

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 4, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Helen Fields, Harry Klein, Bill Levine, James Williams and Patricia Winship.
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 – MAY 13TH

1. Jim Williams would like to clean near his house on Green Up Day. The recycling center will take couches, TVs, etc. for free if people are willing to bring them in. Green Up bags will be available that morning in front of the school and the town truck will be at the school to load the filled bags.
2. Helen Fields asked if the Seed Savers Group could have a table and sell compost bags as a fundraiser. She was referred to Pat Sullivan, Green Up Day Coordinator.

DUMPING TRASH/BURNING ON BACK ROADS

Mike Denault acknowledged the trash dumping over the weekend. Many camps have trail cameras set up. The state police and Bennington County Sheriff's Department have been contacted and are conducting an investigation. There were also smoldering piles from fires lit along the side of Klondike Road, Risky Ranch Road and County Road. Pat Winship was upset about trash dumped last fall. The camp owners are organizing a neighborhood watch to keep an eye on things. Mike Denault will continue to relay information from camp owners to the authorities. The Selectboard will ask the sheriff to patrol the back roads more frequently.

SEED SAVERS GROUP

1. Helen Fields stated the Seed Savers Group would like to apply for a grant and would like the library to co-sign for them. The Selectboard would like to recognize the group as a town subcommittee before moving forward. The item will be added to the next agenda for discussion.
2. A resident contacted a library trustee wishing that the tennis courts could be repaired for tennis use instead of turned into gardens. The tennis courts have been locked for close to a year without any complaints received. The local pickle ball group tried to play on the courts but said the cracks were too bad. The Selectboard obtained repair quotes but determined it was too expensive to be included in the 2017 budget. The gardens are not permanent and can be moved if it is decided to keep the tennis courts.
3. Anyone wishing to discuss the future of the tennis courts for tennis or gardens by the Seed Savers Group are invited to attend their next meeting.

TOWN WEBSITE

CJ Vadnais made a non-official website for the town. Broadband has paid the \$125.00/year filing fee. The Selectboard discussed whether an official website should be created and managed by the Selectboard or town. They decided to see how things go with the non-official website.

MINUTES

Nancy Bushika requested a change to the minutes of April 20, 2017. Under the Window Renovations Quote, the bid amount was erroneously left out of the minutes. The quote was \$4,980.00 to frame and install four windows, sheetrock and paint the wall.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2017, as amended.
SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #17 \$ 5,146.10 payroll

WARRANT #18 \$11,438.11 accounts payable

TREASURER

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Jim Williams advised that some of the culverts are beginning to show through on Risky Ranch Road. Dave said he'd take a look at it. Dave Tatro said he needs to prioritize his work and roads with full-time residences take precedence over class 4 roads.
2. The highway crew has been grading the roads.
3. Pat Winship commended the road crew for doing an excellent job on Klondike and Schenk Road.
4. The road sweeper came this week.
5. Dave Tatro was not ready to discuss how many hours he wants to hire the third laborer for and whether the town should consider purchasing a used excavator or renting one.

ROAD RESURFACING FAILURE

Allstates Asphalt met with Dave Tatro. They agreed that the roads did not pack and harden as they should have and noted the tar on the town truck. They will take the Freightliner to their shop for detailing. The company has offered to redo all the chip seal free of charge this summer. Several residents have called stating they have tar on their vehicles, their animals, and they are tracking it in their house on their shoes. A letter will be sent to see if they will provide a solution for residents as well.

RECYCLING

Dave Tatro spoke to the recycling monitors and stated that there are a couple residents who bring needles to the recycling center in hard plastic containers which are then placed in the compactor. Bill Levine felt the Tapestry needle disposal program is a better solution than the compactor and will contact Tapestry to see what size their containers are and how many we could have.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The Selectboard reviewed the Local Emergency Operations Plan. A few changes were made.
2. Bill Levine reviewed several upcoming classes.
3. Bill Levine brought a Help Me Grow poster to the school displaying the VT 211 outreach system. They can help guide families by providing information on behavioral or developmental consultants or provide resources for any other social problems.

