

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 6, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Michael Denault, Daniel J. Potvin and Carol Fachini.

Visitors: Donna Engel, John Engel, Helen Fields, Stephen Greene, Bill Levine and Pat Sullivan. Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

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

HEARING OF VISITORS:

GREEN UP DAY

Pat Sullivan, Green Up Day Coordinator, would like to gather in front of the school for Green Up Day on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. She would like to put up a canopy and is hoping the foyer can be opened for bathroom use. Dave Tatro will provide the town truck. The Selectboard was agreeable. Pat Sullivan has also contacted the School Board.

SEED SAVERS CLUB

Helen Fields is very excited about the Seed Savers Group which is forming in Stamford. She asked the Selectboard to consider re-purposing the tennis court to build raised beds for community gardening. They will work with teachers for children/class participation. Classes and discussions will be available to help those who would like to grow plants and vegetables but aren't sure where to start. Heirloom seeds will be used and stored from year to year and all plants will be organic. CJ Vadnais has been researching geodesic dome greenhouses and hopes one can be built in the future. They would like a raised bed of herbs in the front of the school near the sign. Dan Potvin suggested a wood source for the beds and has grain available. The Selectboard was welcoming and hoped senior citizens could also be involved and would like to see the beds kept attractive and well-maintained. The board gave permission to haul in the necessary equipment with a small truck staying as far to the northerly tree line as possible, to repair the hole in the fence and remove the lock. The next Seed Savers meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Stamford Library and all are invited to attend.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the use of the tennis courts for community raised bed gardening as well as an herb garden in the front of the building near the sign. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2017, as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #13 \$ 6,842.43 payroll

WARRANT #14 \$14,910.03 accounts payable

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The last statement included eight hours for the sheriff's presence during the town election on March 7, 2017. Although this has been done in the past, it takes away from the officer's patrol time. The Selectboard may allocate the additional cost for the sheriff in the election budget next year.

TOWN AND LIBRARY LIGHT

The light outside the library only lasted about a month. McLain Electric replaced it and the light on the corner of the school. The Selectboard will look into the matter if it burns out again so quickly.

TREASURER

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has been busy filling potholes.
2. Carol Fachini has received complaints concerning the condition of Sumner Road where it meets the Main Road. Dave Tatro advised that the area is in the state's right of way and because they have failed to clean out the plugged culvert, the water pools and runs across the road. Although Dave Tatro did not feel a call to the Bennington AOT office was necessary since he has already had conversations with the state about the drainage problem, Bill Levine and other board members encouraged her to call Chris Taft at the AOT office in Bennington. Carol Fachini will call on Friday.
3. The leaf blower has been purchased.
4. Dave Tatro said we need to have some serious discussions about hiring a third guy. Being on call for six months of the year and not being able to travel more than half an hour from Stamford is getting old. Various jobs that the third person could do were discussed as well as purchasing a used excavator to assist with ditching and culverts.

RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika attended the Berkshire County Solid Waste Alliance meeting. Trevor Mance from TAM and James Kirche from Republic Services were there. A committee is forming to push back some of the state laws which are not feasible for small towns. Haulers would like to submit reports every 6 months instead of quarterly and Michael Batchner from the Bennington County Regional Commission will see if it is acceptable by the state.
2. Republic Services was not aware of the state requirement to accept food scraps beginning July 1, 2017. They will look into it.
3. TAM already accepts food scraps and said meat, bones and vegetables can be discarded together. He provides containers and the recycling monitors mix in layers of sawdust. There has been no problem with odor or rodents.
4. It was suggested that the Seed Savers group might be able to use the town's food scraps for compost.
5. Michael Batchner said grants are available for fencing to keep animals out of the recycling/compost area. Nancy Bushika will check to see if grants are available to replace roll off containers since ours are in bad shape.
6. Michael Batchner is setting up recycling education in schools.
7. The free Household Hazardous Waste Day in Bennington has been rescheduled to May 20, 2017. Flyers are available.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The Selectboard reviewed the draft and made some minor changes. The final will be reviewed and signed at the next meeting.

