

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 5, 2023
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Michael G. Denault, Pamela Tworig, and Daniel J. Potvin.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Kurt Gamari, Victoria Jefferies, Marta Miller, Beth Phelps, Deborah Righi, James Righi, and Natalie Yorke.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
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. An executive session was added to the end of the meeting in case it was needed. There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 15, 2022 as written. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the budget work session minutes of December 29, 2022 as written. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

Marta Miller stated that a section of County Road is very muddy. She understands that Dave Tatro is busy and didn't want to bother him. Mike Denault noted that until the road surface hardens, the weight of the town truck loaded with stone would cause more damage to the rest of the road.

RECYCLING

1. The dumpster from Dobberts should be delivered to the transfer station soon.
2. The town has not received the battery box from the state yet to begin accepting household batteries.

DEERVIELD VALLEY FIBER COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

The first four homes are hooked up and went live this weekend in Readsboro. They are pilot homes and for three months they will review any connectivity problems, billing problems, etc. in the system. Once they get the bugs worked out, they will begin hooking up other houses.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Nancy Bushika asked, in light of the recent incident at the football game, if the town should consider purchasing an AED (automatic external defibrillator). The school has one in the gym but the town does not have access to it. Bill Levine agreed and will research what would be best. The board felt there should also be one purchased for the highway garage.
2. Bill Levine discussed having someone from the Fire Department or the North Adams Ambulance come to give instruction on using the AED. Pam Tworig would like to have a CPR course.

SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC ZONE

Deb Burchard was unable to attend but sent an email to the Selectboard stating that the Planning Commission voted to recommend that the Selectboard sign the letter supporting the Southern Vermont Economic Zone. Kurt Gamari was available to answer questions and voiced his support.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to sign the letter in support of the Southern Vermont Economic Zone.

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

NATIONAL FOREST

Pam Tworig received the Green Mountain National Forest's quarterly report of proposed actions. She is concerned about an upcoming project to treat over 500 acres with an insecticide to fight the emerald ash borer infestation. She will get more information.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The board reviewed the budget and discussed a warrant article to pay for additional sheriff patrol time. The Selectboard attended more meetings per year than what was budgeted for.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to remove the Selectboard salary cap of \$900.00 per year for the Selectboard Chair and \$800.00 per year for each Selectboard member. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor.

Motion APPROVED.

The \$30.00 per meeting salary for each attended meeting was not changed as that would require a town vote.

Bill Levine asked the Selectboard to consider a warrant article to pay \$7,500.00 to DVFiber in support of its commitment to connect high speed internet service to every house in town which has an electric grid connection. DVFiber is receiving a grant that will match the town's donation. The funds will be used to assist those of limited means with the one-time connection cost.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Nancy Bushika will prepare the report and discussed items that should be included.

TOWN/SCHOOL MODERATOR

Bill Levine stated that he will not be running again for the moderator position at town meeting. He is willing to assist the new person and VLCT provides a moderator's handbook which is very helpful. He feels the best candidate would be someone who is a long-time resident, knows the history of the town and the townspeople and also has a good sense of fairness.

Nominating papers and the Consent of Candidate form for moderator or any other position up for reelection can be picked up at the Town Office. The petition must be signed by at least 1% of the registered voters, which is eight people, and the deadline for filing these forms with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 30, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee this year should contact a Selectboard member or the town office.
2. A budget work session is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 19, 2023. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 37 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The required signatures on a petition to run for an elected office are 1% of the registered voters or at least 8 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 30, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers and the Consent of Candidate form may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

Town Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
School Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
Town Clerk – 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Treasurer – 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Nancy L. Bushika*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Carol A. Fachini*)
Selectboard member – 1 year remaining on a 3 year term (*Daniel J. Potvin*)
School Director - 2 year term (*Erika Bailey*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Danielle Smith*)
Auditor - 1 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 2 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 3 year term (*vacancy*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Linda Rodovick*)

Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with the school portion first, followed by the town.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office up to and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.