

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 7, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Christopher Warren, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael Denault and Carol Fachini.

Visitors: Susan Bohl, Debbie Darling, Jeff Disorda from VELCO, Helen Fields, Bill Levine, Lynn Phillips, and Bert Serrano from Serrano Construction.
James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of an employee matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to interview candidates for the Assessor Clerk position pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Sally Bohl, Lynn Phillips and Danielle Hayre were each invited into executive session individually. The board entered executive session at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION by Chris Warren to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 6:10 p.m.

MOTION by Chris Warren to hire Sally Bohl for the Assessor Clerk position with an annual review. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Nancy Bushika thanked the other candidates for applying and stated that letters will be sent.

OPEN PAVING BIDS

A bid was received from Serrano Construction in the amount of \$59,800.00. A bid was received from A-1, Inc. in the amount of \$45,200.00. Both contractors attended the pre-bid site visit. Nancy Bushika suggested Dave Tatro review the bids. Later during the Road Conditions part of the meeting, the Selectboard resumed discussion. Dave Tatro felt that the bid from Serrano Construction was written out more thoroughly than the bid from A-1. The A-1 bid is much lower but doesn't mention the shim coat or tack coat. It was noted that both companies attended the pre-bid site visit and should be bidding on the same work. Mike Denault was concerned that the town didn't do its job if we bid it out without specifications. Dave Tatro felt that he specified what needed to be done with each company at the site visit, but was concerned because A-1 used the term patching instead of a shim coat. Dave Tatro advised if the board wants to choose the lower bid, they should contact A-1 for clarification of his proposal first. The Selectboard asked for Dave Tatro's recommendation. He said he had worked with both companies and they both do good work.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the bid submitted by Serrano Construction in the amount of \$59,800.00.

SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SEED SAVERS GROUP

Helen Fields reported that Seed Savers representatives have been actively working with the school children to plant in the community gardens. The Seed Savers had a table at the church bazaar and sold tomato plants. The leftover plants are available to townspeople for free. If anyone knows of a community group in North Adams where she can donate extra plants, please let Helen Fields know. Dan Potvin asked if more people were getting involved and Helen Fields agreed that more people are participating. They held an instructional workshop for tree pruning and Pamela Tworig demonstrated on the crab apple tree in the Leo Ethier memorial garden. It was well attended and Mrs. Ethier-Kipp is very pleased. The group will be at the community gardens at 6 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday for anyone who wants to come, watch, and/or try their hand at gardening.

COMPLAINT

Sue Bohl asked what could be done about the old Labombard house at 261 Main Road. The yard is not mowed and she is concerned that the furniture on the lawn will attract rodents. It looks bad as you enter town. The Selectboard will contact Kurt Gamari, the Health Officer, and may also contact the mortgage company.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Nancy Bushika stated that she had received a phone call about the ice cream truck at the Tworig property and that a permit should have been issued. The Administrative Officer said he reviewed our by-laws and state law and determined that the Tworigs already went before the ZBA and obtained a permit to sell items so no new permit was necessary. The ice cream truck is also moveable. James Stimpson advised that another gentleman is interested in selling food products and he also already has a permit to sell from the ZBA. Sue Bohl felt that a new business would be a change of use that would require a new ZBA permit. James Stimpson stated that our zoning by-laws allow you to start a business, run it for a couple of years, stop it, and then later start another business without having to re-apply. James Stimpson wants the town to tighten up our by-laws and has started a list of gray areas that he feels need to be addressed. Dan Potvin disagreed with adding more restrictions and would like to have by-laws that encourage business. There is nothing to prevent a marijuana dispensary from opening up or something that nobody wants and our current by-laws won't prevent it. Helen Fields felt, without favoring one side or the other, that more business in our town helps our tax base and we shouldn't be picking and choosing as long as it is appropriate and legal.

VELCO – COUNTY ROAD PROJECT

Jeff Disorda from Vermont Electric Company spoke about their project on County Road. They are doing a major upgrade of the power line from the Massachusetts border through Stamford, Pownal, Bennington and into New York. There are 18 structures which need to be replaced. They will be working within their right of way but would like to upgrade County Road from the intersection of Klondike Road to the area where the power line crosses County Road. Dump trucks will be hauling over 1,000 yards of stone. They will cover culverts with a timber construction mat to prevent damage and will cut tree branches to widen some areas. When they are done they seed and mulch their easement road under the power lines so there will be little maintenance needed after re-vegetation. Helen Fields asked if native species could be planted. Jeff Disorda stated that what they use is approved by the state and encourages the growth of native species. They have hired Casella Construction who will get all the appropriate road permits. The Selectboard asked him to work closely with Dave Tatro and asked Dave Tatro to keep the board informed.

