

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
February 16, 2023  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Pamela Tworig, and Carol A. Fachini.  
Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle, Kurt Gamari, Marta Miller, Deborah Righi, James Righi, and Natalie Yorke.  
Sheriff James Gulley and Dr. Stephanie Peters, Bennington County Sheriff's Office.  
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.  
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. Additional correspondence and an executive session were added to the agenda.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff James Gulley spoke to the board about the state of the Sheriff's Department. He brought many concerns forward about the training of his officers, the maintenance of his fleet, the communications network, equipment and lawsuits. In order to provide the quality of service that a contracting town deserves, he will need to raise the rates. He proposed \$70.00/hour for towns contracting for 20 hours/week or less, \$65.00/hour for towns contracting between 21-39 hours/week and \$60.00/hour for towns contracting 40 hours/week. Mike Denault asked about sharing patrol time with a neighboring town to negotiate a better rate. Sheriff Gulley agreed that he would consider that. Pam Tworig asked if there were grants available. Stephanie Peters said she is watching for grants but there are none to cover operational costs. All travel time will be considered billable and the sheriff will begin charging as soon as he gets in the car. The board agreed to reach out to Readsboro Selectboard about sharing patrol time. Nancy Bushika thanked him for coming.

#### WEBSITE

Carolyn Brooks said the town website is in a very sad state. It has outdated information and she asked to have someone designated to be in charge of it. The Selectboard agreed that it should be kept up to date. Lori Shepard will devote more time to maintaining the website.

#### MINUTES

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 2, 2023 as written. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 as written. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #5 \$ 8,319.65 payroll
- WARRANT #6 \$26,490.04 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) submitted a Scope of Work for the upcoming Grants-in-Aid highway grant the town received in the amount of \$12,500. The BCRC will receive

\$1,500.00 or 10%, whichever is less. The Town Clerk and Road Commissioner used to administer the grant, but the state is restructuring the grant to require a greater involvement from the BCRC. The board will wait to talk to Dave Tatro before signing the Scope of Work.

#### RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika explained the amendment to the Solid Waste Plan which the Selectboard needs to approve in order to have the permanent household hazardous waste facility instead of holding three individual Household Hazardous Waste days per year.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the amendment to the Solid Waste Plan in order to have the permanent household hazardous waste facility, as proposed. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Carol Fachini asked for permission to contact Roy Gibson, the recycling monitor alternate, if Buzz Wheeler is unable to work on Saturdays. The board gave her the authority.

3. Nancy Bushika asked if all of the hauler reports have been filed. There is still one outstanding. Nancy Bushika will get in touch with the hauler.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine advised that the two AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) Paul Ethier ordered for the town office and highway garage have been received. He will schedule a session to show people how to use them.

2. Bill Levine noted that there is a town meeting webinar offered by VLCT this Wednesday for moderators and Selectboard members.

#### TOWN MEETING

Only registered voters can vote at town meeting. Bill Levine felt there is not time to order paddles for this year's town meeting. He will ask everyone who wants to speak to state their name clearly and their name will be checked against the voter checklist. Natalie Yorke and Carolyn Brooks did not feel this would prevent someone who is not registered from participating in a voice vote. Bill Levine will not segregate non-voters to a separate sitting area from registered voters.

#### DOGS

1. The town can charge an additional surcharge to the cost of each dog license. Luke McKay suggested the Selectboard increase the dog licensing fees.

2. The rabies clinic will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the town office.

3. Luke McKay and Nancy Bushika attended a Dog Ordinance webinar a while ago and he learned that our Dog Ordinance is out-of-date. Luke McKay provided the board with an updated Dog Ordinance model from the VLCT and would like the Selectboard to adopt it as our new ordinance.

4. The lengthy process of bringing delinquent dog owners into compliance was reviewed. The Selectboard gave Luke McKay permission to write tickets to delinquent dog owners sooner. The deadline to license your dog with the town is April 1st and dog tags and licenses are available now at the town office. Veterinarians submit copies of all rabies certificates to the town office to help make Dog Officers aware of all dogs in town.

#### 2022 GRAND LIST

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to sign the 2022 Grand List stating there were no suits pending. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### HEALTH OFFICER

The town received a letter stating that the Health Officer term will be expiring on March 31, 2023. The state appoints this position with the Selectboard's recommendation. Eunice Rice, the current Health Officer, will be contacted to see if she would like to be reappointed.

#### UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., Renaud Bros. Inc., and Valley Crane Services, Inc. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from each applicant.

#### TOWN OFFICE MAIL SLOT/DROP OFF BOX

A contractor will be submitting an estimate to make the mail slot more secure.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of personnel 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 personnel matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:25 p.m. No action was taken.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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#### REMINDERS

1. Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with the school district portion first, followed by the town.
2. 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.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
4. The rabies clinic will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the town office.
5. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed by April 1st of each year. State law requires a valid rabies vaccination certificate to be filed with the Town Clerk's office. Licensing your dog is very easy. Rabies certificates can be faxed to the town office at 802-694-1636 or emailed to the town office at [townclerk@stamfordvt.net](mailto:townclerk@stamfordvt.net). Once the current rabies certificate is on file, license renewals can be handled in person, by mailing a check, by

utilizing the mail slot in the back wall of the town office or by telephone with a credit card. License fees are \$9.00 for each spayed/neutered dog or \$13.00 for each intact dog. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Stamford.

6. 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.

7. Anyone interested in being considered for an appointed board position should contact a member of that board or the Selectboard. Please review the list of appointed positions that expire below.

**Zoning Administrator**

Ryan Rush-Booth (3 year term) 2023

**Board of Adjustment**

Theodore N. Dobbert (3 year term) 2023

**Emergency Management Director**

William H. Levine (1 year term) 2023

**Emergency Management Coordinator**

Sheila G. Lawrence (1 year term) 2023

**Dog Officer**

Luke McKay (1 year term) 2023

**Energy Coordinator**

Jennifer Hughs (1 year term) 2023

**Septic Officer**

Maura Hawkins (1 year term) 2023

**Planning Commission**

Daniel J. Potvin (4 year term) 2023

Carolyn Brooks (4 year term) 2023

**Conservation Commission**

David L. Saldo (4 year term) 2023

Vacancy (4 year term) 2025

Vacancy (4 year term) 2024

**Road Commissioner**

David R. Tatro (1 year term) 2023

**Tree Warden**

Bruce Richardson (1 year term) 2023

**Bennington County Regional Commission**

Debra Burchard (1 year term) 2023

Daniel J. Potvin (1 year term) 2023

**Green Up Day Coordinator**

Susan Flash (1 year term) 2023

**Community Projects Committee**

Clay Zeller-Townson (3 year term) 2023