

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

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Michael Denault, Daniel J. Potvin and Carol Fachini.  
Visitors: Michael Brothers, Rosemarie Curran, John Engel, Susan Flash, Helen Fields, Bill Levine, Pat Sullivan.  
Sally Bohl, Delinquent Tax Collector  
Deborah Darling, Board of Listers.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., opened with the pledge of allegiance, welcomed everyone and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting.

#### WEBSITE SIGN

Pat Sullivan and Susan Flash asked the Selectboard for permission to install a wooden sign with [www.stamfordvt.org](http://www.stamfordvt.org) to promote the website. They would like to post it behind the mailboxes on Mill Road and Boulger Road. The website is not run by the town; it is privately maintained. The Selectboard cannot give permission to post anything on private property. The board had no objections to the sign being added to the wooden sign in the front of the school building and Dave Tatro suggested they contact Wes Pecor who created the sign. Dan Potvin gave permission to post the sign on his property on the corner of Main Road and Robillard Road.

#### SALARIES

Helen Fields handed the Selectboard a letter encouraging the Selectboard to create a working group to research salaries and benefits of towns similar to ours. She suggested an Employee Handbook and a yearly evaluation process. She is willing to sit on the committee if the Selectboard agrees. The Selectboard thanked her and will take her suggestions into consideration.

#### COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Helen Fields asked for a letter of support from the Selectboard for a composting grant. Athena Bradley is applying for a regional grant to provide resources, training and technical assistance for community compost site development. The Selectboard did not feel a large scale community composting site should be on the tennis courts or school grounds. There is no town match for the grant. The sample language was revised to indicate their support without committing or designating a compost site.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the all boards meeting minutes of December 6, 2017 as written.

SECONDED by Dan Potvin. 4 in favor. Dave Tatro abstained since he did not attend the meeting. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2017 as written.

SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #54 \$ 8,532.08 payroll

WARRANT #55 \$ 20,005.07 accounts payable

## ROAD CONDITIONS

The road crew is busy with winter weather. They had a few breakdowns they managed to work through and had to use the reserve truck.

## RECYCLING

Buzz Wheeler has returned to work.

## DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

Amanda Kurpiel has still not licensed her dog with the town. The Dog officer will be contacted to visit her, confirm that she still has the dog and make one last effort to bring her into compliance. If she does not license the dog after that, the town will have no other alternative but to impound the dog, and additional fees will be charged before the dog is released.

## EMPLOYEE POLICY – SICK LEAVE LAW

The Selectboard would like to keep holidays separate from personal time off and made other revisions such as how much notice is required and when a sick note is necessary. The board will review an updated draft at their next meeting.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Al McLain has researched the fumes coming from the generator into the school building. Bill Levine attended a recent School Board meeting. The principal, Micah Hayre, feels changing the exercise cycle to a Saturday will alleviate the problem and Al McLain will come next week to reprogram the machine. Bill Levine would like to know which switch will shut off the fan intake in the event the school is used as an emergency shelter. If the town is billed by McLain Electric for this additional work, Bill Levine offered to use emergency management funds for payment.

## POLICE CONTRACT

1. The Bennington County Sheriff's Department submitted a six month contract from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 with the same rates we are paying now: \$42.00 per hour. An additional one year contract from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 was submitted with a 3% increase.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the six month contract with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department for \$42.00/hour and 22 hours/week. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The Vermont State Police could also provide patrol services for the town at the rate of \$67.22/hour. Although this rate is higher, the town would not have to pay for travel and court time like we do now. The state police lieutenant is willing to come this spring to explain what he could offer beginning July 1, 2018.

## TOWN PLAN

Catherine Bryers at the Bennington County Regional Commission advised that a signature page is not necessary but is acceptable if the board would like to sign the plan. The Selectboard thought it was appropriate and signed the town plan which was adopted on November 16, 2017.

## LISTER VACANCY

There are currently two vacancies on the Board of Listers. No one has submitted any letter of interest to date. Anyone wishing to serve as a lister should contact the town office, a Selectboard member or the current lister.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

The Selectboard will meet on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 for a budget work session at 6 p.m. They will also plan to discuss the budget at their regular meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2018.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION/TAX SALE

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss the future tax sale. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:10 p.m. Sally Bohl was invited to participate.

MOTION by Dave Tatro to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:34 p.m.

Results: The Selectboard gave Sally Bohl, the Delinquent Tax Collector, permission to hire an attorney to proceed with a tax sale.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION/SALARIES

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for employee reviews and discuss salaries. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:35 p.m. Mike Brothers, Angela Brothers, Debbie Darling and Lori Shepard were each invited to participate individually.

MOTION by Dave Tatro to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 10:10 p.m.

Results: Nancy Bushika will review the results with the town clerk next week.

#### TAX APPEAL/EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Michael Denault to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client information. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Nancy Bushika, Dave Tatro, Mike Denault and Carol Fachini entered executive session at 10:11 p.m. Dan Potvin left the meeting.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 10:33 p.m.

The Selectboard and tax appellant have signed an agreement which has been submitted to the court to dismiss the pending suit. Payment of the bill from the appraiser was also approved. The grand list will be adjusted before the end of the year.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Daniel J. Potvin  
Clerk

DJP/las

#### REMINDERS

1. New recycling punch cards for use beginning November 1, 2017 are available at the Town Office.
2. Anyone interested in serving as a lister until the next election should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.

3. 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.

#### PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 18, 2018. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 32 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The required signatures on a petition to run for an elected office are 1% of the registered voters or at least 7 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 29, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

- Town Moderator - 1 year term
- School Moderator - 1 year term
- Selectboard member - 3 year term
- Selectboard member - 2 year term
- School Director - 3 year term
- School Director - 2 year term
- Lister - 3 year term
- Lister – 2 years remaining on a 3 year term
- Auditor - 3 year term
- Auditor - 2 year term
- Auditor - 1 year term
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term
- Grand Juror -1 year term
- Town Agent - 1 year term
- Cemetery Commissioner - 5 year term
- Cemetery Commissioner - 3 years remaining on a 5 year term
- Library Trustee - 5 year term
- Library Trustee - 4 years remaining on a 5 year term

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018. Please call the town office at 694-1361.