LAWN BIDS

Stanley Lawrence, Jr. will be contacted to see if he will accept the mowing and weed and feed application job for school yard for the \$2,500 which was budgeted this year.

TREES ALONG SCHOOL BORDER

The tops of two trees broke off during a recent storm. Dan Potvin will give an estimate for the work. Dave Tatro thought the work could be done this summer and discussed the easiest way to do it.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The Local Emergency Operations Plan needs to be updated. Some changes to the draft Emergency Telephone Contact List will be made.
2. The signed proposal has been sent to McLain Electric, Inc. Bill Levine stated they are very busy but he's sure they are working on it.
3. Rich Cristofolini does not have much experience with starting the emergency generator at the school. Bill Levine will help.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve three Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from Michael Tatro Trucking, Fabian Earth Moving, and Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

2016 AUDIT

MOTION by Dave Tatro to approve and sign the representation letter to the auditing firm Love, Cody & Company for the 2016 audit. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MICROFILMING OF LAND RECORD BOOKS

1. The town clerk spoke with an archivist from the Secretary of State's office. She explained that scanning is an excellent tool for a useable back up copy of data. Title searchers can view and print copies of the scanned copy without having to handle the books, which saves the books from wear and tear. But technology is advancing so quickly, the scanning software could be obsolete in future years making the data unavailable. She explained that microfilm is still the best medium for long term preservation. In their temperature-controlled environment, which they provide at no cost to towns, the microfilm will not deteriorate and can be read without technology or electricity using a magnifying glass. They have numerous microfilm readers now and one could be loaned to the town in the event of a disaster. Money is available in the record restoration and technology funds if the town clerk chooses to microfilm.
2. Donna Engel has generously offered her time to help scan the Land Record books.

KLONDIKE ROAD BRIDGE

The Selectboard will continue to withhold payment of the Agency of Transportation bill in the amount of \$709.76 until they receive answers. Although they did respond saying the bill was for inspection work done in the fall, they have not provided an itemization of the amount budgeted vs. amount spent and a reason why the project is so far over budget.

LISTER RESIGNATION

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the resignation of Peter Chesbro as Lister with regret. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Anyone interested in serving as a lister should contact the Selectboard or another lister.
2. Angela Brothers explained to the board how this is the busiest and most serious time of year for the listers. She said Pete Chesbro was an amazing trainer, he was extremely knowledgeable and she appreciates all the assistance and help he gave. Unfortunately she and the newly elected lister, Debbie Darling, do not know the field work and valuation aspect of the job. Their District Advisor at Property Valuation & Review suggested they use money from the education and parcel maintenance portion of the reappraisal fund to pay someone to come down and teach them. Angela Brothers provided a summary of

all the duties that are part of the lister job. The Vermont legislature has made the job so complex that lister work is becoming a full time career instead of a part-time job. Nancy Bushika suggested contacting the Readsboro listers who may be able to help. Other appraisers were mentioned as well. It was agreed that the funds should not be a hindrance and encouraged her to come back if more help is needed. MOTION by Mike Denault to allocate up to \$1,000.00 from the education and parcel maintenance portion of the reappraisal fund for assistance and training to complete the necessary lister work. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DEERFIELD VALLEY NEWS

Nancy Bushika was advised that the Deerfield Valley News currently has six subscribers and brings ten copies to Bilmonts Country Store each week. There are not enough subscribers to consider using the paper for town publication. She did note that legal ads in the Deerfield Valley News cost \$8.50 per inch, while the Berkshire Eagle charges \$35.50 per inch. She asked if they could send a correspondent to Stamford but has not heard back.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There has been no word from appointees who were re-appointed and no longer wish to serve.

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Cemetery Commission would like to wait until the May 18, 2017 Selectboard meeting to respond to budget questions raised at town meeting.

TOWN FAIR

Dan Potvin asked about the fair and may consider attending.

