

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 5, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Helen Fields, Micah Hayre, School Principal, and Bill Levine.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
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 the following items were added: Airbnb update, engineering quote for work at the garage update, gazebo construction, and a second municipal excess weight permit application.

MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 15, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #12 \$ 6,677.47 payroll
WARRANT #13 \$38,765.29 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Winter is still here and hasn't let up. The highway budget might be over in materials and time because of the weather.
2. They have been filling potholes and doing repairs and maintenance on the equipment.
3. Nancy Bushika noted that the school yard was raked and it looked nice.
4. There is workshop on April 10, 2018 in Arlington, VT concerning the new \$2,000.00 municipal permits. Dave Tatro will not be attending since he attended a discussion at the town fair. The municipal permits are part of the Clean Water Act the legislature passed to clean up Lake Champlain. Every town must pay \$2,000.00 per year and submit to the state a list of the projects they plan on working on. Then at the end of the year, another report is required indicating what projects were completed. The state has mapped out all the roads and culverts and any work completed within yellow areas has to meet different codes and standards. It will be more work for Dave Tatro to complete these reports when he could be doing other work. Large cities pay the same \$2,000.00 fee as small towns do. The state will reassess the program after five years.
5. Nancy Bushika received a message from Nancy LeSage concerning her son Marcel Potvin snow blowing snow into a town road. Nancy Bushika returned the call and left a message that as long as he is no longer blowing snow into the road, the issue is resolved.
6. The new truck has been ordered but won't be ready until September or October.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro has not connected with McLain Electric yet.
2. Michael Batcher from the Bennington County Regional Commission will be scheduling the free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Stamford for the end of July, early August.
3. Dave Tatro signed up for a class on electric waste and light bulb disposal. Nancy Bushika is still investigating whether the town can opt out of the e-waste collection.

4. Bill Levine stated that the fire department's e-waste fundraiser will be on May 12, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Redemption Center, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, North Adams, MA.

CREDIT CARD COMPANY BREACH

The town office accepts credit card payments through the Satellite.Biz Company. When the account was created no password was needed. Their business was hacked in March. Because the town's accounts were not password protected, our accounts were affected. The Satellite.Biz Company reversed many of the transactions, but a property owner's payment was also reversed in error. The treasurer has been working with the credit card company to resolve this matter, but after several weeks there are still problems. The Selectboard encouraged the treasurer to aggressively seek a resolution with the company and gave permission to find another credit card company for the town if needed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The next local emergency planning committee meeting will be held in Bennington on April 26, 2018.
2. An ICS 402 course for managing an incident will be held on April 30, 2018 in Bennington.
3. The town's updated Local Emergency Operations Plan is due on May 1, 2018.
4. An Emergency Management Director course is scheduled for two evenings on May 8-9, 2018 at the Bennington Fire Department. This course would instruct anyone interested in becoming a Director or Assistant Director.

GRAND LIST for 2017

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the 2017 Grand List stating there were no suits pending. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

LISTER CLERK POSITION - JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Nancy Bushika spoke with five other towns and the current and former town listers about the position. She provided a draft help wanted ad and proposed job description which the Selectboard approved. The job will be posted at the town office, Bilmont's Store, the library, the recycling center, on CJ Vadnais' website and will be sent by email to everyone on the Selectboard's email list. Anyone interested should apply at the town office by noon on April 18, 2018.
2. Helen Fields suggested the town implement background checks for our own safety as well as the school children. She said the Seed Savers Group who use the school grounds for their gardens will follow whatever requirements are put in place. The board agreed to look into it.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Chris Warren to approve two Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications, from Fabian Earth Moving, Inc. and Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information was received from the applicants.

DOGS

The license deadline was April 1st and the town office has licensed a little more than half of the dogs. Reminder notices will be sent.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Mike Denault announced that on Saturday, April 7, 2018 in Bennington there will be a Pro Second Amendment Rally at the intersection of Routes 7 and 9. There are 150 patriots going already and he hopes to have more.

