denault would like to move forward with the kennel. Trevor Tatro suggested a propane heater if the shelter would be at the town highway garage.

MOTION by Mike Denault to order and purchase the two-bay kennel in accordance with the quotes Luke McKay previously provided the board. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

WEBINAR

Nancy Bushika would like to attend a webinar on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. to help prepare for town meeting. The town clerk will sign up and anyone interested can meet at the town office.

TOWN OFFICE

The town office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Years.

TAX RATE

Nancy Bushika provided the board with a spreadsheet. Her calculations show that increasing the raise and appropriate by \$10,000 would increase the tax on a \$100,000 house by \$11.00 and by \$22.00 on a \$200,000 house. A \$50,000 increase would raise the taxes on a \$100,000 house by \$54.00 and by \$108.00 on a \$200,000 house.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. Forms to purchase wreaths are available at the town office, on stamfordvt.org and on facebook (please use the code VT0006).
2. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
3. The town office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Years.
4. 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.

TOWN OF STAMFORD
Ordinance Regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing

A violation of this ordinance shall be a civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 1974a and 1977 et seq.

Section I – Purpose

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 2291 (16) and 24 V.S.A. Section 4421, the Selectboard of the Town of Stamford hereby establishes the following civil ordinance regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing. The purpose for this ordinance is to help establish a more uniform street naming and street addressing system throughout the Town of Stamford. We believe that easily locatable addresses will have a number of beneficial results: (1) It will enable emergency services to arrive at a scene faster. (2) Deliveries will be easier to find. (3) Visitors to our town will be able to find an address and know where they are in case of an emergency. (4) The Town of Stamford will be in compliance with the State of Vermont E-911 Addressing Standards.

Section II – Street Naming

Every street and road, both public and private, shall be assigned a name. This will be done by the Stamford Selectboard after public input and public hearing.

In the future, any new development must meet the guidelines of this ordinance.

All road names must be a separate and distinct name. No two roads can have the same or similar sounding names. No new roads can have any currently used name in the Town of Stamford. Furthermore, the Stamford Selectboard may change the names of the streets, both public and private, (after duly warned public hearings) within the Town of Stamford when necessary to promote public welfare and safety.

Section III - Administration

Prior to the issuance of a building permit, a developer shall furnish a plan for a street addressing and street naming system in accordance with this policy to the Selectboard and Emergency Management Coordinator. The Emergency Management Coordinator will then assign a number so that satisfactory emergency systems will be maintained.

Section IV – Numbering System Guideline

All roads shall be given an official name by the Selectboard and shall be measured in segments of 1/1,000 of a mile (5.28 feet) from a designated starting point, usually the end of a road nearest the intersection of a larger road. Odd numbers shall be assigned to the LEFT side of the road and even numbers to the RIGHT side of the road. The first 5.28 foot increment contains the number 1, the second 5.28 foot increment contains the number 2 and so on. Numbering shall begin at the northerly boundary of the Town of Clarksburg, Massachusetts and the southerly boundary of the Town of Stamford and its intersection with Route 100, with the first 5.28 feet being number one and continuing in a northerly direction to Route 100's intersection with the westerly boundary of the Town of Stamford and the easterly boundary of the Town of Readsboro. Every street or road which intersects with Route 100 shall begin with the number one for the first 5.28 feet of its intersection with Route 100, and shall continue until the road terminates or becomes a new road. Every new road will begin at its intersection with the old road, with the number one for the first 5.28 feet, and continue to its termination or change to a new road.

All numbers shall be established based on the front entrance from the street, from the center of the driveway (or in some cases, the center of the structure).

All numbers shall be properly affixed on or near the front entrance or in some other manner visible from the street. The numbers must be easily legible figures not less than four inches (4") high, reflective, and in a color contrasting to the background. The home owner is responsible for the numbers on the home or unit. If a house is not visible from the road, it needs a number at the driveway visible from the road.

A multiple unit structure composed of two or more units shall bear one number for the principal building, and each unit shall affix a letter or number suffix.

Numbers shall be reserved to provide for future growth in property in all areas.

Be it ordained by the Selectboard of the Town of Stamford, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same as follows:

Section V – Designation of a Street Name

Public and private roads shall be named by the Selectboard. After public hearing, notice shall be given to any party who resides on (or owns property accessed from) the street to be named.

Section VI – Designation of Street Address

(1) Street numbers for residences and occupiable structures on all public and private streets shall be assigned by the Selectboard or Emergency Management Coordinator in accordance with the procedure set forth herein.

(2) The Selectboard or Emergency Management Coordinator shall keep a record of all numbers assigned under this ordinance.

Section VII – Posting of Designated Street Address

(1) The owner or occupant or person in charge of any house or building to which a number has been assigned will be notified by the Selectboard or Emergency Management Coordinator of the number assigned to the same at any time after the adoption of this ordinance.

(2) Within sixty (60) days after the receipt of such notification from the Selectboard or Emergency Management Coordinator, the owner or occupant or person in charge of a house or building to which a number has been assigned shall affix the number to the structure if it is visible from the road, or to a sign or number post if it is not visible from the road, in such a way that the numbers can be clearly seen from the roadway.

(3) It shall be the duty of such owner or occupant or person in charge thereof, upon affixing the new number, to remove any different number which might be mistaken for or confused with the number assigned to said structure by the Selectboard or Emergency Management Coordinator.

(4) Each principal building shall display the number assigned to the frontage on which the front entrance is located. In case a principal building is occupied by more than one business or family dwelling unit, each separate front entrance shall display a separate number.

Section VIII – Penalties

In the event that the owner or occupant or person in charge of any house or building refuses to comply with the terms of this ordinance by failing to affix and maintain the number assigned within sixty (60) days after notification, or by failing, within said period of sixty (60) days to remove any old numbers affixed to such house or building or elsewhere which may be confused with the number assigned thereto, a fine of \$10.00 for each day of non-compliance with the terms hereof shall be levied against the property owner. A civil penalty of \$10.00 may be imposed for the initial violation of this civil ordinance. The penalty for the second offense within a six month period shall be \$15.00, and the penalty for subsequent offenses within a six month period shall be \$20.00. The waiver fee shall be set at \$5.00 for the first offense; \$7.50 for the second offense within a six month period, and \$10.00 for all subsequent offenses within a six month period. Each day that the violation continues will constitute a separate violation of this ordinance. In addition, the Selectboard or Emergency Management Coordinator or its agents or employees shall have the authority to enter the premises of any house or building not in compliance with the terms of this ordinance and install a sufficient sign or numbering post in accordance with the provisions hereof and to charge the property owner all reasonable costs and expenses associated therewith.

Section IX – Severability

If any portion of this ordinance and amendments is held unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance and amendments shall not be affected.

Section X – Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective (60) days from its adoption by the Selectboard. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. Section 1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this ordinance.

Adopted by the Selectboard this 15th day of November, 2018.

Nancy L. Bushika
Carol A. Fachini

Michael G. Denault
Daniel J. Potvin

Christopher Warren

This ordinance will become effective on January 15, 2019. Amended November 15, 2018 Revised Section I, Section II, Section III, added “reflective” to Section IV; revised Section V, Section VI, Section VII, Section IX, Section X and Section XI; removed Section VIII.