

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
September 6, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Jon Bohl, Luke McKay, Helen Fields.
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 Dave Tatro requested an executive session for personnel matters. There were no other changes to the agenda or its order.

MINUTES

Chris Warren felt his position on the cell tower topic was not clear in the August 16, 2018 minutes. The minutes implied that he is no longer interested in improving cell service in town which is not true. The minutes also suggested that his interest was specifically to benefit businesses in town but his interest is a more general, quality of life issue.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 16, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #37 \$5,771.47 payroll
WARRANT #38 \$7,384.88 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro hired the contractor to paint the two handicapped spaces and the parent pickup route on the school parking lot. The contractor was not supposed to paint the parking spaces along the building in back. Dave Tatro asked if the board wanted him to have the contractor come back to remove the lines, or the highway crew could paint over them. The board did not want Dave Tatro to spend his time fixing it. The lines against the building will not be re-painted in the future. The cost was \$585.00 for the painting, not \$485.00 as was stated in the last minutes.
2. The board discussed ordering winter sand. The town has hired Eilers Brothers for the past few years. The service is excellent and the sand is good quality. Dave Tatro will contact them for a price.
3. Dave Tatro spoke with the contractor who damaged the pavement on East Road. The contractor will make sure the broken edges are fixed when the job is complete. The heavy trucks are already smoothing out the road and the surface has improved. The board reviewed our current driveway permit and determined that the permit already contains appropriate language to protect the town.
4. Dave Tatro has not been able to start the stacked rock wall project on Collins Road. He had to wait for the permission to begin from the state and the weather has not cooperated since then. He needs several days of good weather and next week looks like rain. He would like to wait until next summer to work on the project.
5. The new truck order has been delayed another month. It may be ready by November or December.

RENAMING OF OLD COUNTY ROAD

Jon Bohl thought Newkom Road would be an appropriate name since Mr. Newkom lived there for so many years. The public hearing to rename the easterly side of Old County Road was set for September 20, 2018 at 5:45 p.m. Notices of the hearing will be posted and sent to the abutters.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

1. Mike Denault spoke with the sheriff's office. They are willing to bring down the speed cart. It must be located on a town road, not the Main Road. There is a waiting list.
2. Mike Denault asked the sheriff to patrol the back roads due to the speeding complaints received at the last meeting. This direction conflicted with prior requests to be more visible in the center of town. The sheriff will do his best to divide coverage.
3. Last month's bill was also discussed. The Bennington sheriffs cannot refuse to respond to a call when it is during their contracted time with the town. The town assumes that responsibility when they contract with the sheriff's department. The sheriff will talk with the state police about not responding to non life-threatening emergencies during town contracted time.
4. Jim Stimpson stated he has been doing a lot of research and feels it is imperative that the town stop hiring the sheriff. He feels our tax dollars support the state police and the town should demand better service from them. He feels the sheriff's department's sole purpose is to transport prisoners and serve civil papers. Helen Fields called the state police after hearing gun shots at 10 p.m. and they did not want to come down. Mike Denault was very concerned about the state police's lack of response. Jim Stimpson has been researching the different levels of training required for a constable and would be more than willing to be the town constable. He would have to attend a two week training course and is trying to see if they will waive the FTO time required due to his police work in Massachusetts. Mike Denault recalled that the townspeople voted to increase the sheriff's patrol hours and is interested in the people's opinion. Jim Stimpson suggested that the state police be invited to the next meeting. The town would like to know the number of calls they have received from Stamford and how that relates to the per capita breakdown. The board agreed to invite a state trooper to the next meeting.

RECYCLING

1. Helen Fields advised that they received the regional composting grant through NERC (Northeast Recycling Council). She reiterated that the town agreed to host a regional gathering to learn the how's and why's of home, town and general composting.
2. Michael Batcher at the Bennington County Regional Commission is applying for a municipal planning grant for the alliance. They received \$35,000.00 to write the SWIP plan last year and are hoping to receive \$22,000.00 this year.

MOTION by Chris Warren to sign a letter in support of his pursuit of the grant on behalf of the alliance.

SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SCHOOL MERGER

The School Board forwarded the first draft of the Articles of Agreement for review. The Selectboard appreciated the communication. Nancy Bushika will speak with Cindy Lamore and let the board know when the school's next merger meeting is.

WEBSITE

Chris Warren advised that the State of Vermont has certain requirements for a .gov address and wordpress does not support the state's requirements. He believes it is time to move forward and purchase our own domain name. Jim Stimpson suggested stamfordvermont.org and said it was available. Other names were discussed such as stamfordvermonttown.org which might give the website a distinction as the town's site. The Selectboard would like feedback from our residents with ideas for the town's website address and a decision will be made at the next meeting. Please contact a Selectboard member or the town clerk with your suggestions.

ALPENWALD LOTS

The town clerk received a call from Tony Pitrone who is interested in buying the town's interest in the redemption period for Lots 176 and 178 which went up for tax sale this past May. He would like to pay for perc testing to be sure the lots pass before buying them. The board declined since the owner still owns the property until the redemption period expires and the board has no authority until the one year period expires.

VERMONT CONSTITUTION

Dan Potvin noted the Selectboard members and all elected officials have taken an oath to uphold the constitution. He feels it is important because in a time of crisis the constitution protects people on both sides. Usually a survival of the fittest mentality takes over during periods of unrest and enforcement of the constitution can keep communities civil. Many of the freedoms were reviewed such as freedom of speech and the fact that the institution of martial law is not lawful in Vermont. In the event of a tragedy, Helen Fields believes the community will come together.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. A 9-1-1 number has been assigned to the Hughs' barn on East Road.
2. Bill Levine will finish the 9-1-1 evaluation when the heavy trucks are done on Mill Road.

WARRANT TO COLLECT TAXES

The Selectboard signed the warrant authorizing the treasurer to collect taxes. Tax bills will be mailed on Friday.

TOBACCO COMPLIANCE TEST

The Selectboard received notice from the State of Vermont that Bilmont's Country Store has failed a recent tobacco test.

CLASS ACTION SUIT

An email was received from the attorney acknowledging receipt of the town's decision to join the Class Action Suit regarding the PILT payments which may be recovered.

SCHOOL LAWN MOWING

Nancy Bushika spoke with Dan Denault. A previous lawn mowing left deep ruts in the new grassy areas along the edge of the pavement. He immediately came up to fix the ruts and blow the grass clippings from the walkways.

CELLULAR/INTERNET SURVEY

Chris Warren received a survey request from the Southern Vermont Economy Project about internet and cellular connectivity. He is happy to respond to the survey. They are asking what the state of connectivity is in town, what interests our town has, what future steps we would like to take, etc. They are gathering information and there is no commitment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Dave Tatro was invited into executive session. The board entered executive session at 7:55 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:50 p.m.

Results of executive session: The Selectboard will hire a third person to work as a highway laborer. The position

will be full time and salary and benefits will be negotiated based on experience. The help wanted ad will be posted in three places and given to CJ Vadnais for the website.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

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.