

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 2, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Bill Levine.

Luke McKay, Dog Officer.

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.

DOG UPDATE

1. Luke McKay, Dog Officer, spoke with Amanda Kurpiel who said she would be in to license her dog.
2. The unlicensed dog on County Road no longer lives in Stamford.
3. Luke McKay picked up a stray dog on County Road near the Klondike Road intersection last week. It has no collar or tags and is not friendly. He has posted notices in town to find the owner without luck. He contacted Pownal and hung a notice at Stewarts. He has tried twice to reach Clarksburg but has not received any call back. Mike Denault will put a picture of the dog on face book. The town is required to hold the dog for 10 days after the notice is posted which is this Saturday, November 4, 2017. If the owner is not determined, the town can put the dog up for adoption or turn the dog over to a shelter to be re-homed or euthanized. Because of the dog's personality, Luke McKay recommended that the dog be given to a shelter.
4. Luke McKay presented quotes from a shed salesman for an insulated single, double or triple dog kennel. He contacted the Adams, MA Animal Control Officer when he acquired the stray dog and she said they are full to capacity and could not take the dog. Luke McKay has a dog house and a 4' x 8' kennel area outside which is where the stray dog is being kept, but it is not sufficient during the cold winter months. The shed could be placed at the town garage. The Selectboard asked Luke McKay to obtain other quotes from local handymen to build and deliver a similar shed. The Selectboard will consider adding money to next year's budget.
5. Nancy Bushika read a letter from Olaf Aase to John Carpenter stating that Mr. Carpenter's dogs are barking excessively. Mr. Aase contacted the town office asking that the Selectboard take no action on the letter at this time and will work with his neighbor toward a solution.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dave Tatro to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2017 as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #45 \$ 5,701.72 payroll

WARRANT #46 \$17,202.54 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The contractor will pour the cement next week on The Lane bridge. It will need to cure for 10 days.
2. The town roads did not suffer any damage from the recent severe weather. There were a few trees down and branches which needed to be cleaned up.
3. The third laborer continues to blow the leaves out of the culverts.

4. Some of the mower parts have come in but not enough to fix it completely.
5. Dave Tatro met with Michael Batchner from the Bennington County Regional Commission. Grants are available with a 75% federal/25% town match to encourage towns to buy out houses in flood plain areas. The Selectboard could not see any direct benefit to the town.

RECYCLING

1. Helen Fields picked up thirty kitchen counter compost buckets. The board was able to see one.
2. Anyone interested in filling in at the recycling center on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.
3. TAM should be replacing one of the dumpsters at the school with a smaller size. This should save the town some money.
4. Dave Tatro has not yet obtained the quote for the 3-phase wiring installation.

DINNER TO HONOR STAMFORD

Dan Potvin has been working to organize the dinner to honor our military veterans on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 5 p.m. All are invited to attend.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The Selectboard reviewed the Emergency Management Policy and Bill Levine is happy with it. MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Emergency Management Policy as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. Dan Potvin asked if Bill Levine was aware that the government is training in the event of an EMP detonation over the United States. The Department of Homeland Security and other state agencies are preparing for this event in 3,000 – 4,000 counties. Dan Potvin feels the threat of an EMP emergency over the next few months is considerably larger than 10-20 years ago. Bill Levine was not aware of any training at this time but recalled a similar training session in Bennington last year.
3. Bill Levine attended a recent LEPC meeting on cyber security and gave several tips to protect computer information.
4. Bill Levine spoke with Tom Moser, the new State Police Barracks Commander in Shaftsbury. He could offer police patrol for \$68.35/hour. Since this would be patrol time only and the town would not be billed for travel time or court time, it may be comparable to what the town is paying now. He will be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss the services the state police could provide.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

MOTION by Carol Fachini to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. 4 in favor. Dave Tatro abstained. Motion APPROVED.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The Selectboard reviewed the draft. Dave Tatro did not like the wording since it took away the two sick days currently provided while the employee accrues three sick days that can't be used until 2019. Offering PTO (personal time off) days instead of sick, personal and vacation was also discussed. They will look at the policy in depth at the next meeting.

MOWING

The principal Micah Hayre's suggestions after reviewing the mowing specifications was to clear the walkways/building after each mowing, enforce the trimming along the north and south fence line and not to use any pesticides. The Selectboard estimated how many mowing are done during the season. Nancy Bushika suggested having the mowing contractor leave a receipt at the town office after each mowing.

They will discuss bidding the job this spring. Dave Tatro said if the third laborer was full time and the town bought him a mower, he'd be happy to mow the schoolyard. Nancy Bushika asked him about the cemeteries. Dave Tatro said he'd be honored to take care of the cemeteries as well.

LETTER TO WAIVE HOMESTEAD PENALTY

Nancy Bushika read a letter from Ruth West asking the Selectboard to waive the 3% penalty imposed on her tax bill for filing the Declaration of Homestead late. Her preparer had difficulty filing the paperwork online and they thought it was sent but it must not have gone through properly. Nancy Bushika recalled that Ruth West requested an abatement a couple years ago. Although the board sympathized with her situation, they did not feel it was the town's fault and denied her request.

TOWN PLAN

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

FINANCES

1. The Selectboard was given income and expense sheets through the third quarter for review.
2. Dave Tatro advised that he will be significantly over budget on Equipment Maintenance and Repairs due to truck repairs and new tires.

FEMA GENERATOR GRANT

Al McLain has provided generator keys for the town office and the manual is in the electric room. Al McLain will provide a digital copy of the manual as well. He has submitted his final bill.

LISTERS

The listers have indicated that they need help determining the value of buildings in town. Nancy Bushika would like to invite them to the next meeting to explain what they need and discuss a solution.

ALL BOARDS PRESENTATION

Attorney James Barlow will be coming to Stamford on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation on the Open Meeting Laws. All town boards will be invited to attend.

TAX APPEAL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss the tax appeal/attorney matter. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Mike Denault, Nancy Bushika, Dave Tatro and Carol Fachini entered executive session at 8:15 p.m. Dan Potvin left the meeting.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:30 p.m.

The Selectboard will contact the attorney to let her know their decision.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin
Clerk

DJP/las

REMINDERS

1. The potluck supper to honor our veterans will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. All are welcome.
2. Summer recycling hours will end on the last Wednesday in October.
3. Real estate tax bills are due November 16, 2017.
4. New recycling punch cards for use beginning November 1, 2017 are available at the Town Office.
5. The public hearing for adoption of the town plan will be Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
6. Attorney James Barlow's presentation on Open Meeting Laws is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School.
7. Anyone interested in filling in at the recycling center on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.
8. The Town Clerk's office hours are: Monday: closed; Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Wednesday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thursday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.