

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 20, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Michael Denault, and Carol Fachini.
Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Barbara Dolle, Helen Fields, Cynthia Lamore, and Bill Levine.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance. The battery on the recorder would not recharge so the meeting could not be recorded.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

ROAD RESURFACING PROBLEMS

Barbara Dolle asked about the stones coming off the roads. Dave Tatro acknowledged that there was a problem with the resurfacing of the roads last summer. He has a meeting with the company to discuss warranty repairs since the resurfacing failed in many areas. He said there was no way the town could afford to black top the roads and chip sealing is the most economical solution. Many residents have had problems with tar sticking to their clothes, animals and vehicles. Anyone who has experienced problems because of the failed road resurfacing is encouraged to call the town office or a Selectboard member.

SCHOOL RENOVATION

Cindy Lamore stated that the School Board obtained quotes from Carl Newsome to replace the windows in the town office, library and gym. She asked if the Selectboard would consider sharing the cost. The Selectboard asked what the school's fund balance was. Cindy Lamore said she didn't know but thought maybe it was around \$80,000.00.

PETITIONS

Cindy Lamore mentioned the petitions that went around town and wanted to know where they originated. She felt the town office staff or Selectboard members were behind the petitions. She said the petitions were hurtful and cruel. She stated that not everyone is going to like every decision they make, but they are elected to do their job. Neither the town office nor the Selectboard were involved in the two petitions. Nancy Bushika noted that it is part of the town clerk's job to provide assistance and guidance to residents with questions. Lori Shepard stated that guidance was provided concerning the parameters to be followed when making a petition. When the two petitions were received in the town office, phone calls were made to both the Secretary of State and the town's attorney for assistance in handling them properly. The Secretary of State and attorney both advised that the petitions contained questions outside of the jurisdiction of the Selectboard and that the Selectboard should take no action. Cindy Lamore asked why the town clerk didn't give the School Board a heads up. She answered that we were advised by our attorney to take no action and to return the petitions to the petitioner. Cindy Lamore said we all know each other and should be working together and was personally very upset by the petitions, none of which she said were valid.

SHERIFF AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Cindy Lamore stated that the School Board did not ask the sheriff to attend their last meeting and hoped her tax dollars weren't paying for it. The Selectboard stated that they did not hire the sheriff either and were very upset when they learned about it. The Selectboard did not feel an individual should have the ability to obtain the sheriff's presence during the town's patrol time. Nancy Bushika would like to wait until the bill is received before contacting the sheriff's department.

MOTION by Mike Denault that there shall be no scheduled sheriff's coverage without the Selectboard's prior approval. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TOWN WEBSITE

Helen Fields asked the Selectboard to reconsider the town website. She feels there is no mechanism for communication in town. The Selectboard explained that the website was dropped when the state created the law that agendas and minutes must be uploaded to the website within five days or a penalty could be assessed. Not all the town boards are following the open meeting laws. Since the Selectboard appoints the board members, they should ensure the boards are following the law. Helen Fields noted that the school website has not been updated and was informed by the supervisory union that they do not have access to it. Cindy Lamore said everyone wants more and more from people and now they want to be spoon-fed too. Cindy Lamore asked everyone to be patient. Helen Fields would like to look into a website for the town and have Lori Shepard or another trained to maintain it. The Selectboard agreed to consider a website if Helen Fields comes back with a proposal.

MINUTES

Nancy Bushika noted a change to the minutes of April 6, 2017. Under recycling, the contact at Republic Services was James Reisinger-Kindle, not James Alibozek as reported in the minutes.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 6, 2017, as revised. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #15 \$ 7,456.47 payroll

WARRANT #16 \$27,391.94 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has started grading the roads and is busy with spring work.
2. The class 4 roads will reopen on May 1, 2017.
3. Dave Tatro and Nancy Bushika met with Chris Taft from the Agency of Transportation to complete the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways. After the meeting Dave Tatro and Chris Taft went to view the condition of Sumner Road where it meets the Main Road. Chris Taft said the state is considering paving the Main Road and if they do, perhaps they can pave the Sumner Road entrance. Dave Tatro also showed him the potholes at the state line. Chris Taft said he wasn't aware of the condition of the Main Road there, but they are planning a culvert project at the line and will consider repairing that area as well.
4. Dave Tatro brought up the hiring of a third highway laborer. He said it will need to happen at some point soon. He also would like to buy a used excavator. Hours and budget costs were discussed. Dave Tatro knows someone that is semi-retired and very flexible. Nancy Bushika believes the job should be posted and wait to see the applications. Bill Levine brainstormed ways to make it happen since no money was budgeted for a third person. Dave Tatro will look into a used excavator vs. a rental and how many hours he thinks he needs and discussion will resume at the next meeting.

KLONDIKE ROAD BRIDGE

The Selectboard reviewed the explanation received from Caroline Carlson, the project engineer at the Agency of Transportation. The board agreed that the bill has to be paid anyway and arguing about it may only compromise grants being awarded in the future.

