

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
June 1, 2017  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Lynn Boyd, Helen Fields, Bill Levine, and Glenn Robinson  
Mary-Beth Deller, David Francomb, and Stacy Stratton – Green Mountain National Forest.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

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

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

The National Forest representatives described the proposed activities they have planned in Stamford as part of their South of Route 9 project.

1. They have identified two stands of apple trees where they would like to cut the surrounding trees/brush to help the apple trees flourish.
2. They will begin harvesting timber this year on Camp Casino Road and Maltese Road and future harvesting is planned for Roaring Brook Road and County Road. Dave Tatro noted that in the winter the Class 4 section of County Road is not plowed. They will be accepting bids and will be issuing 5-6 year contracts. Stacy Stratton offered to meet with anyone interested and walk the area to show their plan.
3. They would like to prevent the spread of invasive species this summer before the logging operation. They will be targeting Morrow's honeysuckle and garlic mustard on areas of Maltese Road and County Road, and multiflora rose, Morrow's honeysuckle, Japanese knotweed, common buckthorn, and Norway maple tree on Risky Ranch Road. Some plants will be hand-pulled and some will be sprayed with a glyphosate herbicide such as Rodeo or Accord. Most of the vegetation is on National Forest land but some extend onto private land. They have requested permission from the individual landowners and will not treat any species without the owner's consent. They will send pictures of the plants so they can be identified along with a risk assessment for the herbicides. The contractor will put up signs when they are spraying and when the area is safe again. Mike Denault asked if the benefits outweighed the negatives. They are hoping to prevent the seeds being dragged farther into the woods by the logging equipment. The Selectboard will not give permission to work in the town's right-of-way until the landowners give their permission first.
4. National Forest will be resurfacing and improving Camp Casino Road in anticipation of the logging.
5. They are working with the Vermont ATV Sportsman Association and have approved two connector trails for ATV use once the trails have been brought up to code. The board asked about the creation of other trails. It was suggested that Stamford could set up an ATV user group and Mr. Francomb would be willing to discuss the trails further.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

Two residents spoke of ongoing problems they are having with a neighbor on Robillard Road. They stated there is a large amount of chickens and other birds that are roaming free and not being contained on the owner's property. Attempts to resolve the matter amicably have failed so they are seeking help from the town. The Selectboard agreed that birds in the road are a safety hazard and could cause an accident. The board will ask the Health Inspector to determine whether the bird feces and eggs left behind create a health hazard. The board will also ask the Administrative Officer if there are any zoning violations and will research what can be done and how much jurisdiction the town has.

#### TAX SALE

Sally Bohl signed the warrants this morning and the tax sale has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. at the town office. She reviewed the list of properties. Nancy Bushika will attend the tax sale to accept properties that have not been bid on. Carol Fachini may also attend the sale.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 18, 2017, as written. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #21 \$5,339.10 payroll
- WARRANT #20 \$9,443.08 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. With the rainy weather the road crew has been working on equipment inside. They have also been filling potholes.
2. There are a few more roads which need to be graded once it dries up.
3. Dave Tatro advised that in 2016 the town spent \$27,400 on excavation work. If the town purchased a used excavator it would pay for itself in two year's time and would make their operation more efficient. At the next town meeting a warrant article could request the release of money from the equipment replacement fund. Dave Tatro suggested taking a loan and using funds in the highway maintenance line item to pay the loan payments so the budget would not go up. Next year he wants to replace the white Ford.
4. The Stebbins Lane sign has been put up.

#### RECYCLING

Dave Tatro has the roof materials for the shed but it's been too rainy to work on it.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

1. The town was charged 2.5 hours for the sheriff to attend the School Board meeting. Since they did not authorize the time, they do not want to pay for it. A visitor suggested that the School Board should pay the bill since they received the services. No payment will be made at this time.

#### FINANCIALS

Reports with first quarter budget vs. actual expenses were reviewed and discussed.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The sharps box was filled after the first Saturday. The recycling monitors were uncomfortable handling the box and when the needles were transferred to the box several fell on the ground and had to be picked up. Nancy Bushika thought the box should be more secure and wondered if it was better to go back to the way things were handled before. Bill Levine thinks the Tapestry needle program is better than the needles going in the trash and the compactor. They discussed obtaining more boxes, or giving residents a box to keep at home which could be returned to the recycling center or directly to Tapestry when full. Dave Tatro will talk to the recycling monitors to see how many people are using the box.

#### ACT 46 MEETING/ELECTION

Helen Fields was asked about the School Board members who were elected since the merger vote failed. No one had any answers. Helen Fields will contact the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union.

#### TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The treasurer obtained a proposal from Berkshire Bank: a loan of \$200,000 at 1.75% interest payable in full in November 2017. Last year's loan rate was 1.00% with Berkshire Bank.

MOTION by Dave Tatro to approve the application for a loan of \$200,000 at the rate of 1.75% per annum interest with Berkshire Bank. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### 2016 GRAND LIST

Selectboard members signed the 2016 Grand List stating there were no suits pending.

#### TELEPHONE POLE RELOCATION

Green Mountain Power requested to place a pole in the town's right of way per a customer's request on East Road. The Selectboard reviewed the map indicating the pole and where it would be moved. The Selectboard signed their assent to the relocation.

#### TREE REMOVAL ALONG SCHOOL PROPERTY

Dan Potvin submitted an informal quote to remove the dead spruce trees along the north and south lines of the schoolyard. He will be asked to provide a more formal bid. Dave Tatro will also request bids from the two companies consulted to remove the trees near the parking lot.

#### CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT FOR THE CEMETERY

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to sign the resolutions for MountainOne Bank to open four CDs for the cemetery. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### OLD COUNTY ROAD

Carol Fachini read in the VLCT News where a town overturned their decision to discontinue a road and returned the road to its former status. She asked if the Selectboard would consider reversing their decision to make Old County Road a private road. The Selectboard discussed the process. A survey would have to be done and the property owners could deed the right-of-way back to the town. If a petition was signed, the decision could be brought before the voters at town meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to review applications for the part-time highway laborer position. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Entered executive session at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Exited executive session at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to hire Lawrence Arnold as the part-time highway laborer on an as-needed basis until August or September 2017 at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, not to exceed 20 hours per week. SECONDED Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

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

Nancy L. Bushika  
Clerk pro tem

NLB/las

#### REMINDERS

1. Dog licenses were due April 1, 2017. Please come in to the town office if you have not yet registered your dog.
2. The recycling center has started its summer hours and will be open on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
3. The town office has begun new hours this June: 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.
4. The tax sale has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. at the town office