

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 7, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, John Dunn, Kurt Gamari, and Douglas Wright.

Visitors: Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Debra Righi, and James Righi.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. A warrant to hold a special town meeting for the purchase of a fire truck was added to the agenda and the review of the Highway Ordinance was removed. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Lisa Gramlin questioned campaign material Mike Denault had on the table.
2. Deb Burchard commented on the burned house and would like the Selectboard to get involved. There is garbage around and it may be a health hazard. The Select Board suggested she contact the bank.
3. Deb Burchard asked why the last meeting concerning the church was in executive session. Nancy Bushika responded that the executive session was required because the town was still under contract, but the decision was made in open meeting.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the emergency meeting minutes of October 15, 2024 as written. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 17, 2024 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the special meeting minutes of October 24, 2024 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
4. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 30, 2024 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #41 \$ 7,227.32 payroll
- WARRANT #42 \$167,956.18 accounts payable
- WARRANT #43 \$ 10,399.39 payroll
- WARRANT #44 \$192,767.73 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro created a new turn around for the town trucks on Henry Hill.
2. The new transmission is in the 2019 Freightliner and it is working fine. There is a one year warranty.
3. The highway crew has been working on ditching and a little grading since it is so dry.

4. Dave Tatro is preparing the vehicles for winter.
5. John Dunn asked Dave Tatro to consider what he will need to work on next year and what funds will be needed for next year's budget. Dave Tatro feels the dead trees will be an issue in future years. Next year he will be doing the chip seal and shim project on East Road which is funded by a grant and ARPA funds.
6. Dave Tatro feels if one of the local gravel banks shut down, it will have a huge impact on the town to haul gravel in.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

The School Impact Questionnaire will be forwarded to the school. The Selectboard reviewed and completed the Municipal Impact Questionnaire for an after-the-fact Act 250 filing prepared by a local engineer on behalf of a local resident.

FIRE TRUCK LOAN

Bill Levine explained that the bank needs a town vote supporting the purchase and financing of the new fire truck.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the warrant scheduling a special town meeting to purchase the fire truck for the sum of \$526,515.98 and borrow a sum not to exceed \$270,000.00 for a term of five years at a rate to be determined, and reserving the ability to change the town meeting date if the school gym is not available. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ST. JOHN BOSCO CHURCH

The Selectboard decided not to follow through with the purchase due to the costs involved.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Nancy Bushika noted that the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting for the sign permit will be Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

All known dogs are licensed with the town.

FEMA

Lori Shepard reported that all of the filings for last July's flood have been sent to FEMA. Lori Shepard was able to submit over \$4,800.00 representing time spent in administering the grant for reimbursement.

RUNOFF ELECTION

The recent election resulted in a tie for the Justice of the Peace position. State law requires a runoff election to determine the winner. The town clerk will be scheduling the runoff election next week and it will be held soon.

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT

Laura Champagne stated that trick or treat went very well. The Stamford Ridge Riders handed out candy. The fire department was also there with flashing lights. There was a great turnout.

CHRISTMAS TREE CEREMONY

Theresa Denault will not be organizing the tree lighting ceremony this year. If someone else is interested in taking over, Mike Denault is willing to set up the Christmas tree. Nancy Bushika thanked her for the work she put into the ceremony each year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of an attorney/client/civil action would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for an attorney/client/civil matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:05 p.m. Lori Shepard was invited briefly to participate and then left the executive session.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:23 p.m.
No action taken.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

/las

REMINDERS

1. Tax bills have been issued and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.
2. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at vtalert.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.
3. Anyone interested in applying for the part-time Assistant Assessor Clerk position should submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard.
4. 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.