

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 15, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Theresa Denault, Marta Miller, Beth Phelps, Deborah Righi, and James Righi.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of legal matters 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 legal matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 5:30 p.m. Sally Bohl was invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 5:45 p.m. No decision was made.

2. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of employee matters 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 employee reviews and salaries pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 5:45 p.m. Lori Shepard and Theresa Denault were each invited individually to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 6:05 p.m. No decisions were made.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There was some additional correspondence added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Pam Tworig stated that Stamford veterans will be honored this Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 12 p.m. The Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place at the Stamford School with the placement of wreaths on gravesites immediately following.

STAMFORD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Pam Tworig stated that the Christmas Concert at the school was wonderful. The gym was packed with families just like old times.

MINUTES

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

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #49 \$ 10,872.15 payroll

WARRANT #50 \$526,260.07 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway department is ready for the snowstorm.
2. The Selectboard reviewed and signed the grant reimbursement request for the Agency of transportation Structures Grant for the Lincoln Road bridge project. The total cost was \$584,708.39 and the grant request is for \$200,000.00.
3. The Selectboard reviewed and signed the grant reimbursement request for the Grants in Aid project on Jepson Road. The grant is for \$12,500.00 and the project cost \$17,731.82.
4. The guardrails on Jepson Road have been replaced and the bill has been submitted to the town's insurance company.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro has contacted Dobberts who said they would provide a container for the town's scrap metal. He suggested if the town cannot get rid of the metal then it should not accept it. Nancy Bushika will look at the town's SWIP Plan to see if the town is required to accept scrap metal. Mike Denault noted that individual's will be able to bring their scrap metal to Dobberts.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine would like Dan Potvin to return the monitoring set he lent him so it can be stored at the firehouse.
2. Bill Levine noted that last week he asked for permission to purchase the new pump truck on behalf of the firehouse and there was a very serious fire in Readsboro last week. Bill Levine reviewed past fires in town and the surrounding areas.

DEERFIELD VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

The district intends to begin hooking up homes in April and should have internet available by the end of 2023. Mike Denault asked about some sign up information he saw on social media. There will be information coming when the district is ready.

SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC ZONE

The topic was passed over since neither Deb Burchard nor Kurt Gamari were available to present the Planning Commission's recommendation.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Pam Tworig felt it was a wonderful event. It was attended by over 100 people. The Selectboard thanked Theresa Denault, the fire department for traffic control, and everyone who helped make the evening a complete success.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR MANDATORY SURVEY

The town clerk advised that Stamford must participate in a mandatory data collection survey. The town will have to report all employee injuries or illnesses, as well as documenting the cause of the injury and the type of illness during the calendar year 2023.

ELECTION DEADLINES

The town clerk reviewed the deadlines for budget figures, town report material, petitions for a warrant article and nominating petitions for town positions. Forms are available at the town office for anyone wishing to run in the upcoming March election.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mike Denault will contact the new sheriff to invite him to an upcoming Selectboard meeting. Pam Tworig would like to see more accountability.

PLOWING OF CLASS 4 ROAD

Ryan Wolters will be contacted concerning the agreement and an updated insurance policy.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 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, December 29, 2022 at 5 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.