

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
February 15, 2018  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, David R. Tatro, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael Denault and Carol Fachini.  
Visitors: Bill Levine and Helen Fields.  
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. The agenda was reviewed and a few items were added: review mowing specifications, town website, and two other municipal excess weight permit applications.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 15, 2018 as written.

SECONDED by Dave Tatro. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #6 \$ 7,179.22 payroll

WARRANT #7 \$27,242.46 accounts payable (the Selectboard noticed charges on the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department bill that will be questioned.)

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. There has been a lot of ice and the highway department has used a lot of sand.
2. The Ford is back from Carbone's but the highway department had to repair the U-joint this week which is a normal wear item. Dave Tatro does not want to sell the vehicle because of the broken frame. It may be worth keeping as a parts, run around truck, but it's not reliable.
3. We may be looking at an early mud season.
4. Dave Tatro attended a spring flood seminar with Bill Levine.

#### RIVER CORRIDORS

Michael Batcher sent a letter to the state advising that he had met with both Stamford and Sunderland Selectboards. He stated the town's concern about the concept of river corridors and the need to manage river alignment to preserve property. He also let the state know the Selectboard was opposed to changes that would add river corridor areas to landowners who were unaware of the process and that he was asked to meet with the landowners.

#### RECYCLING

1. McLain Electric has not yet come to install the 3 phase electricity at the recycling center.
2. The town has been saving money with the new recycling system and hauler. The TAM representative informed Dave Tatro that they would be reviewing their figures and might have to impose a slight increase. The Selectboard will review the contract.
3. All haulers except R.L. Waste have registered for 2018. Nancy Bushika has called Robert Lefebvre to bring him into compliance.

#### ENGINEERING QUOTE FOR WORK AT TOWN GARAGE

The Selectboard reviewed a quote received from Trinity Engineering for the design of a replacement septic system and well at the garage. Copies were made for the board and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### STATE PARCEL MAPPING PROGRAM

Last year the town was contacted by the state concerning their program to create tax maps for towns. The Selectboard and Listers talked at length and decided not to participate in the program. The maps are not surveys and cannot be relied on as such. The state has advised that they will not stand behind their maps and they will not hold up in court. The Selectboard and Listers had much concern that our residents would either gain or lose acreage and it would place an undue burden on our residents to prove their assessed acreage against the state's tax map. The state only provides digital maps and paper copies would be an additional cost to the town along with the yearly updates.

The town clerk was contacted by the state advising that it is not optional as they original purported and that the state intends to map every municipality in Vermont, if not in Phase II then in Phase III. The Selectboard complained about the state control and chose to defer at this time. Helen Fields did not like the thought of all of our information being out there on the internet.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine discussed the spring flood seminar he attended with Dave Tatro. It was hosted by Vermont Emergency Management, and there was information from the Agency of Natural Resources, the National Weather Service and VT Alert. When storm damage figures across the state are accumulated and reach \$1 million, the state can request a Declaration of Emergency for FEMA funding. Bill Levine noted that Dave Tatro is already aware of the state regulations. There is additional grant money available for hazard mitigation projects.
2. Bill Levine also attended the Northern Berkshire County LEPC meeting. A daytime EMT class will be offered this spring. He also mentioned that in a true emergency FEMA's rules go out the window and in the first 72 hours, the town is able to do what is necessary to protect life and infrastructure. They will be holding an emergency demonstration this spring. Bill Levine will provide more information on the demonstration when available.

#### SEED SAVERS GROUP

1. Helen Fields advised that the Seed Savers Group held a highly successful seed swap last weekend at the fire house. She felt the fire house provided a fabulous environment and the event was attended by approximately 30 people, some from Adams, North Adams and Pittsfield. CJ Vadnais is sorting, calibrating and documenting the seeds that they have available. It is an extensive seed library.
2. Helen Fields extended an invitation to the Selectboard to attend a presentation on Planning a Vegetable Garden for Pleasure, Beauty and Good Food on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Stamford Library.

#### PREPARE FOR TOWN MEETING

1. The auditors are not done with the audit and do not yet have final fund balance figures.
2. Bill Levine will allow candidates running for office to introduce themselves at town meeting but no speech will be allowed on the floor. It was noted that there is a contest for the 3 year Selectboard term (now held by Dave Tatro) between Chris Warren and Jim Stimpson and a contest for the 3 year School Director term (now held by Jessica Bugbee) between Helen Fields and Kelly Holland.
3. Dave Tatro asked about the Finance Committee report. Bill Levine stated that the Finance Committee supported the town budget. Bill Levine advised that they did have a concern with Article VI of the school

warrant to raise \$60,000 for a public preschool and they felt the change from the current private preschool to a public preschool was not transparent. As Moderator he feels the concern can be resolved by splitting the article in half to vote whether to change to a public preschool and if so, whether to raise the \$60,000.00.

#### UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION to approve three Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications, from Valley Crane Services, Inc., Renaud Bros., Inc. and VELCO. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information was received from the applicants.

#### 2017 AUDIT

The Selectboard agreed to forward the Selectboard report from the town report to the auditors.

#### WEBSITE

Nancy Bushika noted the sign in front of the school is advertising the town website. She feels it is misleading since it is not run by the town, it's run by CJ Vadnais. She would like to ask the principal to remove the word "town" and the board agreed. Helen Fields said it is an unofficial town website and feels many people rely on it. Dave Tatro agreed that it's great that CJ Vadnais has taken this on, but feels a town website should be under the town's control. A town website should have town information and should be handled first-hand, not passed to someone else. The disclaimer says "we" but doesn't say who's running it. Mike Denault noted there are bits and pieces taken from the minutes that are highlighted. Helen Fields said it has become more of a news center and is a good community builder. Bill Levine recalled that the Selectboard decided against an official town website because of the state mandate that all minutes needed to be posted within 5 days and the Selectboard didn't want to chase down other boards for compliance. The town clerk is willing to learn how to maintain a website if the Selectboard makes that decision.

#### MOWING CONTRACT

The Selectboard was given a copy of the current mowing specifications and will discuss further at the next meeting. Helen Fields stated that there is poison ivy growing on the river bank. The Seed Savers Group is willing to remove it. Helen Fields will research safe ways to remove poison ivy. Nancy Bushika will talk to the principal about it.

#### JUDICIAL BUREAU

The Selectboard was given information on the judicial process to enforce municipal ordinances.

#### DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

Amanda Kurpiel has still not licensed her dog with the town. The town clerk will follow up with the dog officer.

#### KLONDIKE ROAD BRIDGE

The town continues to receive small monthly bills from the state. The recent bill just paid was \$10.00.

#### SELECTBOARD SEMINAR

Nancy Bushika would like to attend the upcoming Selectboard seminar and invited others to attend.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 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. The dog clinic will be held at the Stamford Fire Department on Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
3. Anyone interested in serving as a lister until the next election should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.
4. 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.
5. Town meeting will be held Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School.
6. 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.
7. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2018. Please call the town office at 694-1361.