

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
August 2, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Caroline Burch, David Hughs, Jenifer Hughs, Charles Lemaire, Tina Lemaire, and James Williams.
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. There was nothing added or changed.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of July 12, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. It was noted that in the minutes of July 19, 2018 the Building Community Group was erroneously referred to as Berkshire Community Group.
MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2018 as revised. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. Sally Bohl disagreed with the statement made in the July 19th minutes that the dump truck drivers were speeding on Mill Road and County Road. She lives on the road and has not seen any going fast. She feels the residents speed frequently but not the truck drivers. Mike Denault met with the Bennington County Sheriff to convey the original complaint. He stated that large trucks are often perceived as going fast when they are not because they sound loud. The sheriff will patrol the area.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #33 \$ 5,729.88 payroll
- WARRANT #34 \$33,607.33 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro feels the reclassification of Klondike and/or County Road would require a long term plan. It would require a substantial amount of money to be put aside each year. Jim Williams feels it's a bad idea. There is a lot of ledge in the road which would have to be removed and the road would have to be widened in several places. Jim Williams was opposed, saying the cost would place a financial burden on the residents and the elderly in town.
2. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to sign the Town Road and Bridge Standards, Certification of Compliance as required by the state. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. A resident on East Road obtained building permits for construction of two buildings, one on each side of the road. A driveway/right-of-way permit has since been obtained. The contractor's bulldozer damaged the road in places and parts of the blacktop on the edge were broken. The town could have all of it fixed for a couple thousand dollars or Dave Tatro can fix the broken edges for a couple hundred dollars. Dave Tatro asked the board how they would like to proceed. The contractor is aware of the problem. Charles Lemaire felt the town should come up with a solution to deal with contractors that cause damage. He suggested contractors being required to post bond so they can't skip town and not pay for damages they caused. The Selectboard will take a look at the road and discuss the matter at their next meeting.

4. The Selectboard discussed renaming the portion of Old County Road near Sumner Road. From an emergency management perspective, you don't want an ambulance taking the Sumner Road side if an emergency exists on the side near high bridge on Mill Road. A letter will be sent to all home owners on the road advising that the Selectboard would like to change the name of the road.
5. The paving at the school parking lot looks very nice. The board discussed whether lining the whole parking lot would provide more parking spaces or less. Dave Tatro feels we will lose spaces if the lot is completely striped because spaces need to be a minimum of nine feet wide. Dave Tatro will request a quote to paint the handicap parking spaces and a parent pick up route that the principal has requested. Caroline Burch, a library trustee, feels having one handicapped parking spot in front of the library is important. She stated the parking lot is very congested and when the library is open on Fridays, it is difficult to find a place to park. Mike Denault stated there was a lack of communication on the first day of the paving project which made it difficult for the contractor. Dave Tatro had obtained a list of school functions and library hours from the principal but there were more things going on that he was not made aware of.
6. The highway crew has done a lot of grading and is trying to catch up after last week's rain storms.
7. Larry Arnold and Mike Brothers have been mowing.

RECYCLING

1. The town is now signed up with the state to collect e-waste.
2. The free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day last Saturday was very successful with 42 households from Stamford participating. People were happy to clean out and get rid of old chemicals. It was neat and organized. Bill Levine said it is good to know there is less chemical risk for emergency management/safety reasons. It cost about \$6,000.00 to hold the HHW event in Stamford and Searsburg, but because all thirteen towns pitched in, the cost was well worth it.

INCREASE PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dan Potvin spoke with Jim Sullivan from the Bennington County Regional Commission about the Planning Commission. Jim Sullivan said at the first meeting each year all boards should reorganize and nominate the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk. Jim Sullivan is coming to the Planning Commission's meeting on August 6, 2018 to discuss energy, but Dan Potvin would also like to begin discussing the by-laws. Dan Potvin has worked hard to drum up interest in becoming a Planning Commission member and feels the more public input, the better. The Selectboard received five letters from residents interested in joining the Planning Commission. We currently have five members serving. Vermont statutes were reviewed to learn that you can have up to nine members. If the Selectboard decides to appoint additional members, it will increase the quorum needed to hold meetings and to vote. Chris Warren and Nancy Bushika were concerned about increasing the board membership and appointing members tonight. They felt the public hasn't been made aware of the potential vacancies.

MOTION by Mike Denault to read the letters and vote to approve the candidates. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. 3 in favor (Mike Denault, Carol Fachini and Dan Potvin), 2 opposed (Nancy Bushika and Chris Warren). Motion APPROVED.

The residents interested are Helen Fields, Aaron Malachuk, Steven Denault, Jenifer Hughs and Teresa Stimpson. Bill Levine noted in the 2016 Selectboard's Report in the town report, the board encouraged residents to come forward and serve on various town boards, so the word has been out. Bill Levine suggested appointing the first four applicants received and appointing the fifth as a non-voting member with the first option of filling a vacancy. If others come forward, they can also be appointed non-voting members with the same option. The Selectboard agreed to allow more appointments to the Planning Commission in staggered four-year terms. MOTION by Chris Warren to appoint four candidates to the Planning Commission in the order their letters of interest were received: Helen Fields appointed for one year remaining on a four year term, Aaron Malachuk appointed for two years remaining on a four year term, Steven Denault appointed for three years remaining on a four year term, Jenifer Hughs appointed for a four year term; and to appoint the fifth applicant, Teresa Stimpson, as a non-voting member and first in line to fill the next vacancy. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Nancy Bushika wanted it added that if anyone else is interested in serving on any boards, to please submit a letter of interest. You can be appointed and if the board is at full capacity, you can become a non-voting member until an opening becomes available. The statutes were reviewed to learn that the Zoning Board of Adjustment can have up to nine members.