GENERATOR GRANT

Al McLain met the generator representative at the school to view the project area. Delivery will take 8-10 weeks and they will need the generator payment up front. A letter will be sent to McLain Electric approving the generator specifications. A bush that's in the way will need to be removed. Nancy Bushika will let the School Board know.

MOTION by Dave Tatro, SECONED by Mike Denault to authorize the release of up to \$22,000.00 for the payment of the generator when ordered. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

FIRE WARDEN

Harry Klein and Bill Levine questioned whether Charlie Dolle wants to continue his appointment as Fire Warden for the town. He seems to be unresponsive. The Selectboard will send a letter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

EMAIL REQUEST TO CHANGE MINUTES

The Selectboard acknowledged an email from Cindy Lamore requesting changes to the minutes of April 20, 2017. The minutes will stand as written.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF SPEED CART

There is no charge to have a radar speed cart placed in town. The Selectboard would like it placed on Main Road in the center of town. The sheriff will set up the cart in 1-2 months.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Nancy Bushika read the recommendation received from the Library Board of Trustees to appoint Tyna Senecal to fill the vacancy.

MOTION by Dave Tatro, SECONDED by Carol Fachini, to appoint Tyna Senecal to the Library Board of Trustees until the next town election. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ACT 46 MEETING/ELECTION

1. The School Board has asked if the town could spread the word about the informational meeting and election through the Selectboard's email system. The Selectboard agreed.
2. The WSSU will be contacted to see if they will be hiring a sheriff for the school during the election.
3. The Act 46 informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Stamford School. The informational meeting in Readsboro will be held on May 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend the Readsboro meeting as well as ours since the state representative will be there.
4. The election to vote on whether or not to merge with the towns of Readsboro and Halifax into one unified school district will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. You will also vote to elect new unified school directors to begin the merger work if the merger is passed.
5. The Selectboard had several unanswered questions about the merger. Will there be any change to the town office or library? Who will pay for the schoolyard plowing and school's trash pickup? Will local contractors lose business if the contract decisions are no longer made locally? Are there alternatives beside the merger that may be more beneficial for Stamford? It was mentioned that Whitingham and Wilmington have already merged and it is anticipated that their tax rates will be going up almost 30% and 18% respectively.

DOG UPDATE

Luke McKay spoke with Mr. Jensen. He has been very careful about keeping his dogs either in the kennel or on the run. They are no longer free, even when Mr. Jensen is outside. He would like to put up a fence but is financially unable to do so at this time.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

The town office was contacted by the National Forest who wants to hire a contractor to work in the town's right-of-way along parts of County Road, Maltese Road and Risky Ranch Road to use herbicides to treat several invasive species of plants. Concerns were raised as to what type of herbicides would be used and the effects it would have on beekeepers and residents with allergies. The Selectboard agreed that the National Forest should come to the town office to research the names of the property owners affected. Kurt Gamari, the town's Health Officer, felt sometimes non-treatment can be worse if the

invasive species is allowed to spread. The Selectboard thought it would be best if the National Forest scheduled a Public Meeting, invited all affected landowners and provided a list of exactly what chemicals they would be using in what manner.

ACT 174 ENERGY ACT

Dan Potvin relayed a discussion from his last Planning Commission meeting. The state wants each town to become energy independent. They want to cut our state's energy use by 90% by 2050. Stamford is one of the top three southern towns for wind power. Water resources and solar power were also discussed as alternatives. 16 acres of solar panels would meet the criteria needed to supply our town with power. The Planning Commission would like to be involved pro-actively so we can make decisions as to what we feel is best for our town instead of the state making the decisions for us. It will be a lot of work but something the Planning Commission feels is important.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika
Clerk pro tem

NLB/las

REMINDERS

1. The free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be 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 scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7 p.m.
6. An election will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to vote on the merger and 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. 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.
8. Absentee ballots are available until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2017. Please call the town office at 694-1361.