

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 19, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Christopher Warren, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael Denault and Carol Fachini.

Visitors: Rosemarie Curran, Richard Cristofolini, Debbie Darling, Steve Denault, Victoria Jefferies, Bill Levine, and Pat Sullivan.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
Sally Bohl, Delinquent Tax Collector.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:45 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: airbnb update and sheriff's contract.

TAX SALE

Sally Bohl announced that the tax sale has been scheduled for May 9, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. She hopes that a Selectboard member can attend. Nancy Bushika and Carol Fachini are available.

GREEN UP DAY

Pat Sullivan stated that Green Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in front of the school. About 50 people participated last year and she hopes to have more this year.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Building Community Group will be meeting at the firehouse on Friday, April 20, 2018 at 6 p.m. to discuss ideas to build a gazebo/community gathering place. The idea is gaining traction and the committee invites residents to participate. Victoria Jefferies has sketched several possibilities and the proposed building site has been flagged on the front school yard.

SCHOOL FENCE

Victoria Jefferies thought the Selectboard should consider the snow buildup and frost heaves when deciding on a fence. She has a fence and needs to leave the gate open throughout the winter so it isn't locked in place until spring. The Selectboard thanked her for coming. The Selectboard secretary will contact the school principal with her suggestions and she will do the same.

SCHOOL TRASH REMOVAL

MOTION to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter and salary. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board entered executive session at 7:05 p.m. and invited Rich Cristofolini and Dave Tatro to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to hire Richard Cristofolini to bring the school trash to the town recycling center using his personal vehicle for \$50.00/week. He will receive complimentary punch card(s) for as long as he transports the school's trash. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The school dumpsters will be removed which will increase the parking lot, facilitate snow removal and will not be in the way for the fence installation.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 5, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard acknowledged a complaint received regarding the

wording of the last meeting minutes. Nancy Bushika said Lori Shepard takes down what was discussed and she didn't feel the minutes should be changed since that was what was said. Mike Denault felt anyone who had a complaint about the minutes could come and voice their opinion. Bill Levine noted that there are a lot of public announcements that are in the minutes. Chris Warren felt the complainant had a point and the announcement sounded like it was coming from the board. Mike Denault disagreed, saying it was clearly a statement he made and in no way should it be construed as the board's point of view. Dan Potvin felt the minutes accurately reflect what was said at the meeting. Lori Shepard advised that the law only requires minimal information such as meeting attendance, motions and votes. The board supported the way the minutes are taken and did not want to make any changes.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #14 \$ 6,446.17 payroll
- WARRANT #15 \$22,982.06 accounts payable
- WARRANT #16 \$ 773.43 payroll
- WARRANT #17 \$ 158.14 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

1. Nancy Bushika noted that the town paid another Klondike Road bridge bill in the amount of \$1.73.
2. The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of March.
3. First quarter budget reports were given for the board's review and will be discussed at the next meeting.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The snow will be ending soon. Dave Tatro is just as frustrated as everyone else. There has been enough snow on the mountain to have to plow every day this week.
2. They have been filling potholes on the gravel roads. Normally he would be grading by now, but the weather hasn't allowed it.
3. Dan Potvin passed on a compliment that Sumner Road is very nice this spring.
4. Dave Tatro has found an excavator that looks promising. It has low hours, it's the right size and the price is \$55,000. Dan Potvin will go see it with Dave Tatro.
5. Our roads are in decent shape because we are staying on top of the maintenance. Every five years we resurface the roads and it is more economical to maintain than to fix roads that are in disrepair.
6. Dave Tatro has not talked with Al McLain or John Dupras yet.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro will contact TAM to have the two school dumpsters removed which will save the town money.
2. Michael Batcher from the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) dropped off flyers promoting the free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the Bennington Transfer Station on May 12, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3. R.L. Waste has not registered as a hauler with the town. He has not responded to Nancy Bushika's phone calls. A letter will be sent requesting immediate compliance and the Bennington County Regional Commission will be copied.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. On June 21, 2018 the Berkshire County Regional Planning Committee will host a breakfast and hold a shelter demonstration. St. Elizabeth of Hungary is our shelter relocation site and the emphasis of this exercise will be on transportation during an emergency.
2. At some point the Berkshire County Regional Planning Committee may request towns contribute to an annual administration fee. Since our town has received several thousand dollars worth of equipment through their grants, he believes it is worth paying the fee.

