

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
August 17, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Nancy LeSage, Bill Levine, Trevor Mance and David Mance.
Micah Hayre, Stamford School Principal.
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.

OPENING OF SEALED BIDS

The Selectboard received bids from Republic Services and TAM Waste Management. It was difficult to compare hauling fees and disposal costs from one bid to the other. Trevor Mance answered several questions concerning the recycling process and composting. He felt if he were awarded the contract he could save the town more money by streamlining the process. Micah Hayre wants to recycle at the school and has met with Michael Batchner from the Bennington County Regional Commission and Athena Bradley. There were questions concerning Republic Services' bid. The board will schedule a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 to obtain answers and make a decision.

SCHOOL PARKING LOT/LANDSCAPING

1. Micah Hayre would like to make the school grounds more beautiful. The Leo Ethier Memorial Garden and Honor Roll areas are both nice and he would like to extend the landscaping. He thought the school board would be willing to help financially or with community service work. It would be nice to see the fence line trimmed. Dave Tatro will reopen the ditch next week. He will get prices on re-doing the parking lot. The lot has serious drainage issues which should be addressed. The full project could cost \$200,000 if done right. Resurfacing only could be a short-term solution for around \$40,000.
2. The principal will be starting a monthly service project class which will be hands on, whether it's planting flowers or filling in holes on the baseball field.
3. Dave Tatro stated that it was brought to his attention that a chemical is being used around the school building and playground equipment to keep the weeds from growing. There is no provision for that type of herbicide use in the contract with the current mowing company. The Selectboard will contact the company and send a letter asking what is being used, ask for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and request that the treatment be stopped immediately.
4. The principal advised that he will be replacing the wood chips in the playground areas. Nancy Bushika felt the Selectboard is fine with whatever he and the school board decide concerning the school grounds.

POULTRY/FENCE

Nancy LeSage responded to the Selectboard's recent letter asking when the fence would be completed. She felt her son was working on the fence, the letter wasn't necessary and a phone call would have been more personable. Her son felt harassed by the board and Nancy LeSage made several allegations against the board. After a heated discussion, the Selectboard asked for a timeframe as to when the fence would be completed. Nancy LeSage said her son works on it when he can; it's an extremely busy time of year. She also asked to see the by-laws requiring the fence. Dave Tatro agreed that the town has no ordinance to require a fence and can't enforce it, but it was a suggestion the board had made.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 3, 2017, as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. 4 in favor (Dave Tatro abstained). Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #33 \$ 7,119.62 payroll
- WARRANT #34 \$18,428.89 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

1. The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of July.
2. Budget vs. expense sheets to date were provided for review.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. There has been no response from the Tepeyac Hill landowners concerning the letter sent recently requesting some driveway repair.
2. Clarksburg and Dave Tatro have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to grade West Road once this year in exchange for a set of grader blades.
3. The sickle bar on the mower is beyond repair. Dave Tatro would like to look for a used boom mower attachment.
4. The Ford truck has been up at Carbones for repair. Dave Tatro would like to put money in this year's budget to replace the truck. It is a 2011 with over 70,000 miles.
5. The road crew has been grading roads. Carol Fachini asked about the bottom of Sumner Road. Dave Tatro said the state needs to take care of that area. If he adds gravel at the bottom then the water enters the Main Road. The state needs to clean out and fix the ditch to control the water runoff.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The smaller kitchen generator will be moved up to the garage and should serve the garage adequately. Bill Levine feels the town has no use for the big school generator and would like to see it sold. Dave Tatro will work with the town clerk to put it on craigslist.
2. McLain Electric is doing a nice job with the new generator installation at the school.
3. The Selectboard will begin to review the Emergency Management Ordinance at the next meeting. Bill Levine will begin working on the Continuity of Operations Plan.
4. Green Mountain Power has asked for permission to install an anchor on the telephone pole on the left of the parking lot. The Selectboard agreed but would like to discuss the placement so it doesn't interfere with the ditch or winter plowing.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro thought moving to single stream recycling would eliminate one of the dumpsters at the transfer station and there would be more room. Nancy Bushika contacted Josh Kelly from the Agency of Natural Resources. She still asked why burning wood chips is an acceptable form of alternative energy but incinerating trash and food scraps to create alternative energy is not. The legislature will define energy recovery in their next session.
2. We may have to change the hauler's quarterly reporting requirement in our trash/hauling ordinance.
3. Nancy Bushika spoke with a hauler who has not registered with the town and explained to him that he needed to be registered with the town. He agreed to come in.
4. The next free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, Vermont.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATION FOREST/HERBICIDE USE

The National Forest only received permission to spray from one landowner on County Road. The National Forest has decided to cancel the proposed treatment on Risky Ranch Road. They will only treat invasive

species on their own National Forest land and on the property where they received permission. This was acceptable to the Selectboard.

TOWN PLAN

The town clerk has requested the checklist from the Planning Commission and will begin the acceptance procedure.

TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The Selectboard received the appropriate fees and signed the deed transferring Lot 347 to Michael and Jennifer Lefevre.

DELINQUENT DOGS

One dog owner has come in to license his dog. There are still seven delinquent dog owners. Board members will contact the owners directly. The board may start issuing tickets and imposing fines to bring the owners into compliance.

2017 TAX RATE

Lori Shepard provided a spreadsheet explaining the calculation of the 2017 tax rate. The proposed homestead residential rate is \$0.11 higher than last year and the non-residential rate is slightly less than last year's rate. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to set the 2017 tax rate as follows: to accept the state education residential rate of \$1.1724 and the non-residential rate of \$1.4059 as calculated by the State of Vermont. The Selectboard set the municipal tax rate at \$0.2801 and the highway rate at \$0.4254. The total residential tax rate will be \$1.8779 and the total non-residential tax rate will be \$2.1114.

SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. If the rounding is different when entered into the NEMRC tax software, the treasurer was given permission to increase the rate by \$0.0001. The 2017 tax bills will be mailed in September.

RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the resignation of Ron Plock as Administrative Officer with regret.

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

Anyone interested in serving as Administrative Officer for the town should contact a Selectboard member or the Planning Commission as soon as possible.

KLONDIKE ROAD BRIDGE BILLS

The treasurer received another bill for \$12,290.04. The town's 5% responsibility is \$614.52. The board decided this bill will also be held until we receive the requested itemization of services provided from the state and final project information. The town clerk was authorized to speak to Chris Taft at AOT to see if he could help.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY DECISION

A property owner has appealed the Board of Civil Authority's decision to the Vermont Superior Court. The town attorney will be contacted. The town clerk was authorized to sign and return the acceptance of service.

ALLSTATE ASPHALT GROUP

A resident has begun a small claims action against the company for damages to their car and cleaning costs incurred. Their attorney suggested if residents joined together and combined their damages into one joint court action, they might have better results.

POWNAI TOWN PLAN

A draft of Pownal's new town plan is available for review at the town office.

HEARING NOTICE

Dan Potvin asked why sometimes he receives meeting reminders by text. He will talk to the Planning Commission since it seems to be related to their meetings.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin
Clerk

DJP/las

REMINDERS

1. There will be a special Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2017.
2. The next free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, Vermont.
3. The town office has new hours: Monday: closed, Tuesday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Thursday: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; and Friday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.