

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 1, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Bill Levine, Sheila Lawrence and Stanley Lawrence, Jr.
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: discussion of a cemetery matter and fund balance review.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dave Tatro to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 15, 2018 as written.
SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #8 \$ 7,620.37 payroll

WARRANT #9 \$10,197.96 accounts payable

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Chad Schmidt will attend the next meeting to discuss the charges that were questioned. The town was charged for a VIN verification and twice when the sheriff attended an emergency in a neighboring town. Nancy Bushika agrees that the sheriff should leave town for any type of emergency, but the town should not be charged patrol time while the sheriff has left to attend these matters. The Selectboard agreed. Dan Potvin said he has received complaints from residents about the sheriff.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway department has dealt with every possible weather condition in the last two weeks.
2. The dirt roads are soft and muddy. Some areas needed stones. Dave Tatro asks for patience. There are many other towns with worse mud problems than ours.
3. The crew has been doing maintenance on the trucks.
4. The firewood was delivered to heat the town garage.
5. Nancy Bushika provided information on the state's new Municipal Roads General Permit. The state is requiring every town obtain a permit and the fees seem to be higher than originally stated.

RECYCLING

1. The new compactor will be placed on the cement pad where the incinerator was.
2. This summer Dave Tatro plans to repair the stairs to the demo bin.
3. The food composting has been doing fine. There was one day when the door to the compost shed area was frozen shut and TAM couldn't empty it but it did not create a problem.

ENGINEERING QUOTE FOR WORK AT TOWN GARAGE

The Selectboard reviewed the quote for \$2,900.00 received from Trinity Engineering for the design of a replacement septic system and well at the garage. Dave Tatro will contact John Dupras with questions and invite him to a board meeting before the Selectboard makes a decision.

MOWING CONTRACT

The Selectboard reviewed the current mowing specifications. Sheila Lawrence participated in the discussion. Dave Tatro felt the cleanup and mulching of the Leo Ethier memorial garden and the veterans memorial should be included in the contract. Nancy Bushika is willing to continue maintenance of the veterans memorial and thought Mrs. Ethier would like to continue taking care of the Ethier memorial. It was ultimately decided to add a clause to keep the walkways and school entrances free of grass clippings, there will be no pesticide use and no crab grass control or weed and feed of the soccer field. The contractor will submit itemized bills monthly and will be paid monthly. The board will review the draft bid invitation at the next meeting. Mike Denault assured Sheila Lawrence that reviewing the mowing bid review was not personal in any way and would be good for both sides, to keep everything fair, clean, and up front.

DOG LICENSE/RABIES CLINIC REMINDERS

The town clerk provided samples and thought sending a postcard reminder in March stating all dogs need to be licensed with the town by April 1st, with the rabies clinic info could reduce some of the delinquent dog problem. Nancy Bushika did not feel it was necessary and feels dog owners should be responsible. The deadline and rabies clinic information will be announced at town meeting. The rabies clinic will be held on Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the firehouse.

DELINQUENT DOG OWNER

Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, has not been able to reach Amanda Kurpiel to compel her to have her dog vaccinated. The Selectboard will ask Luke McKay to be more aggressive and pro-active to ensure that the dog is vaccinated at the rabies clinic even if he has to bring the dog himself and charge for his service. If the dog is not vaccinated by March 11, 2018, the Selectboard will have no other alternative but to remove the dog from the home and impound it. The dog will not be returned to Ms. Kurpiel until the dog has been vaccinated and all additional fines imposed are paid.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. There have been no emergencies.
2. Bill Levine is still working with McLain Electric regarding the generator. The timing has been changed so the maintenance runs on Saturday morning. Al McLain is still working on a long term solution.

PREPARATION FOR TOWN MEETING

1. Mike Denault asked why some delinquent tax payers in the town report owe several years of taxes. There could be several reasons, but if the taxpayer files bankruptcy the town cannot collect the debt for a period of time after the bankruptcy. The Selectboard reviewed the delinquent tax collector's summary of tax payments received in 2018 and saw the debtor had made substantial payments toward the debt.

2. The Selectboard discussed topics which may come up at town meeting. 25% of the town's fund balance is \$27,796.00 and 25% of the highway fund balance is \$26,558.00. The town will vote to reduce the raise and appropriate by these two amounts.

LISTER WORK

Nancy Bushika met with the NEMRC assessor and Deb Darling. She was comfortable with him and felt he was easy to work with. He advised that the state is considering new ways to raise taxes, one of which may be to tax travel trailers.

2017 AUDIT

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the representation letter to the auditing firm Love, Cody & Company for the 2017 audit. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MILLARD CEMETERY

Although the Millard Cemetery has been closed for the winter, a vehicle tried to drive into the cemetery, got stuck and drove across private property. This is the third time someone has tried to drive through the cemetery and has gotten stuck. Sally Bohl, a Cemetery Commissioner, has asked Jon Bohl to put a rope across the roadway and Dave Tatro was asked to create a snow barrier when he plows the snow. The Cemetery Commission will consider what can be done to close the cemetery officially next winter.

GRATITUDE TO SELECTBOARD

A resident called to thank the Selectboard for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to the town. The Selectboard appreciated the sentiment.

DUMPING ON CLASS 4 ROADS

There has been more dumping but it occurred on the Clarksburg side. Residents expressed frustration that nothing seems to get done to stop the dumping. Mike Denault stated that several people were caught dumping last year and had to pay fines. If you see something, say something. The more problems are reported, the more will get done.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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. 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.