MINUTES

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 17, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Nancy Bushika clarified that the minutes correctly represented her statement that the Administrative Officer has 15 days to act on a permit. She was speaking about a discussion she had with an official from another town where their Administrative Officer has 15 days to act. That town must have different regulations than we do. In Stamford our Administrative Officer has 30 days to act on a permit.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #22 \$ 5,841.74 payroll
- WARRANT #24 \$64,309.33 accounts payable (Warrant #23 was inadvertently skipped)
- WARRANT #25 \$ 6,099.94 payroll
- WARRANT #26 \$11,339.46 accounts payable

SNOW SEASON STATUS

There were no problems with the highway department handling winter storms.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to allow the Snow Season Status four days compensation for David Tatro and Michael Brothers for outstanding winter road service. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways. Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard met with Chris Taft from the Agency of Transportation to review the 2018 highway budget. The budget is split 60/40 between winter and summer costs and is used to qualify for FEMA money in the event of an emergency.

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept and sign the Annual Financial Plan. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor.

Motion APPROVED.

2. The Selectboard reviewed the Better Back Roads grant agreement for the Collins Road culvert repair project this summer. The grant will provide up to \$8,485.00 and the town's match will be \$2,121.00. The job should be less expensive now that the town has its own excavator and we won't have to hire out the work.

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept and sign the grant agreement. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. The PTO in the Zetor tractor has been rebuilt. It was a big job and took a couple days. Mike Brothers and Dave Tatro were commended for the money they save the town by doing repairs themselves.

4. The highway crew finished grading the roads.

5. Dave Tatro asked for the board to confirm hiring Larry Arnold as the summer laborer. Dave Tatro felt he did well last year and is familiar with our mower and equipment.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to hire Larry Arnold as the highway summer laborer for not more than 20 hours per week. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

6. Risky Ranch Road has been yolk-raked. A few culverts need to be replaced. It would be nice if the town had a turn-around area near the last camp. We would need an easement to widen our right-of-way. Mike Denault thought it was a possibility.

RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika handed out flyers at the church bazaar for the free Home Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Stamford. She has posted a flyer at the transfer station and will ask the school to send copies home with the children. They would like two people from the town to be present. Nancy Bushika is willing to be there and she asked if another board member would volunteer.

2. The Bennington County Regional Commission has to apply for an Insignificant Waste Management Event permit to hold the HHW Day on town property. Mike Batchter from the BCRC will complete the application and asked the board to sign a letter of approval.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to sign the letter of approval. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. Nancy Bushika and Dave Tatro met with Karen Knaebel of the Agency of Natural Resources concerning the acceptance of e-waste at the transfer station. It is not a requirement, but if the town does accept e-waste, we must follow the state guidelines. The town must register with the state and all items collected must be labeled and dated. We will need to report to the state what has been collected. Bill Levine did not feel it was necessary to burden Dave Tatro with additional work to label items and fill out reports since the fire department conducts an e-waste collection fundraiser. The Selectboard will discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

4. Buzz Wheeler showed Nancy Bushika the compost bins this past weekend. They are full of maggots and flies, even though they are alternating layers of sawdust. Dave Tatro will contact TAM. He said they do a good job keeping them clean and use hot water to spray down the bins.

WEBSITE

Nancy Bushika commended Chris Warren in doing a great job writing the proposed policy. She does not feel the town website should be a place for candidates running for office to campaign. Chris Warren disagreed, saying he thought allowing candidates space on the website would help people learn about them prior to voting. Bill Levine offered to moderate a Meet your Candidates Night. Nancy Bushika does not think there should be links to individual or business websites. Bill Levine would like a link to the state's 211 service. Perhaps a directory of information would be good.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1. Mike Denault has received complaints from people who think the town shouldn't hire the sheriffs or think the hours should be reduced. He feels the townspeople voted to keep the sheriff at a prior town meeting so the Selectboard should renew their contract.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the contract for 22 hours/week sheriff's patrol at the rate of \$43.25/hour. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Mike Denault will contact Sheriff Chad Schmidt concerning joining with other towns.

FLAG CEREMONY

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has invited a designee of Stamford to their annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 10, 2018 in Bennington, Vermont. Nancy Bushika may attend.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There were no emergencies. Bill Levine suggested the Selectboard attend the ICS400 course. It is good for the Selectboard to be prepared to manage an emergency.

DELINQUENT DOGS

The delinquent dog list was turned over to the Selectboard. There are seven residents and a total of 9 dogs. The Selectboard will contact Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, and will give the dog owners two weeks to license their dogs.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The Selectboard signed the Tax Anticipation Note from Berkshire Bank.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

The Selectboard signed the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Riggs Distler. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

TAX SALE PROPERTY

Nancy Bushika received a phone call from someone interested in Lots 176 and 178 in Alpenwald which was offered at the town's recent tax sale. There was no bidder so the town acquired the lots. There was a house on the lots at one time so there must have been a septic system and water. The town makes no representation as to the condition of the water supply and septic system but would be willing to sell the lots as is.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. All dogs must be licensed with the town by April 1, 2018.
2. A free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 9 am to 11 a.m. in Stamford.
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.