

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 18, 2018
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Victoria Jefferies, Pat Sullivan.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Coordinator.
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 two items were added: a Christmas tree donation and a fuel certificate for the Citgo card. The order of the agenda was not changed.

COMMUNITY BUILDING GROUP

Pat Sullivan and Victoria Jefferies met with an architect at Norwich University. They presented the Selectboard with a written outline. The architectural department has agreed to use our project as part of their curriculum. They will develop project ideas, prepare sketches and cost estimates for town meeting. There is no cost to the town for their services which is a tremendous savings. The group will pursue grants and the amount of grant funding obtained may ultimately decide the scope of the project and whether the project will be completed in phases. The board gave its full support. Chris Warren suggested they speak to the School Board about the interstate merger with Clarksburg since ownership of the school building and land will need to be turned over to the school district according to the draft merger documents.

TOWN WEBSITE

Pat Sullivan asked about the town website, townofstamfordvermont.org. It did not come up on a Google search. Chris Warren said we cannot control Google but we can influence it by frequently visiting the website. Saving it to your favorites was also suggested. Chris Warren felt the town website was for town information and governance while CJ Vadnais' website was more of a community site. Some felt that our website should have more than just municipal information and that the Selectboard should post items from residents. It was suggested that things like Halloween hours, the Community Building Group information, and the Veterans dinner should be posted, as long as there is no back and forth communication.

MINUTES

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 4, 2018 as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #43 \$ 7,454.39 payroll

WARRANT #44 \$24,183.85 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of September. Nancy Bushika asked for quarterly reports at the next meeting.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has been working on the Mill Road ditching project. We are making money back on our equipment and time by using our own excavator instead of hiring out the work. Projects that took a week before can be finished in a day with the excavator.
2. Dave Tatro received the permit to repair the Creamery Brook culvert on Clough Road.
3. Dave Tatro plans to work on some culverts on Klondike Road.
4. Dan Potvin heard there was a logger working on East Road and suggested Dave Tatro check on the road.
5. Allen Desautels has accepted the full-time highway laborer position and will start on October 29, 2018.
6. Larry Arnold has been using the leaf blower to clean out the ditches. He is all done mowing.
7. Dave Tatro has heard a lot of rumors and misinformation in town. He said times have changed and people expect a level of service that demands a third highway person. He wishes people would attend Selectboard meetings and get the information first-hand. The town will save a lot of money with our own excavator instead of hiring contractors. Being able to repair equipment in house instead of paying a garage for repairs saves lots of money and the third laborer will make the highway department more efficient. The Selectboard and Dave Tatro will plan a presentation for town meeting.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro is working with TAM to find a used dumpster for the recycling center.
2. The board will send the 2019 hauler registration forms to TAM, Scott Wood, Scott Smith and R.L. Waste.

NEMRC/ASSESSOR CLERK

Sally Bohl was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a proposed job description for the Assessor Clerk position. She feels construction experience would benefit the position to help with fieldwork. If the Assessor Clerk could value decks, sheds and small buildings the town wouldn't have to hire NEMRC as much and could save money. The prior candidates will be contacted to see if they are still interested.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to post the part-time Assessor Clerk position. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Nancy Bushika asked for the status on the generator fumes and the school. Bill Levine will contact McLain Electric who was working on a solution with the generator company.
2. Bill Levine invited the board to the next Emergency Planning Commission meeting in Bennington. The topic is Egos & Attitudes – A Recipe for Disaster in Emergency Management Planning.

ORDINANCE REGARDING STREET NAME AND STREET ADDRESSING

Several changes were made to the ordinance. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.

FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

The board signed the 25% match certification stating that if the town is awarded the grant, we have the funds to meet our 25% responsibility.

CITGO ACCOUNT

The board approved the signing of the Certificate of Taxable Fuel Use since the town is a tax-exempt entity.

TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Deb Burchard has offered to donate a Christmas tree for the school front lawn. The board appreciates her generosity and will accept the offer. Micah Hayre, the school principal, thought the Christmas tree was a great idea and will support whatever tree lighting ceremony the Selectboard plans.

VETERANS DINNER

The Selectboard reviewed last year's announcement and list of veterans. The board invites all veterans, their families and all residents to come to the pot luck dinner. It will be Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the school.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Selectboard is looking for volunteers to serve on this year's Finance Committee. Last year's members will be contacted.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Dan Potvin stated that Jim Sullivan from the Bennington County Regional Commission attended the last Planning Commission meeting. They are almost ready to pass the Energy Chapter which will give the town a say in choosing wind or solar power and the preferred location. They are also reviewing and revising the zoning by-laws. Their next meeting is Monday, October 29, 2018 at 7 p.m.

EMERALD ASH BORER

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program has scheduled a presentation in Arlington, Vermont to discuss the emerald ash borer. This insect has been found in Stamford by the Agency of Natural Resources.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Christopher Warren
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. The potluck supper to honor our veterans will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. All are welcome.
2. Forms to purchase wreaths are available at the town office, on stamfordvt.org and on facebook (please use the code VT0006).
3. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
4. Halloween trick or treat hours will be 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31, 2018.
5. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
6. 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 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 2, 2018. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
8. 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.