

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
September 21, 2017  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

Barbara Dolle asked for help from the board. Her neighbor has chickens that run free and are always in her yard. She has a granddaughter who will be walking soon and she is concerned that the bacteria and fecal matter on her property could pose health risks. The neighbor's dog gets loose and also comes into her yard. The board will ask the Health Officer and Dog Officer to investigate and will send a letter. The Selectboard acknowledged that the town does not have an ordinance concerning chickens but there is a state law concerning farm animals. Barbara Dolle also stated that she has been threatened. The board referred her to the police for that matter.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Dave Tatro to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 7, 2017 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #39 \$ 5,508.52 payroll

WARRANT #40 \$28,378.40 accounts payable

#### KLONDIKE ROAD BRIDGE BILLS

The Selectboard reviewed a 19 page billing summary received from Carolyn Carlson, the AOT project engineer. There was no supporting documentation and an enormous amount of the charges were AOT payroll submissions. The board agreed to continue withholding payment and will ask the engineer to come to an October Selectboard meeting.

#### THE LANE BRIDGE

The contractor anticipates beginning bridge work in early October.

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew worked with a contractor to replace culverts on Schenk Road and Klondike Road. They have also done ditch work.
2. The highway crew repaired and painted the shed at the recycling center and built a deck to access the recycling container.
3. The mower parts have not come in yet so the third laborer hasn't been working his full 20 hours. Leaves are falling and Dave Tatro would like to keep him to use the leaf blower and clean out the ditches.
4. They have graded the Clarksburg section of Klondike Road.
5. Eilers Brothers submitted a quote for winter sand along with his insurance certificate. Last year's price was \$18.55/ton.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the winter sand quote of \$19.00/ton for delivered washed winter sand. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. 3 in favor. Dave Tatro abstained. Motion APPROVED.

6. Dave Tatro also obtained some salt quotes. He said the rate has gone down from last year. He alternates buying from two different sources in case there is a salt shortage like a few years ago.

## RECYCLING

1. TAM advised Dave Tatro that they will no longer accept pizza boxes as part of the food scraps/compost collection. Pizza boxes will be accepted as part of the trash since they have food contamination.
2. There is a little refrigerator and wooden pallets behind the school dumpster. Dave Tatro will pick them up and bring them to the recycling center.
3. Dave Tatro will add a step to the platform built to access the new container at the recycling center.
4. Michael Batcher has some grant money to reimburse the town for building the food scraps area and maybe the platform too. Dave Tatro will submit his time and material costs.
5. Michael Batcher can also connect us with small kitchen counter composting buckets. Nancy Bushika wants to wait to see if people have an interest in purchasing and using the buckets first.
6. The Selectboard reviewed the recycling update. The recycling guidelines sheet will be distributed with the recycling update. Nancy Bushika would like to hold prices the same for a year. Dave Tatro would like to reduce the charge for paint/stain cans from \$5.00 to \$1.00; the board agreed. Dave Tatro thought the punch card price per bag should be increased to promote recycling and composting. It was decided that the prices for cards will remain at \$60.00 for the initial purchase of 50 punches. The senior price will remain at \$20.00 for the initial purchase of 50 punches. Additional cards can be purchased individually and the Selectboard also authorized the purchase of portions of cards during the last few months. Other towns in the alliance acknowledged that the money received from selling punch cards or bags does not cover the costs of running the recycling center.

## ORDINANCE REGULATING THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND VARIABLE RATE PRICING AND HAULER REGISTRATION AND REPORTING

The Selectboard will remove the requirement for haulers to report quarterly. Scott Smith Trucking is the only hauler who has not yet registered with the town. Changes were made to the food scraps section. The revised draft will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## DELINQUENT DOGS

Shawn Senecal has licensed his dog. There are only two dog owners who have not licensed their dogs: Robert Mielenz and Stephen Chipchase. A letter will be sent imposing fines in an effort to bring the dog owners into compliance.

## DOG BITE INCIDENT

The owner of the two dogs has come in and licensed both of their dogs. The quarantine time has expired. No further action will be taken.

## DOG COMPLAINT

Luke McKay as Dog Officer received a complaint from a resident that their neighbor's dog is tied up outside and barks constantly. The dog also gets loose and goes in the neighbor's yards. The neighbors have tried to talk to the dog owner directly but the matter has not resolved. The Selectboard will ask Luke McKay to follow up and make a report to the board and come to the next Selectboard meeting.

## NEW DOG BITE INCIDENT

Pat Sullivan stopped in to hand deliver a written complaint to the Selectboard concerning a dog bite while she was walking around East Road about six weeks ago. She instinctively put her arms up in protection and was bit on the elbow. She did not need medical attention and stated that she likes the dog and doesn't want to see anything happen to it. The Selectboard noted that this is the second dog bite incident that has come to their attention from the same dog. Kurt Gamari will be asked to investigate the matter as Health Officer and Luke McKay as Dog Officer. The Selectboard scheduled a potentially vicious dog hearing for Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

## TOWN PLAN

Nancy Bushika would like to advertise once and hold one public hearing for the adoption of the recycling ordinance and the town plan.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rosemarie Curran, Pat Sullivan, Carl Taylor and Joan Levine are willing to serve again. They would welcome a fifth member who could provide a fresh perspective. Anyone wishing to serve on the Finance Committee should contact a Selectboard member.

