

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**August 16, 2018**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Carol Fachini was not present.

Visitors: Lynn Austin, Paul Austin, Deborah Darling, Helen Fields, Nancy Lesage, Charles Lovett, Jennifer Lovett, Pat Sullivan and Mary Lou Wright.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

William Levine, Emergency Management Coordinator.

James Stimpson, Administrative 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. The agenda was reviewed and the Municipal Planning Grant was added.

#### SPEEDING ON TOWN ROADS

Mary Lou Wright said several townspeople have voiced concerns on social media of speeding on town roads such as Maltese Road, Basin Road, Robillard Road, East Road and The Lane. Nancy Lesage asked about a Watch for Children sign. Dave Tatro said the Vermont Agency of Transportation discourages those signs, saying they provide a false sense of security. More speed limit signs and perhaps speed bumps were also suggested. The cost of a town constable was also discussed. Jim Stimpson and Bill Levine recommended that people call the state police more frequently with complaints. Mike Denault will contact the Bennington County Sheriff's office to request more patrol on the side roads as well as to request the speed cart.

#### ASSESSOR CLERK POSITION

Debbie Darling saw that the Assessor Clerk's hours were increased to 8 hours/week. She suggested the board consider hiring a second part-time Assessor Clerk to learn the job. Debbie Darling feels Sally Bohl has a lot of experience and knowledge so she would be a good person to train someone new. Mike Denault felt the idea should be discussed with Sally Bohl first.

#### SIGN ON SCHOOL FENCE

Nancy Bushika saw a resident walking their dog on school grounds today. She walked back to remind the person that no dogs are allowed on school property. Nancy Bushika will talk to the school principal about hanging a sign on the fence saying No unauthorized vehicles or animals on town/school property.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 2, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #35 \$ 6,714.28 payroll

WARRANT #36 \$15,716.26 accounts payable

#### FINANCIALS

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

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Mike Denault, Nancy Bushika and Dan Potvin viewed the pavement damage on East Road. Mike Denault felt if Dave Tatro could fix the area for a minimum cost and there were no safety issues, it should be fine. The cost should be paid by the contractor who caused the damage. The Selectboard discussed creating a bond policy or insurance requirement. Dave Tatro stated the highway ordinance already has a clause to protect the town if a landowner or contractor damages the road. The Selectboard feels that language should be added to our driveway permits to require either insurance coverage or a bond to protect the town. The board will review the driveway permit language at the next meeting.
2. Dave Tatro obtained a quote to paint the two handicapped parking spaces and one parent pickup route stripe around the circle for \$485.00. The quote to paint parking spaces throughout the whole lot was \$985.00. The board did not feel having parking spaces on the whole lot was necessary.
3. Dave Tatro is pleased with the excavator. The final approval was received from the state to begin the stacked rock wall on Collins Road and Dave Tatro will use the excavator for that project.

## RECYCLING

A free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day has been scheduled by the Alliance for September 15, 2018 in Dorset, Vermont.

## DOG UPDATE

1. All known dogs have been registered for 2018.
2. Nancy Bushika contacted Second Chance Animal Hospital. They are not taking any strays because they don't know if the dog has had its shots. She called Great Fields Kennel in North Bennington. They are not contracting with any new towns because they do want to put their current paying clients at risk. The Readsboro and Pownal Dog Officers take the dogs they find home. The Selectboard expressed concern about the liability of taking in stray or lost dogs. Nancy Bushika would like to discuss the problem at the next Alliance meeting. Many towns do not have their own kennel and may be interested in joining together to form one area kennel. Mike Denault felt the town is asking a lot of our Dog Officer in return for a small amount of money.

## WEBSITE

Chris Warren and Lori Shepard have been working on the website. Chris Warren called the state about a .gov address but has not heard back. The website should be ready soon.

## INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORTS

There were no questions on the half year reports.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine would like the 9-1-1 number requirement to be enforced. No building permits will be issued for any structures in town without a 9-1-1 number. It should not delay the process. There are several barns and camps in town without 9-1-1 numbers which will be addressed.
2. Dan Potvin would like to see the personal radiation detectors discussed at the last meeting. Bill Levine will look into it.

## NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

The school has requested a sheriff be present during school hours for the November general election. The Selectboard has budgeted funds to cover the cost and will take care of it.

## SCHOOL MOWING

The Selectboard received a complaint that grass clippings were left on the walkways. Nancy Bushika will talk to the contractor about blowing the grass off the walkways after mowing.

#### POLISH TAKEOUT

Wojciech Rum invited everyone to try his new take out restaurant. People have told him he should also serve beer at his establishment. He asked how the board felt about it and what steps he needed to take. Bill Levine explained the process. The board was receptive if Mr. Rum chooses to go forward.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

The state is offering a municipal planning grant. The grant is between \$2,000.00 and \$22,000.00 and has a 10% town match. Lori Shepard asked if the Selectboard would like her to pursue the grant to help the Planning Commission's costs to update the By-laws. The Selectboard was agreeable if the Planning Commission agrees. The next Planning Commission meeting will be September 10, 2018.

2. Dan Potvin felt there was a lot of misinformation given at the last Planning Commission meeting and that people were quoting laws and regulations that do not exist. Roberts Rules and how to run meetings was discussed. Chris Warren said clear guidelines of expectations should be established so people on town boards know what behavior is expected of them. Dan Potvin hopes for a good turnout at the next meeting and feels the more people that participate in the by-law revision, the better.

#### TOWN CLERK/SELECTBOARD SECRETARY

Mike Denault asked for clarity on what boards Lori Shepard works for and takes minutes for. Lori Shepard is hired by the Selectboard as their secretary to type agendas, minutes etc. The Town Clerk, Selectboard and Justices of the Peace form the Board of Civil Authority. The Clerk of the BCA types the agendas and minutes. Lori Shepard types the minutes because she has been nominated Clerk. She also does the minutes for the Board of Zoning Adjustment. It was noted that she does not work for any other town boards. Mike Denault feels people tend to put her on the spot, asking her to help them with work that really isn't her job. He would like to support the town clerk and feels she has enough on her plate.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mike Denault will speak to Chad Schmidt about a neighborly dispute which appeared on the town's bill.

#### CELLULAR TOWER

The board received a letter from Landmark Dividend offering to buy ground leases for cellular towers and roof antennas. Chris Warren was initially interested in improving cell service which would benefit businesses in town. Bill Levine said radiation is being detected around some cell towers, especially 5G towers, and thought it might not be good near the school. The board decided not to take any action.

#### VERMONT CONSTITUTION

Dan Potvin would like to review the state's constitution at the next meeting.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Christopher Warren  
Clerk

CW/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The Bennington Solid Waste Alliance will hold a free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Dorset, Vermont on September 15, 2018.
2. 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.