

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 2, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Alden Finney, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, and Diane Saldo. Martina Barnes, Stacy Stratton, and Joshua Wills, Green Mountain National Forest. David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner. 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. There was additional correspondence added to the agenda. Nancy Bushika stated that Jed Gramlin was video recording the meeting.

MOWING BIDS

The Selectboard received one bid from Yard Work by Dan for \$170.00 for each mowing, which includes mowing, trimming and cleaning off clippings. He also included a bid of \$500.00 for spring cleanup prior to mowing.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the bid received from Yard Work by Dan as long as he submits appropriate proof of insurance. SECONDED by Doug Wright. 4 in favor, (Mike Denault abstained). Motion APPROVED.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Martina Barnes provided an update on the activities happening in Stamford. The Seth Warner shelter has been relocated and a new outhouse was built. They will be doing a prescribed burn in the next couple of weeks for wildlife enhancement. They provided a map and Stacy Stratton and Joshua Wills briefly described the logging operations that will begin this summer and what is planned for the future. The Selectboard noted that more than half of Stamford's acreage has been sold to the National Forest.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Dave Saldo explained the discussions that took place at the last Planning Commission. He does not feel Kurt Gamari should be elected Planning Commission Chair since he is an ex-officio member, not a voting member. He did not feel people should be able to contact the Vermont League of Cities & Towns individually; all decisions should be made as a board. Nancy Bushika felt the Planning Commission should work it out. Kurt Gamari felt he could manage the meetings and keep order as a non-voting member. Dave Saldo felt it is a conflict and in the event of a tie, the chair casts the deciding vote.

GREEN UP DAY

Marta Miller announced that Green Up Day will be on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. beginning at the Stamford Elementary School.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 18, 2024 as written.

SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #17 \$ 8,274.75 payroll

WARRANT #18 \$9,239.62 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The Selectboard signed the Letter of intent to participate in the 2025 municipal roads grants-in-aid program. Dave Tatro will meet Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission this summer to choose a project.
2. The Selectboard reviewed a complaint from a resident concerning a failed culvert. Dave Tatro explained that it is a driveway culvert which is the property owner's responsibility to maintain. A letter will be sent to explain along with a copy of the town's highway ordinance.
3. Dave Tatro has scheduled the road sweeping. John Dunn asked if the town sprays to reduce dust. Dave Tatro said he uses magnesium chloride and spot treats as needed.
4. The highway crew has been concentrating on road grading.
5. Dave Tatro received a quote from Guardrail Solutions to replace the guardrail on Mill Road. The quote is \$8,000 and once the work is completed, the town can apply for the rest of the FEMA funds from the July 2023 flood. The Klondike Road damages have already been submitted and the other project is very close to submission.
6. Dave Tatro ordered a hydrology study for the Sportsmen Road culvert. The Agency of Transportation said the project will be extensive and Alpenwald will have to put an equivalent culvert on Suzanne Drive.
7. The excavator has an oil leak which the road crew will have to explore soon. It will be a big job.
8. The Selectboard received the VLCT report from the garage inspection. The report noted some safety improvements that can be made. Nancy Bushika suggested that the PACIF grant could help pay for some of the items. Dave Tatro said the garage roof needs repair. Kurt Gamari suggested using some of the ARPA funds.
9. Hiring a third highway laborer was discussed.
10. Nancy Bushika explained that the town is supposed to keep more records on file concerning the CDL licenses.
11. The state is clearing debris from the river to protect the bridge crossing Roaring Brook at the north end of the village.

BUSINESSES IN TOWN

The board discussed encouraging new business in town. Stamford has appeared anti-business in the past. It could improve the town financially since taxation is its only income.

RECYCLING

The transfer station has started summer hours and is now open on Wednesday afternoons.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine asked if anyone signed up for the ICS-401 class which was held in Bennington. Mike Denault asked if it could be set up at the town office.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Nancy Bushika has not heard back from Erika Bailey to schedule a date.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY TRAINING

The training with VLCT was very informative and well attended.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Selectboard approved and signed the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Casella Construction and Cardinal Logistics and Management Corporation. The appropriate fees and insurance information was received from the applicants.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Selectboard received a letter from Lisa Gramlin expressing interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. John Dunn asked about these positions being elected instead of appointed.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Lisa Gramlin to the Conservation Commission for the four-year term expiring in 2028. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

LISTERS

Mike Denault expressed an interest in going back to elected Listers. It would be better to have someone who knows and cares about our town.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

The dog licensing reminders have been sent out. There are 96 dogs that remain unlicensed. The due date was April 1, 2024.

TENNIS COURT

John Dunn noted that some large trees came down beyond the soccer field and behind the tennis court. The Seed Savers have abandoned their project on the court and it does not look like the school is continuing a program with it. Nancy Bushika feels the tennis court is beyond repair and perhaps should be removed. She suggested Selectboard members take a look at it.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Zoning Administrator requested that the Selectboard provide a town email address. The board discussed providing emails for all appointed/elected officials. The cost would be excessive and the board weighed the pros and cons. They will discuss this further with the Zoning Administrator.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter and a possible litigation 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 litigation matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by Mike

Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:02 p.m. Halfway through the executive session Lori Shepard was asked to participate. MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:50 p.m. Action: the Selectboard will request and gather additional information.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:52 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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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.