

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 18, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, and John Dunn.
Douglas Wright was not present.

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Marta Miller, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, and Diane Saldo.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner (late arrival).
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Nancy Bushika stated that Jed Gramlin was video recording the meeting.

GREEN UP DAY

Marta Miller announced that Green Up Day will be on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Come to the Stamford Elementary School to pick up Green Up trash bags, gloves, and donuts.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Jim Righi submitted a letter to the Selectboard and Planning Commission regarding an overshadowing notice he received concerning the development of a neighboring property. He has contacted both Maura Hawkins, the Septic Officer, and Deb Burchard, the Zoning Administrator. No permits have been filed at this point.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 4, 2024 as written.
SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #15 \$ 9,577.80 payroll
- WARRANT #16 \$44,937.11 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Lori Shepard provided a summary of the FEMA filing for the July 2023 flood road damages. The repairs to Klondike Road and the culvert upgrade have been completed and submitted. There are five other roads that are very close to being ready to submit. The Mill Road costs have not been submitted because the town is waiting for the contractor to replace the damaged guardrails.
2. Deb Burchard believes the power company will be starting to work on the power line soon and wondered if the town had been notified. The town office has not received any notice.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dara Zink from the Bennington County Regional Commission has organized an ICS-401 class in Bennington. It is the minimum requirement to be able to sign the Local Emergency Management Plan and the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He encouraged the Selectboard to attend.

MOWING BIDS

The mowing bid package has been sent out. The pre-bid meeting is set for April 24, 2024 at 5 p.m. Nancy Bushika invited the board members to come. The bid includes fixing the lawn from the winter plowing and fallen debris.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Nancy Bushika contacted Erika Bailey with the proposed dates. She will talk with the other School Directors before replying.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY TRAINING

The training with VLCT has been scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 5:30-6 p.m. for the Selectboard, Justices of the Peace and the Assessor.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOWN'S INTEREST

An offer was received to purchase the town's interest in the redemption period for the 1.39 acre parcel on Main Road which the town acquired at the recent tax sale. The purchase price was received and has been sent to Attorney Kevin O'Toole.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offer and sign the assignment transferring the town's interest. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The Selectboard signed the assignment which will be recorded and returned to the attorney.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Selectboard approved and signed the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Structural Wood Corp. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS/FEES

1. The Selectboard has been working on new permit forms, permit application fees and a new fee structure for the Zoning Administrator's salary. Nancy Bushika noted that the Zoning Administrator's salary has probably been the same for 25 years. The board has raised the application fees and will finalize the Zoning Administrator's salary in executive session.

2. Carolyn Brooks stated that she took very detailed notes of her conversation with the Zoning Administrator concerning the sign and his decision that no permit was necessary. She said the notes documenting her conversation were in a notebook which she brought with her. Nancy Bushika stated that the new building application forms have a section for the Zoning Administrator to sign off saying no permit is needed so there won't be problems going forward.

STAMFORD SIGN

Carolyn Brooks asked who removed the sign, where it was taken and who authorized it. The Selectboard authorized its removal. It was removed by John Dunn and Doug Wright and it was placed behind the town salt shed for storage. Marta Miller asked if the Selectboard needs to task

the Planning Commission with changing the Zoning By-laws. Discussion ensued regarding changing the By-laws, exempting the municipality and the need for a solution.

WEBSITE

Deb Burchard expressed her frustration with the website. She feels the calendar is not updated regularly and does not feel it is working well. The board discussed the website and felt Marie Kelly-Whitney had good intentions but the website maintenance should be under the Selectboard's control. The Selectboard asked Lori Shepard to take over the responsibility of maintaining the website.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Marta Miller expressed support for Jenifer Hughs who had submitted a letter of interest which was erroneously not recognized timely. Kurt Gamari felt Jen Hughs was an asset on the Planning Commission. The Selectboard did not feel they could go back now since others were appointed.

SCHOOL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The permit to operate the school's water system has always been in the name of the town as the owner and the school as the permittee. The principal has conveyed his willingness to keep it this way. The Selectboard will confirm with the State Agency of Natural Resources that they are in agreement. The board feels it is important to resume joint meetings with the School Directors.

OPEN MEETING LAWS WEBINAR

Nancy Bushika, Lisa Gramlin and Lori Shepard attended the webinar. Nancy Bushika feels the Selectboard is doing everything as it should be done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter and tax sale 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 for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and a tax sale matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. Sally Bohl was invited to participate during the initial tax sale discussion. After Sally Bohl left the executive session, the board resumed discussion. Mike Denault also left the discussion for a brief time due to a conflict.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:10 p.m. Action: the Selectboard finalized the fee schedule for the Zoning Administrator's salary. The Selectboard also showed an interest in property which will be part of an upcoming tax sale for future use and development.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS INSURANCE INSPECTION

1. Wade Masure, the Loss Control Consultant at the Vermont League of Cities & Towns inspected the highway garage and town office on April 12, 2024. An updated CDL model policy will be coming out in November so the Selectboard will wait to update the current policy. There is additional recordkeeping that is necessary. Dave Tatro felt the inspection at the highway garage went well.
2. Nancy Bushika said the town has not applied for the PACIF grant recently and asked to Dave Tatro to consider projects that would qualify.

3. Nancy Bushika reminded residents to come to a Selectboard meeting to voice their concerns or to put their complaints in writing.
4. Dave Tatro advised that the power company has not notified him about the work they are doing.
5. Dave Tatro spoke with the Agency of Transportation for help with the FEMA flood damage guardrail installation on Mill Road. He is not sure if they were able to view the Suzanne Drive culvert.
6. The new loader has been delivered and Dave Tatro is very happy with it.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:31 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at vtaalert.gov to receive notifications. You can choose how you would like to be alerted (phone call, text or email) and can choose what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.
2. Anyone interested in serving the town in one of the vacant appointed positions, should contact a Selectboard member or the town office.
3. The town office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays.