

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 16, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Carol Ethier-Kipp, Alden Finney, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Marta Miller, Sheila Pecor, Daniel Potvin, Debra Righi, and James Righi.
Robert Briggs, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Some additional correspondence was added to the agenda. Nancy Bushika stated that Jed Gramlin was video recording the meeting.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Dan Potvin presented a letter to the Selectboard that he hopes they will send out. He feels that townspeople should have information on resiliency and self-sufficiency in case of an emergency. The letter gives suggestions that residents can purchase and has resources for more information. Bob Briggs, Emergency Management Director, agreed with Dan Potvin in theory and believes that if people are able to take care of themselves, they are being part of the solution and not part of the problem. Kurt Gamari suggested a self-reliance festival to showcase different businesses that contribute to self-sustainability. Marta Miller suggested incorporating this theme into the school fall festival. Bob Briggs expressed many new ideas he is considering as the new Emergency Management Director.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bob Briggs summarized the changes he made to the plan. He would like to have the emergency operations center at the town office with the fire house as the alternate location. He updated contact information and removed sensitive information that should not be part of a public document. The Selectboard asked for two weeks to review the document more closely.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 2, 2024 as written.
SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #19 \$ 8,184.49 payroll
- WARRANT #20 \$36,096.99 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

Nothing to report.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

The joint meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIALS

The treasurer provided reports for the first quarter of 2024 and is available to answer any questions.

2023 AUDIT

MOTION by Doug Wright to sign the Engagement Letter from Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. for the 2023 audit. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Selectboard received letters from Sheila Pecor and Sally Bohl expressing interest in serving on the Conservation Commission.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Sheila Pecor to the vacant term expiring in 2025 and Sally Bohl to the vacant term expiring in 2028. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SALE OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The final paperwork and checks have been received to complete the sale of Lot 384 in Alpenwald to Russell Newland. The original deed was signed to complete the sale.

TENNIS COURT

Several board members looked at the tennis court since the last meeting. Nancy Bushika feels the buckling surface is a tripping hazard. Kurt Gamari agreed that the tennis court is in rough shape and that the river is encroaching on the bank. There are old garden beds that are rotting away and several planting items remain.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to write a letter to the Seeds Savers Committee asking about the status of these items and the safety risk of the tennis court. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter and a possible legal matter 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 for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and a potential legal matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:15 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 7:35 p.m.

Action 1: MOTION by Kurt Gamari to send a letter to our employee and the agency that was hired and ask them to speak to their employees concerning the letters the Selectboard received. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Action 2: The Selectboard will research the process of purchasing a parcel of property in town for future use.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The treasurer has requested quotes from local banks for this year's tax anticipation note.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

/las

REMINDERS

1. 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.
2. The transfer station is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the summer months.
3. 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.