#### SIGN

The town clerk spoke with the school principal Micah Hayre, who is more than willing to allow the town to use the telephone box signboard for town announcements and community information.

#### INSURANCE RESPONSE TO CEMETERY CONCERNS

The Cemetery Commission previously approached the board asking if a town employee could dig the cremation graves for the town cemetery. The Cemetery Commissioners thought it would be nice to save families going through a difficult time some money. Vicki Abare from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns said there is no rider that can be purchased to cover a person who occasionally works on town property. An appointed or elected Cemetery Commissioner would be covered by the town's liability insurance but would not have workers' compensation coverage. An employee of the town would be covered by both liability and workers' comp. insurance. The problem is unless the employee is already working in another capacity, since the funeral parlor pays the bill, there will never be any payroll from the town to be considered a town employee. Dave Tatro did not feel it was a good idea to have a highway employee dig the graves. He feels right now the town is assuming no liability and doesn't think we should start taking on that risk. The board thanked the town clerk for looking into the matter.

#### GENERATOR PROJECT

1. MOTION by Dave Tatro to accept the offer from Joseph Fachini in the amount of \$1,000.00 to purchase the old generator. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. 3 in favor. Carol Fachini abstained. Motion APPROVED.
2. The new generator at the school was tested and works well. Bill Levine received a key for the Fire Department and a key will be stored at the town office. The generator is set to exercise itself every Monday at 4 p.m. The only thing we still need is the manual. The generator has an alarm and the contractor would like to bring the alarm into the building so it is easier to hear.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Selectboard reviewed the Emergency Management Ordinance. Nancy Bushika received permission to contact the Vermont League of Cities & Towns to discuss whether this should be viewed as civil or criminal so it will be similar to the town's other ordinances. Dan Potvin asked several questions as to how this ordinance would be used in an extreme emergency. The Selectboard each took an oath to the constitution and he would like to see the decisions not left to one person, but shared as a board. Bill Levine provided explanations, but stated in some emergencies, the Fire Chief has complete control. At any time the Selectboard can choose to dismiss an appointed officer and appoint a new person. Different scenarios were discussed and in the event of civil unrest, Bill Levine said he would look to Mike Denault for assistance due to his background and experience. Dan Potvin was interested in attending future emergency management meetings.

#### MOWING CONTRACT

The Selectboard received a statement from the mowing contractor indicating that they have completed 16 mowings which is what the Selectboard had accepted in the bid. The price for additional mowing will be \$200.00 per mowing and \$50.00 per trimming. The board approved two more mowing, possibly three, and no weed trimming. Nancy Bushika will contact the mowing contractor and will schedule the mowing around the soccer season. The board discussed the mowing specifications and Dave Tatro said the school principal would like to participate in the discussion and bid for next year. Nancy Bushika wondered if the Cemetery Commission would like to be part of the bid, but Dave Tatro didn't feel the town should involve the Cemetery Commission.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The attorney was not able to reach the tax appellant's attorney and so she was not able to provide her opinion. The attorney suggested the board consider adopting the Conflict of Interest policy she previously sent. The board briefly discussed the perceived conflict with Dan Potvin and the difference between abstaining and recusing. Dave Tatro made it clear that another board member cannot make you recuse yourself, they can only suggest it.

#### GOVERNOR VISIT

The Governor will be visiting Readsboro Friday morning and they have included a 4 minute segment in the itinerary for a Stamford Selectboard member to speak with the Governor. Nancy Bushika, Carol Ethier-Kipp and Carol Fachini will attend and Nancy Bushika will prepare a small speech welcoming the Governor to southern Vermont. Our broadband representatives will also attend to speak with a member from the Department of Public Service.

#### TOWN FAIR

Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard will be attending classes at the town fair put on by the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Lori Shepard thanked the board for supporting their continued education.

#### DINNER TO HONOR STAMFORD WAR VETERANS

Dan Potvin continues to plan the potluck supper. The date will be Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 5 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. The Selectboard extends an invitation to all town veterans and their family members and invites the community to come and honor our vets. If you or a family member is a veteran or if you would like to help organize, contact Dan Potvin at 694-1301.

#### BILL FOR ACCIDENT

Nancy Bushika noted that the town paid the insurance deductible for a minor fender bender involving the town truck in July 2017. There were no injuries and no damage to the town truck.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin  
Clerk

DJP/las

#### REMINDERS

1. 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.
2. Summer recycling hours will end on the last Wednesday in October.
3. Anyone interested in filling the vacant Administrative Officer position should submit a cover letter, resume and references to Sheila Lawrence, Chair of the Planning Commission, Town Office, 986 Main Road, Stamford, VT 05352. All applications are due by September 25, 2017.
4. 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.