OPEN MEETING LAWS

Nancy Bushika handed out information concerning the Open Meeting Laws. The law requires that the agenda for every meeting be posted in three public places as well as the website (if there is one), not less than five days before the meeting. Minutes of the meeting must be made available to the public and uploaded to the website (if there is one) within five days of the meeting. This law applies to every public body of a municipality as well as committees or subcommittees appointed from time to time and all meetings must be open to the public. It was agreed that this information is to be forwarded to the chair of each board with the request that the chair read the rules to each board/committee member and share copies.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin
Clerk

DJP/las

REMINDERS

1. The free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held at the Bennington Transfer Station on May 20, 2017 (see attached flyer).
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, the last Wednesday in April.
5. The next Seed Savers meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Stamford Library.
6. An Act 46 informational meeting is **tentatively** scheduled for ~~Tuesday, May 16, 2017~~ **Tuesday, May 23, 2017** at 7 p.m. which may be the last informational meeting prior to the merger vote.
7. An election will be held on ~~Tuesday, May 23, 2017~~ **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

8. 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, April 24, 2017~~ **Tuesday, May 2, 2017** at 5:00 p.m. V.S.A. 17:706e
9. The deadline to register to vote in the ~~May 23, 2017~~ **May 31, 2017** election is ~~Tuesday, May 23, 2017~~ **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.
10. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on ~~Monday, May 22, 2017~~ **Tuesday, May 30, 2017**. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

For Residents & Small Businesses of
 Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert,
 Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland and Woodford



Saturday May 20, 2017
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 Bennington Transfer Station
 904 Houghton Lane
 Bennington, VT 05201

The collection is free for residents. Proof of residency will be required. Small businesses must pre-register and prepay for the amount delivered by May 5, 2017.

WHAT TO BRING: Any substance with labels that say CAUSTIC, TOXIC, CORROSIVE, POISON, FLAMMABLE, DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION, USE IN AN OPEN ENVIRONMENT. Examples include:

Cleaners (Drain, Bathroom, Toilet, Oven, Carpet, Upholstery), Bleach, Disinfectants	Oil Based & Latex Paint, Lead Based Paint	Gasoline, Kerosene
Glues, Adhesives, Resins	Stains, Varnishes, Turpentine, Shellac	Antifreeze, Brake, Transmission, Radiator, Wiper Fluids
Floor, Metal, Furniture Polishes	Wood Preservatives, Fillers, Putty, Adhesives	Engine Degreaser, Cleaners
Hobby/Art Supplies, Photo Chemicals	Paint Stripper, Thinner, Solvents	Car Cleaners, Wax, Polishes
Mercury Items, Including Switches, Thermometers, Thermostats, Fluorescent Tubes And Compact Fluorescent Lamps	Acids, Alcohol, Lighter Fluid	Pesticides, Insect Sprays, No-Pest Strips, Flea And Tick Control
Nail Polish or Remover, Perfume, Hairsprays and Aerosols, Air Fresheners	Roofing tar, Creosote	Herbicides, Fungicides, Fertilizers
Alkaline And Rechargeable Batteries, Auto And Mower Batteries	Creosote, Asphalt, Driveway Sealer	Muriatic Acid, Naphtha, Camphor, Mothballs
Pool chemicals		

This event **DOES NOT ACCEPT** televisions and computers. However, these are accepted at the transfer station during normal hours free of charge. In addition, used motor oil, propane tanks, furniture, bulky items, mattresses, scrap metal, tires, or appliances are accepted for a fee at the transfer station during regular hours. Visit: <https://www.casella.com/locations/bennington-vt-transfer> for more information

WHAT NOT TO BRING: Prescription drugs, sharps (i.e., needles), dried and hardened latex paint, radioactive materials, smoke & carbon monoxide detectors, or explosives (ammunition & fireworks).

Sponsored By the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, the Town of Bennington, Casella Waste Management, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture

For more information or to pre-register a business contact Michael Batcher at mbatcher@bcrcvt.org or (802) 442-0713 x 2