

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 7, 2017
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Bill Levine.

Deborah Darling, Board of Listers.

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.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dave Tatro to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2017 as written.

SECONDED by Carol Fachini. 4 in favor. Mike Denault abstained since he did not attend the meeting.

Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the public hearing minutes of November 16, 2017 as written. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. 4 in favor. Mike Denault abstained since he did not attend the meeting. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #50 \$ 5,450.70 payroll

WARRANT #51 \$ 26,776.12 accounts payable

WARRANT #52 \$ 6,772.27 payroll

WARRANT #53 \$200,798.32 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of November.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The Lane bridge is completed. The contractor has submitted bills for the work and the town has issued payment.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the grant reimbursement form for submission to the state. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Carolyn Carlson emailed the board to advise that the contractor has accepted the final quantities submitted by the state and we should receive the final bill for the Klondike Road project in January. The Selectboard agreed to pay the outstanding balances.

3. The back roads and higher elevations needed a little sanding this week.

4. The crew has been filling potholes and doing some sign repair.

RECYCLING

1. Buzz Wheeler submitted a doctor's note stating he could return to work. The Selectboard welcomed him back and Dave Tatro will contact Roy Gibson who has been filling in.

2. Republic Services has finally picked up the paper dumpster at the recycling center.

3. TAM has replaced one of the dumpsters at the school with a 6 yard dumpster which should save the town some money.

LISTERS UPDATE

1. Debbie Darling spoke with David Buckley about conducting the next town-wide reappraisal. He feels the amount the town has set aside puts us in a good position.
2. Barb Schlesinger from Pownal was hired this spring for \$35.00/hour to assist our listers in finalizing the grand list. She is willing to come again to help Debbie Darling assess the properties which need to be reviewed.
3. Nancy Bushika provided a spreadsheet for the board with the results of phone calls she made to several towns asking about their listers and lister salaries. Readsboro has done away with the lister position and has hired NEMRC to do all their appraisal work for \$7,500.00 the first year with a \$4,500 yearly contract for the next three years. Readsboro also pays a clerk to handle the weekly paperwork in the office for \$18.00/hour. The cost of hiring NEMRC is much higher than what Stamford is paying now. The lister salary has not been increased much over the past several years. A resident expressed interest in becoming a lister. The board felt his experience would be a valuable resource and agreed that the listers hourly rate might need to be increased.
4. Dave Tatro thought we should advertise for the position and the board was in agreement.

ALL BOARDS MEETING ON OPEN MEETING LAWS

Attorney Jim Barlow gave a presentation last night on the Open Meeting Laws. Nancy Bushika said she was pleased with the attendance and felt it was very informative.

DOG UPDATE

1. Luke McKay, Dog Officer, presented the Selectboard with three quotes for different sized dog kennels. He does not have a sufficient area to keep dogs outside during the winter. These buildings are insulated to provide adequate warmth for dogs during the winter. The kennel would be placed at the town garage. Kurt Gamari offered the town a dog kennel he no longer uses. The Selectboard will consider adding money to the budget during the upcoming budget sessions.
2. Amanda Kurpiel has not licensed her dog with the town. A letter will be sent imposing fines. The Selectboard does not want to impound the dog, but that would be the next step according to Vermont law.

EMPLOYEE POLICY – SICK LEAVE LAW

Nancy Bushika interprets the law to say that in 2018 employers must accrue paid sick leave at the rate of 1 hour for every 52 hours worked, to be used in 2019. Dave Tatro feels the town is already complying with the law since the town allows employees to use other days like vacation days as sick days at their discretion. The law affects 4 employees. Employees currently receive 2 sick days. Instead of increasing the policy to 3 sick days, the Selectboard decided to keep the time provided to employees the same, but call all time personal time off (PTO) days instead of designating personal, sick, vacation and holiday like we do now. The snow days given to the highway department as compensation for being on call for 6 months during the winter will still be labeled snow days. A revised draft of the policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. When the generator runs, fumes are entering the school building through a fresh air intake vent. Bill Levine has discussed the matter with Al McLain who has a meeting next week with the technician at Kingsley Power, the company who sold the generator.
2. Bill Levine has started reviewing the Continuity of Operations Plan and invited the Selectboard to review and make suggestions of what should be included. Nancy Bushika asked if this plan was really necessary.

ACH AGREEMENT

Lori Shepard provided an overview of the ACH Agreement which sets parameters for ACH transactions such as direct deposit for paychecks.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to authorize the treasurer to sign the ACH Agreement on behalf of the town.

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

TOWN PLAN

The Selectboard will hold off on signing the town plan until a response is received from Catherine Bryers at the Bennington County Regional Commission concerning the wording of the signature page.

SHERIFF/POLICE CONTRACTS

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

FIREMEN RECOGNITION

Dan Potvin felt the veterans dinner was such a complete success, he would like to see the firemen recognized for all they do. Bill Levine will speak to Paul Ethier. He felt that the firemen used to hold social events, but finding time is hard and volunteers are less, and when people have time, they would rather spend it with their families. Bill Levine noted that some towns offer tax discounts to their active firemen. Bill Levine stated the fire department will need to purchase a fire truck in the next two or three years. Paul Ethier has applied for grants but has not received any and may need to look to the town for the funding.

LANDSLIDE AREA

Mike Denault asked what could be done about the landslide areas on Mill Road. Dave Tatro said the town has already done work to reduce the chance of a landslide. State officials have viewed the area and there is not a lot more that can be done. There is FEMA money available in the event the town suffers damage due to the landslide.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Mike Denault would like to see a town Christmas tree next year. Some board members recalled the town having a lit Christmas tree in front of the school.

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

1. Micah Hayre requested permission to put white foil parking lot tape down to designate two driving lanes around the paved circle as well as a section for pre-school pickup. The Selectboard granted permission and Dave Tatro agreed to help if needed.

2. Dave Tatro obtained a quote to resurface the school parking lot for \$100,000. The paving should last 15-20 years. It would cost about \$1,000 to paint lines designating parking spaces. Bill Levine suggested that the paving of the school parking lot could be a warrant article at town meeting.

TOWN OFFICE/LISTER ROOM

Nancy Bushika received a request from a School Board member to use the town office/lister room for a meeting with Vermont Senator Brian Campion and Representative Laura Sibilila and others to discuss Act 46 and the merger with Clarksburg school. Although there is a policy allowing use of the room for town business only, Nancy Bushika would like to allow them to meet at the office. The Selectboard agreed.

TAX APPEAL/EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of the tax appeal matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client information pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Nancy Bushika, Dave Tatro, Mike Denault and Carol Fachini entered executive session at 8:01 p.m. Dan Potvin left the meeting.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:06 p.m.

The Selectboard reviewed information received from the town attorney. No decision was made.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 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.