BENNINGTON SHERIFF/VERMONT STATE POLICE

The Selectboard would like to ask the State Police to attend an upcoming meeting to see what patrol services they can offer the town. Mike Denault will look into the idea of uniting with other towns to commit to a 40 hour/week Bennington sheriff position.

GAZEBO IN FRONT OF SCHOOL

Dan Potvin is part of the community group who would like to build a community gathering area. A gazebo in the front of the school will give the town a central focus and a place for people to meet. The group is exploring grants for funding and is hoping the building permit and zoning board permit fees can be waived. Micah Hayre, the school principal, is supportive and said kids are looking forward to having a place to visit with their friends. The size has not been determined and the Heather Torres memorial tree may have to be relocated. The structure can be added to the town's insurance since it is on town property. Nancy Bushika asked who would maintain the building in the future.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EXCAVATOR

Bill Levine feels purchasing a used excavator will save the town money compared to hiring out all the culvert and ditch work to private contractors. Dave Tatro found a machine which is the size and age he would like for around \$40,000.00. Bill Levine suggested using the \$20,000.00 budgeted for culvert and ditch projects and \$20,000.00 from the highway fund balance to purchase a machine. Dave Tatro feels the investment will pay for itself within two years, and would be even more efficient with a third laborer. The Selectboard authorized Dave Tatro to search for a machine and put a deposit down if he sees one he likes. Dan Potvin will go with him to look at some excavators. Nancy Bushika questioned whether the Selectboard could use highway fund balance money without a town vote. Bill Levine and Micah Hayre felt they could. Dave Tatro thanked Bill Levine for prodding him and not giving up on the excavator idea.

APPROVAL OF FENCING AROUND SCHOOL YARD

Micah Hayre submitted a hand drawn proposal for the Selectboard's review. He would like a chain link fence where the current orange fence is near the slide and Leo Ethier memorial garden with a 10' wide gate. He would like a fence on the south corner of the building near the middle school section with a 3' wide gate. He would also like a fence from the corner of the library running north behind the dumpsters with a 10' wide gate. The gates will not be locked but will provide a visual barrier for the safety of the children. There will be signs on each gate requiring all guests to sign in at the main office. The gates will allow mowing machines and vehicles access to the building. Bill Levine felt the 3' gate would not allow a fire truck access in the event of an emergency and offered to pay for the difference between a 3' gate and a 10' gate with his emergency management funds. Dave Tatro initially suggested a jog in the fence behind the dumpsters, but then felt if the dumpsters were gone, there would be more room and the parking lot could be plowed easier. Helen Fields wanted to ensure that the Seed Savers would still have vehicular access to the tennis courts. Richard Cristofolini, the school custodian, was summoned to the meeting to participate in the discussion. Both the trash and recyclable dumpsters are filled every two weeks. The Selectboard felt if the custodian could bring the trash up to the recycling center, the two dumpsters would not be needed and could be removed. The Selectboard felt the money they saved by removing the dumpsters could be used to pay the custodian for this additional work. The Selectboard approved the fences as long as all the concerns voiced at the meeting were addressed.

REVISION TO ARTICLE 6 AT TOWN MEETING

Nancy Bushika spoke with the Vermont League of Cities & Towns who advised that it is not legal to stipulate that buyers who are in arrears on their property taxes were restricted from purchasing other property for sale by the town.

AIRBNBs

Chris Warren has not yet checked into the state regulations on airbnbs.

ENGINEERING QUOTE FOR WORK AT TOWN GARAGE

Dave Tatro will wait until the snow melts before contacting Trinity Engineering.

SELECTBOARD SEMINAR

Nancy Bushika noted an upcoming Selectboard seminar on tax appeals in Rutland.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 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 by 12 p.m. on April 18, 2018.
3. 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.