

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
February 1, 2018  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael Denault and Carol Fachini.  
Visitors: Donna Engel, Bill Levine, and Ruth West.  
Deborah Darling, Board of Listers.  
James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.  
Michael Batcher, Bennington County Regional Commission.  
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 there were no changes made.

#### RIVER CORRIDORS

Michael Batcher from the Bennington County Regional Commission showed the Selectboard a map of all the river corridors in town. FEMA has mapped the designated flood zones for the towns to adopt. The state has mapped river corridors which are areas the river needs to meander and move. The Agency of Natural Resources will have a public hearing before finalizing this map and Michael Batcher is asking the Selectboard for their comments and what local adjustments will help reduce damage to our road infrastructure. Dan Potvin felt this was taken care of with the flood maps. Michael Batcher explained that people can purchase flood insurance if their home is in the flood zone, but flood insurance often doesn't cover erosion in a river corridor if the river moves. The state would like to protect infrastructure by identifying river corridors and shifting the river. The board did not want to comment on adjustments that may affect our residents' property. Mike Denault felt if the residents were ok with it, he would have no problem with it. Michael Batcher will contact residents directly since he is most knowledgeable.

#### HOME HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

The Alliance holds two hazardous waste days, one in Dorset for the northern section and one in Bennington for the southern Alliance towns. Michael Batcher acknowledged that very few residents from Stamford and Searsburg participate. He spoke with the company who handles these events and they are willing to come to Stamford and Searsburg for two hours each in the fall for \$700.00 each plus the cost of disposal. The disposal costs vary depending on what residents drop off, but Michael Batcher estimates approximately \$100.00 per car. He would like to ask the other 11 towns in the Alliance to share the cost of the satellite events. If the Alliance agrees, the Selectboard will agree to the events but if the town has to pay the full cost, the board will probably not want to hold the extra event. Michael Batcher will discuss the matter at the next Alliance meeting.

#### WREATHS FOR AMERICA

Donna Engel talked about Wreaths Across America, a fundraiser to honor veterans. Wreaths are sold and placed on veterans graves for one month in December. She and Donna Whitcomb have already obtained permission from Southview Cemetery in North Adams for next year and the Cemetery Commission has given permission for the cemeteries in town. The only concern is our cemeteries are closed for the winter. A ceremony is held and volunteers lay the wreaths on the graves and a month later they go back and remove them. Donna Engel asked if the road could be plowed so they wouldn't have to walk so far. Dave Tatro thought plowing Millard would be fine but Houghton would be more difficult. The Selectboard thought honoring our veterans is a great idea and thought she could get the word out at town meeting and at next year's veterans dinner in November.

#### HIGHWAY PERSONNEL SAFETY

Ruth West would like to see the town pay for cell phones for the highway crew. They work hard to keep our roads safe and she feels providing a phone for their safety in an emergency is important. The Selectboard advised that each worker has a radio which provides better coverage than cell phone service. With the radios they can reach each other as well as North Adams Dispatch in the event of an emergency. Dave Tatro thanked her for her concern, but said they were doing ok.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 18, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the special meeting minutes of January 25, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #4 \$ 7,385.19 payroll

WARRANT #5 \$15,331.50 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The turbo went in the Ford and it's up at Carbones being repaired. At times this week the crew was down to only one truck running while Dave Tatro or Mike Brothers were at the garage fixing the other. The good news is the squealing noise in the Ford is caused by a problem on the manifold which will be covered under warranty.
2. Dave Tatro received one response from a landowner on Poplar Drive. They said they were going to write a letter to the Selectboard but nothing has been received to date.
3. Wade Masure, from the Risk Management department of the town's insurance company conducted a safety inspection at the garage. He made several suggestions for improvement such as having an eye wash kit on hand and having clean water available, but had no serious concerns. Dave Tatro has already ordered the eye wash kit.
4. Dave Tatro stated that when plowing the back section of the school parking lot, the plow hit the uneven pavement causing \$1,800.00 in damage to his plow blade and injuring his neck.

#### RECYCLING

Dave Tatro has hired McLain Electric to install the 3 phase electricity at the recycling center.

#### JUCICIAL BUREAU

The Selectboard reviewed the issuing and appearing officials. Nancy Bushika feels it's important that all officials obtain Selectboard approval before taking any action and issuing tickets. The Selectboard will wait until after the election to revise the appointments.

#### CARD FROM SCHOOL

The Selectboard read and acknowledged a thank you card received from the school principal and teachers.

#### UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

The board approved a Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Newport Sand & Gravel, Inc. / Carroll Concrete Co., Inc. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

#### 2017 AUDIT

The board signed a letter to the town attorney requesting her to release information to the auditing firm of Love, Cody and Company regarding any pending or threatened litigation against the town.

#### PREPARATION FOR TOWN MEETING

The treasurer obtained a better estimate for the school parking lot loan if approved. The first payment of a five year \$100,000.00 loan at 2.5% would be \$22,500.00.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin  
Clerk

DJP/las

#### REMINDERS

1. New recycling punch cards for use beginning November 1, 2017 are available at the Town Office.
2. Anyone interested in serving as a lister until the next election should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.
3. The dog clinic will be held at the Stamford Fire Department on Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
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.
5. Town meeting will be held Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School.
6. Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 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.
7. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018. Please call the town office at 694-1361.