DOG UPDATE

1. Bette Arnold has licensed their dog. The Selectboard has received no response from Shawn Senecal concerning the letter assessing penalties and requesting him to license his dog within two weeks.
2. Nancy Bushika was asked to contact Second Chance Animal Shelter to see why they are not willing to accept our dogs. She left a message but has not received a call back. Nancy Bushika learned that Bennington contracts with Great Fields Kennel in North Bennington for their stray dogs. She has left a message for them also.

WEBSITE

Chris Warren worked with Lori Shepard to begin the website. It is a work in progress. He did some researching and discovered that .gov addresses cost about \$400.00/year. We will probably use an addresses ending in .org or .us since they cost more like \$10.00/year. The Selectboard will happily accept beautiful pictures of the town for use on the website. Pictures can be submitted to the town office by email to stamfordvt@live.com.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill and Joan Levine continue to ride the roads looking for 9-1-1 house numbers. He is drafting a letter to send to all who do not have functional 9-1-1 house numbers.
2. Bill Levine and Sheila Lawrence attended a recent LEPC meeting. They talked about the state's changes to Homeland Security which is now separate from the Emergency Management Division. They would like to see personal radiation detectors available to first responders. The state is considering drones for search and rescue operations.

NEMRC CONTRACT

1. The board signed the NEMRC contract for 18 months which was approved at the last meeting.
2. The town's District Advisor, Chris Landon, will be at the town office on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 10 a.m. Sally Bohl invited the Selectboard to attend. NEMRC is pushing for a town-wide reappraisal and tax maps. She feels tax maps are a waste of town money. Dan Potvin agreed. Sally Bohl will speak to the District Advisor about the town reappraisal and in-house inspections.
3. Sally Bohl requested more hours. When the Assessor Clerk position was advertised, the time offered was 4-5 hours per week. She feels she needs at least 8 hours/week to bring the records up to date.
MOTION by Chris Warren to authorize an increase in the Assessor Clerk hours to 32 hours per month, retroactive to the position being filled, with a review in three months. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
4. The last NEMRC contract did not mention mileage but they have billed us for mileage. We paid the first bill without noticing and have held payment on the second bill. Chris Warren felt it was an oversight and NEMRC will just consider the time as work if challenged. The mileage cost in question is \$187.00. Mike Denault felt it was better to just pay the amount due. The Selectboard agreed to authorize the treasurer to pay the bill in full.

2018 TAX BILL INSERT

Nancy Bushika added the HHW date to the tax bill insert.

REVENUE/EXPENSE REPORTS

The Selectboard were given revenue and expense reports for the first six months to review.

DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

It was noted that no dogs are allowed on school property unless they are a service dog. They should not be walked out back nor be allowed in the library. The Selectboard asks for the public's cooperation.

AIR BNBS

The state has passed a law to inspect all short term rentals and Air BnBs will be required to post their Meals and Rooms tax numbers. As a town we are not required to regulate Air BnBs.

CREDIT CARD SERVICE

Nancy Bushika asked for the status of the new credit card/debit card payment service. Unibank is trying to determine if they can charge the fees they are accustomed to charging in Massachusetts or if they have to follow Vermont's fee regulations since we are a Vermont town.

MEETING WITH BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Mike Denault spoke with the sheriff. In addition to discussing the dump trucks on Mill Road, he also asked about parking on state highways. The sheriff advised that cars can park on the untraveled portion of the highway. If cars are parked on the travelled portion, they can be ticketed. Mike Denault also discussed joining with other towns to commit to a 40 hour per week sheriff. Other nearby towns are only contracting for a few hours and Stamford will end up paying for the majority of a 40 hour work week. He offered to place a speed cart for a week or two on a town road if the Selectboard feels it's necessary. The sheriff said he receives complaints on a weekly basis from residents, but all in all, we have a good community here.

LINES PAINTED ON CLASS 2 ROADS

The state painted yellow lines on East Road and on Clough Road. They also did the beginning of Jepson Road. When the town received the letter from the state saying they intended to paint the lines, the town objected. Dave Tatro also spoke with Chris Taft at the Bennington AOT office objecting to the lines. Chris Taft recalled the conversation with Dave Tatro and will talk to his supervisors about allowing the town to make the decision in the future. The state should not have painted Clough Road since it is a Class 3 road, and if they were going to paint Jepson Road, they should have done the upper portion which actually connects with Massachusetts. A letter will be sent to the state.

BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

Dan Potvin, the town's BCRC representative, attended their recent meeting. He spoke to a National Forest representative about eminent domain. Dan Potvin said there are municipalities who are seizing federal lands from the forest service for economic purposes and challenging whether it is constitutional for the government to hold land. Dan Potvin may pursue this as an individual.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Stamford Elementary School Hall from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
2. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 10, 2018. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
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.