

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 17, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Kurt Gamari, Maura Hawkins, Karen Kuranda, Marta Miller, Beth Phelps, E-Jay Tatro, Jessica Tatro, Trevor Tatro, and Natalie Yorke. David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
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. There were no additions or changes to the agenda or its order.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Marta Miller asked if the Selectboard had any questions concerning the ATV reports that were submitted previously. The board did not.
2. Deb Burchard asked why she didn't see Dan Potvin's request for a recount of the election votes in the minutes. Nancy Bushika responded that it was not a Selectboard matter and was not part of the Selectboard meeting. The request for a recount is made through the Board of Civil Authority.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 3, 2022 as written.
SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #9 \$ 8,708.07 payroll
- WARRANT #10 \$54,058.22 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the months of January and February.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Mud season is here and the roads are getting very muddy. Dave Tatro will prioritize school bus routes first. He can add stone to the bad areas but he needs to wait until the roads freeze enough to support the weight of the truck with a load of stones or he will destroy the whole road trying to get to the bad section.
2. All the trucks are in good working order again.
3. The Selectboard thought having the speed cart set up in town would be a good deterrent. There is usually no charge for the setup.

RECYCLING

The town has not received the required paperwork from one of the recycling/trash haulers. Nancy Bushika will contact the company.

JUDICIAL BUREAU APPOINTMENTS

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to remove Dan Potvin as an Issuing and Appearing Official and add Pam Tworig as an Issuing and Appearing Official. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

WELCOME

Nancy Bushika asked if the board wanted to make any changes or do something different to the statement she reads at the beginning of each meeting. The board was happy with the statement as is.

SUMMER MOWING

Pam Tworig and Nancy Bushika met last week to review last year's mowing bid invitation. Pam Tworig suggested changes and encouraged the board to send invitations to a mowing contractor she worked with in the past as well as a contractor who recently bid on mowing the Stamford cemeteries.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to remove from paragraph 5 under Lawn Care Summary the following section: who fails faithfully to observe the provisions of the contract, and to add another sentence as follows: Either party may terminate this agreement with 30 days written notice. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

E-Jay Tatro asked about the bid requiring a per mowing price vs. a per season price. The board discussed how it should be bid as well as the insurance requirements.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to amend the Invitation to Bid first paragraph to include the sentence: The price to be quoted is to be the price per mowing. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD TRAINING SESSIONS

The Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) is offering three live training sessions as well as three on demand training sessions. The price is \$60.00. Pam Tworig has signed up. Nancy Bushika would like to attend as well. The charge is per individual so Pam Tworig will cancel and Lori Shepard will sign up for the group. Selectboard members wishing to attend will meet at the town office for the training.

VERMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

Carolyn Brooks reminded the board that this grant is for the sign project which is already partially completed.

MOTION by Mike Denault to reaffirm their support of the grant through the Vermont Community Foundation and approve the board's signature to the letter. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

JOINT MEETINGS WITH SCHOOL BOARD

Nancy Bushika contacted Erika Bailey to resume the joint meetings with the School Directors. The first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Nancy Bushika will confirm and finalize the location.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine asked the Selectboard to make the appointments that were delayed at the last meeting.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Bill Levine as Emergency Management Director and Sheila Lawrence as Emergency Management Coordinator. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Bill Levine intends to bring in someone else and is working on the training.

2. Stewart Johnson is willing to represent the town along with Bill Levine as voting members of the new Regional Emergency Management Committee.
3. Bill Levine has found the Geiger counters and some portable sensors that work with D batteries. He is willing to bring them in to the town office for the board to see.

PLANNING COMMISSION RESIGNATION

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the resignation of John Dupras from the Planning Commission. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

The board reviewed the letter of interest submitted by Maura Hawkins. Kurt Gamari and Deb Burchard both submitted letters in support of Maura Hawkins which were read aloud. Discussion ensued regarding the alternate position and its creation. Maura Hawkins stated there is no provision in statute for such a position. Jessica Tatro submitted her resignation as alternate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to terminate the Planning Commission alternate position. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Maura Hawkins to fill the term vacated by John Dupras. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The town received the renewal contract from the sheriff's department for the period of February 2022 through January 2023 for 13 hours/week at the rate of \$48.00. A new clause was inserted stating that if gas prices reach \$4.25/gallon, the department reserves the right to impose a fuel surcharge. Last year's contract was for 15 hours/week at the rate of \$43.25. The state trooper rate is much higher than this.

Mike Denault expects the sheriff's service to improve after the November election.

Nancy Bushika asked for a motion to accept the Bennington County Sheriff's Department contract. Pam Tworig refused to vote because she has not had the opportunity to read through the contract. She wants the ability to view documents prior to the meeting. Mike Denault agreed to table the decision of the contract until the next meeting and asked Lori Shepard to send the contract to each board member.

EMERGENCY CALLS

1. Mike Denault reminded residents not to call the Bennington County Sheriff's Department directly for assistance. All calls for law enforcement should be made to the state troopers using 911.
2. Regardless of what type of emergency you are experiencing (fire, medical, etc.), 911 is the number that should be called. There are no local emergency phone numbers. It was noted that any time a 911 call is placed using a cell phone, it is imperative that you immediately state your location so the correct dispatcher and response services can be determined.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Carol Fachini to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation, ABC Supply, and VELCO. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from each applicant.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Martina Barnes, the regional Forest Ranger, will attend the Selectboard meeting on April 7, 2022.

TOWN EMAILS

Mike Denault suggested that an email address should be set up for Theresa Denault, the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. The board discussed the assistant's ability to access the town clerk emails and her ability to step in if the town clerk is out.

OLD BUSINESS

Carolyn Brooks asked to have Selectboard meetings in the gym. Mike Denault and several others stated how difficult it was to hear what is said with the poor acoustics. The board noted that there were still a few empty seats tonight and acknowledged that they have moved to the gym when there is high attendance in the past.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in helping Bill Levine review the contents of the Red Cross trailer or interested in forming a Citizen Response Group should contact Bill Levine directly or the town office.
2. Please visit the town's new official website: www.stamfordvt.net for town information and updates.