

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 2, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Acting Chair, David R. Tatro and Michael Denault.
Daniel J. Potvin and Sheila G. Lawrence were not present.
Visitors: Bill Levine and Christopher Warren.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dave Tatro to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 16, 2017, as written.
SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #9 \$ 5,758.38 payroll
WARRANT #10 \$16,625.53 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro has spent \$6,000 for stone to fill the muddy areas.
2. There have been no more problems with the highway salt.
3. Dave Tatro has received complaints about the chip seal leaving asphalt residue on cars. He has a call into Allstate and will let the Selectboard know their response. He thinks orange cleaner should take it off.
4. Nancy Bushika was contacted by Ruth West on The Lane concerning the heavy water runoff on her property and the neighbor plowing snow onto her property. The Selectboard agreed that the snowplowing was a private matter. Dave Tatro looked at the water runoff and said it is the same complaint she has made in the past and he did not feel the town needs to take any action.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The Selectboard reviewed the draft, discussed changes and will review it again at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine attended a recent meeting of the Western MA Regional Planning Committee. He stated that St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church is a designated emergency shelter that we could use if need be. He also shared views on violent incident response and suggested all administrators, including Selectboard members, should complete ICS 100 and ICS 200 training.
2. Bill Levine and Sheila Lawrence attended a FEMA presentation on flooding. Mitigation was discussed as well as required FEMA forms and deadlines. The town will have full authority to correct problems during the first 72 hours after an emergency. After 72 hours, jobs will have to be bid out and other FEMA rules will apply. Bill Levine was given a list of contacts for use during an emergency. It was suggested that photos be taken of all problem areas in town.

2016 AUDIT

The Selectboard agreed to send the report included in the Town Report to the auditors.

TOWN REPORT

Chris Warren suggested that next year the Town Report could be e-mailed to residents as a pdf file if they would prefer. A form can be sent out with tax bills giving residents the option.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

The board approved a Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Valley Crane Services, Inc. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

ATTORNEY LETTER

Our town attorney left Fitts, Olson & Giddings and started her own practice, the Rowell Law Office, in Brattleboro, VT. The Selectboard will agree to continue to use her and will sign the letter authorizing the town's files to be transferred to her new practice if her rate does not increase.

TOWN OFFICE

The work on the vault water pipe has been completed.

TOWN AGENT and GRAND JUROR POSITIONS

Although both of these elected positions are outdated, archaic and hardly used, the positions cannot be removed. Most towns hire an attorney instead. Nancy Bushika has spoken with Representative Laura Sibilio to introduce a bill to give towns the option to remove the positions. Representative Sibilio requested that Nancy Bushika submit the reasons why the Selectboard would like to remove them. The board was in agreement.

TREASURER

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of January 2017.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika
Clerk pro tem

NLB /las

REMINDERS

1. The informational meeting on Act 46 concerning the merging of individual schools into unified districts is March 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stamford School.
2. The dog clinic will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stamford Firehouse.
3. The deadline to register to vote in the March 7, 2017 election is Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted up to and during the voting hours of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
4. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
5. 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.