MOTION by Dave Tatro to pay last month's bill of 709.76 and this month's bill of \$775.75 (for a total of \$1,485.51) to the Agency of Transportation. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika contacted Michael Batchter from the Bennington County Regional Commission about the grants. It is only for fencing or a shed to contain food scraps. The grant also requires you to do outreach and education and offers kitchen counter compost containers which the town could purchase and then give to residents. The grant cannot be used for roll offs. Nancy Bushika will check to see if repair of the fence around the whole enclosure would be eligible. Nancy Bushika advised that a 5 gallon bucket won't be sufficient to hold the food scraps. The town will need to buy sawdust which will have to be layered with the food scraps. The food scraps cannot go in the landfill; they must be used for compost or in an operation that manufactures some type of alternate energy. Dave Tatro noted that the trash collected does not go into a landfill; it is hauled to Pittsfield and burned to make energy. The board realized that food scraps can be included in the regular trash and still be compliant with Vermont law.
 2. Mike Lavarriere requested his \$50.00 recycling monitor allotment to buy gloves and rubber boots. The Selectboard approved the request.
 3. Nancy Bushika reported that three haulers have sent in their first quarter hauler reports. She will follow up with the other haulers who have not turned in their paperwork.
 4. Bill Levine provided information from Tapestry in North Adams which has a needle exchange program. They accept hypodermic needles free of charge and provide containers for safe handling. He gave the Selectboard a no-obligation form to fill out estimating how many needles they feel the recycling center collects and could be dropped off monthly. Dave Tatro will talk to the recycling monitors to see how sharps are handled at the recycling center now and how many they receive.
- MOTION by Nancy Bushika to sign the agreement to utilize Tapestry as a resource for the safe disposal of needles. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The Selectboard reviewed the final draft.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the Employee Policy Handbook. SECONDED by Mike Denault. 3 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion APPROVED. Dave Tatro abstained from voting and did not sign the policy.

GENERATOR GRANT

McClain Electric dropped off the generator specifications. Bill Levine took the paperwork to review with his son over the weekend. Al McLain asked how payments would be made throughout the process.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The Local Emergency Operations Plan will be updated soon.
2. The Selectboard members should consider NIMS training in the event of a disaster. There are some hazmat awareness courses coming up that he would like Dave Tatro and Mike Brothers to attend.
3. EMT classes will be starting in September, every Tuesday and Thursday evening for three months.
4. Training is being offered to learn how to stop bleeding after severe trauma, military style.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF SPEED CART

The sheriff's department has received a grant for \$10,000 for a new radar speed cart. They would like to move it to speed problem areas within their contract towns. If there is no cost to the town, the Selectboard is willing to have the cart in Stamford for a period of time.

LAWN BIDS

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the lawn care bid of Stanley Lawrence, Jr. for mowing at the school and one application of crab grass control and one application of weed & feed for \$2,500.00. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DOG UPDATE

1. The town office has issued about 160 dog tags so far. We have about 270-275 dogs in town. Since the due date to license all dogs with the town was April 1st, reminder notices will be sent.
2. Luke McKay has been called to pick up two dogs running loose three times already this year. A letter will be sent to the owner of the two dogs advising that if it happens again they will be ticketed.
3. Luke McKay will be asked to follow up with the Jensens regarding the order issued by the Selectboard previously and his time frame for compliance.

MICROFILMING OF LAND RECORD BOOKS

The town clerk contacted Alfredo Frauenfelder of Conduent who will microfilm the vault records for \$0.16/page and scan them for \$0.09/page. Since there is sufficient funding in the Record Restoration Fund to cover the cost, the Town Clerk will proceed.

WINDOW RENOVATION QUOTE

The Selectboard reviewed the quote from Carl Newsome for the window replacement/renovation. They thought the point of these renovations was to spend down the school's fund balance before the merger, if it is approved. Over \$3,000 was just spent by the town to remove dead trees along the school parking lot. The pavement in the parking lot is very cracked and broken. The Selectboard determined that the disrepair of the parking lot is in a critical state and a higher priority than the town office windows. It was decided that the town has no funds to contribute to the window replacement at this time. If the School Board depletes its excess funds, the Selectboard is willing to reevaluate its decision.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika
Clerk pro tem

NLB/las

REMINDERS

1. The free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held at the Bennington Transfer Station on May 20, 2017.
2. Green Up Day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2017.
3. The yearly deadline to license all dogs with the town office is April 1, 2017.
4. The recycling center will be open on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning April 26, 2017.
5. An Act 46 informational meeting is **tentatively** scheduled for **Tuesday, May 23, 2017** at 7 p.m. which may be the last informational meeting prior to the merger vote.
6. An election will be held **Wednesday, May 31, 2017** at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to elect School Board Directors to the Southern Valley Unified Union School District if the merger is approved.
Elected positions to be filled are:

Southern Valley Unified Union School District School Director – one (1) year term
Southern Valley Unified Union School District School Director – two (2) year term
Southern Valley Unified Union School District School Director – three (3) year term

7. Nominating papers for anyone wishing to run for Southern Valley Unified Union School District School Board Director may be picked up at the Town Office. 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, May 1, 2017** at 5:00 p.m. V.S.A. 17:706e
8. The deadline to register to vote in the **May 31, 2017** election is **Wednesday, May 31, 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.
9. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 30, 2017**. Please call the town office at 694-1361.