3. The Local Emergency Operations Plan should be ready for review at the next Selectboard meeting.

REVIEW CANDIDATES FOR LISTER CLERK POSITION

1. The town office has not received any applications. Nancy Bushika asked Debbie Darling if she was interested but she declined. Debbie Darling said she felt sorry for the position the Selectboard is in. When she asked for a rate increase, she had another person interested in serving as lister and they could have made it work, but when the raise was denied, the person didn't come forward. She has been working with the NEMRC representative. Before the town negotiates another contract with NEMRC, Debbie Darling feels the town should make sure they get the services they want. The board should request that he fill out the papers and do the assessments the way the town has done them in the past, instead of determining the assessment in his head. She also cited several discrepancies in the grand list and recommended that the town start the reappraisal process now. Tomorrow is her last day, but she has an appointment on Wednesday to meet with NEMRC to finish updating the grand list.
2. Nancy Bushika said she received a phone call from someone with lister experience who is willing to help the town get through the grand list season. They did not want the position permanently. Nancy Bushika requested permission to contact this person and hire them through the end of June and pay the current lister rate. Debbie Darling asked how the board could evaluate a candidate and choose a pay rate when they don't even know what the job entails. Mike Denault feels the salary can be based on the experience of the person on an individual basis.
3. The board will advertise the Lister Clerk position in the VLCT newsletter, on Berkshire Jobs, indeed.com and will look into other resources as well.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve a Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Barrett Trucking Co., Inc. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

OFFER TO PURCHASE TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The Selectboard received an offer from Rev. Robert and Sarah Bellofatto, Jr. to purchase Lots 382 and 383 in Alpenwald for \$1,000.00 and to purchase the .5 acre Haynes lot on Main Road near Clough Road for \$250.00.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the offer of \$1,000.00 to purchase Lots 382 and 383 in Alpenwald.

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The Selectboard declined the offer of \$250.00 to purchase the Haynes lot at this time. Dan Potvin will walk the lot and report back to the Selectboard at the next meeting.

VERMONT STATE POLICE

1. Lt. Mozzer from the Vermont State Police advised that he will be unable to offer any patrol services to the town based on unanticipated commitments. The Selectboard has a contract with the Bennington Sheriff's Department which expires in June. Their rate increases in the proposed contract from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. There was not enough money budgeted in December to provide for the increase at 22 hours per week. The board may choose to reduce the sheriff's services to 20 hours per week. The decision to accept the July through December contract with the Bennington Sheriff's Department will be discussed another time.
2. Sheriff Chad Schmidt had previously suggested that the town combine with other neighboring towns to commit to 40 hours per week. Nancy Bushika was not sure if other towns were willing. Mike Denault said Searsburg is not ready right now.

UNOFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

Mike Denault noted that CJ Vadnais does a great job and obviously puts a lot of time into his website, but the highlights can easily stir the pot. Bill Levine agreed that the website is an editorial and is a private enterprise. Bill Levine stated that CJ Vadnais does not want to lose control nor his ability to edit the website. Mike Denault

suggested having our own town website would create an official place where the people can read the facts. Lori Shepard stated that if the town was in charge of the website, the Selectboard agendas could be posted and people could come to meetings to participate in topic discussions instead of reading about them later in the minutes. Town documents such as building permit applications and ordinances and by-laws could also be posted for review which would be beneficial. Chris Warren recalled that the Selectboard didn't want an official town website because of the open meeting laws. Chris Warren said a domain name could be purchased for \$30.00-\$50.00 per year and said building a website was quick and easy. The Selectboard could permit access to whoever they choose. Chris Warren offered to put together a draft of what to expect for the next meeting. Nancy Bushika thought the town may need to adopt a policy.

DELINQUENT DOGS

The town has licensed about 175 dogs to date. Reminder notices were sent out to approximately 50 people and there are about 85 dogs still unlicensed.

AIRBNBS

Chris Warren called the Vermont League of Cities & Towns concerning the regulation of AirBnBs. He was told they are too new and laws have not been developed. There are no regulations in the town's by-laws. Dan Potvin is on the Planning Commission and he doesn't see the board addressing the issue. Chris Warren stated that the town has no official position on AirBnBs at this time.

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION LETTER

Carol Fachini noted a letter received concerning the regulation of private helicopters and landing areas.

CREDIT CARD COMPANY ISSUE

The town continues to have problems with the Satellite.Biz credit card company. At the suggestion of Chris Warren, the treasurer requested information concerning the problem, the risk of town and customer information and how they store and protect the information. The board suggested that the treasurer look into other credit card companies and push for a quick resolution.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. All dogs must be licensed with the town by April 1, 2018.
2. Anyone interested in applying for the lister clerk position should review the help wanted ad and apply at the town office.
3. The free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held at the Bennington Transfer Station on May 12, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4. Green Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will meet in front of the school.
5. The tax sale is scheduled for May 9, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at the town office.
6. 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.