

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 5, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Michael G. Denault, Brandon Field and Pamela Tworig.

Visitors: Anthony Bianco, Laurie Bianco, Robert Bouchard, Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Douglas Burgess, Laura Champagne, Jennifer Curran, Kurt Gamari, Timothy Gillotti, Jr., Alan Mutart, Thomas Nazzewski, Sean O'Donovan, Joseph Pecor, Taylor Pecor, Beth Phelps, Daniel Potvin, John Paul Potvin, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, Jessica Tatro, Trevor Tatro, James Williams, Jessica Winship, 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. Carol Fachini asked to have an ATV discussion and a vote on the quarter mile of County Road added to the agenda. There was some additional correspondence. There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

OPEN LINCOLN ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT BIDS

The board received one bid from Cold River Bridges LLC. The price for a precast box culvert and wings was \$509,656.00 with an additional charge of \$18,725.00 for guardrails. The work for this project would be completed in 2023. The price quoted for a cast in place Slab Bridge and wings was \$494,756.00 with an additional charge of \$17,165.00 for guardrails. The work for this project could be completed in 2022. Dave Tatro reviewed the quote.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the bid from Cold River Bridges LLC and choose the Slab Bridge option. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Jim Williams felt the Selectboard went too far by shutting down the Klondike Road, Risky Ranch Road, County Road loop. The Jeeps and trucks are causing a lot of destruction and the town is hurting the camp owners. Tony Bianco said he cannot check on his camp during the winter without the ability to access his camp with an ATV. Jessica Winship also supports the camp owners and says they have always been able to ride ATVs at their camp and it's not fair. Dan Potvin was on the board when it made the decision to end ATV riding on the loop and it was done to keep VASA out. It was not done to shut out our camp owners and he feels the game wardens are out of control. He recommended the board write a letter to the game wardens asking them to back off. Laura Champagne said they have received many complaints from upset camp owners that can't walk into their camps and have no access without ATV use. Rob Bouchard said the game wardens are there because of the National Forest. At the last meeting the National Forest said they were going to put up gates and enforce the closure of the trails. Pam Tworig said no one wants to hurt our camp owners. She said the board wants to keep out the ATV tourism that VASA brings and explained how VASA has worked itself in with the government. She said the town is not going to roll over to the VASA cartel. Mike Denault reiterated that National Forest shut down the Sucker Pond trail because of the damage and because there was no connecting trail. Jessica Tatro said the law enacted in October 2020 requires off-highway vehicles to be registered, insured and have a VASA sticker. She said last summer the club tried to take care of the trails and clean them up but in September the town took them away. The ATV Committee proposed a compromise and they have provided model ordinances and copies of the resolution they would need signed. Jessica Tatro said a

town ordinance could allow riding without VASA. It was recommended that residents contact their state representatives about the monopoly VASA has. The Selectboard can allow riding without making it a VASA trail on a VASA map through an ordinance. Mike Denault would like to see this clarified in writing. He would also like to see National Forest put it in writing that they will not create a trail head on County Road. Rob Bouchard said they would need the town to grant permission to allow ATV use on the one quarter mile of County Road in order to connect the two trails. Natalie Yorke suggested issuing stickers to residents and camp owners to ride. Carol Fachini wanted to vote on whether to allow ATV use on the quarter mile section of County Road. The board noted that it was not on the agenda it is not an emergency. Brandon Field stated that the loop was taken away under Road Conditions so it could be voted to be reinstated under Road Conditions. He stated that there is a grant the club is pursuing with a May 26, 2022 deadline. Mike Denault still has unanswered questions and does not feel ready to vote. Many papers were provided to the Selectboard for review by the club. Jessica Tatro will provide some proposed ordinances for the board's review next week. Bill Levine thought Representative Laura Sibilio could provide assistance and felt the state should not be giving private organizations control over town roads.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 21, 2022 as written.

SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #17 \$7,000.29 payroll

WARRANT #18 \$9,102.89 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has been grading roads.
2. Jessica Tatro stated that as a club, they would be assisting with drainage to improve water runoff.
3. Laura Champagne stated that Brown Brook Road needs attention.
4. Date Tatro noted that the highway maintenance budget has shrunk \$70-\$80,000.00 over the past several years. He is willing to work on whatever the Selectboard wants, but he needs the funds to do it.
5. The plate compactor has been purchased and the request for 80% grant reimbursement has been requested.

VILLAGE CENTER DISTRICT

Deb Burchard explained that the Planning Commission is still in the early stages of the village center designation. The next phase would be to decide whether the Bylaws should be changed to allow more development in the village center. Any Bylaw changes would ultimately need Selectboard approval. Kurt Gamari said they should be planning to control sprawl and fragmentation. He feels the roads are the key to development. He feels the Bylaws should be tightened and has noticed some inconsistencies with how right-of-ways are established. It is not good to allow right-of-ways off of right-of-ways.

RECYCLING

1. All haulers have been registered with the town. Unfortunately, the Selectboard had to issue a ticket through the Judicial Bureau to enforce its ordinance.
2. The Household Hazardous Waste Day will take place in Bennington on May 7, 2022. The local HHW Day will be in Readsboro on July 23, 2022.

SELECTBOARD RULES AND PROCEDURES POLICY

The board discussed the policy and whether it was needed. Mike Denault is comfortable with how meetings are run now.

MOTION by Mike Denault to not adopt the Selectboard Rules and Procedures Policy at this time.

SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

INSURANCE POLICY

1. The board reviewed the revised Insurance Policy.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adopt the Insurance Policy as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Mike Denault asked if the insurance was all set with the mowing contractor. Dan Denault said the business is owned by himself and his son. They will sign a Non-Employee Work Agreement and a Hold-Harmless Agreement and have submitted their Certificate of Insurance to the town. The board felt that was sufficient.

3. Nancy Bushika will bring another two policies to the board for review at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing to report.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Riggs Distler. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

WITHDRAWAL OF OFFER TO PURCHASE TOWN PROPERTY

Doreen Jonson who previously made an offer to purchase the Stamford portion of Lot 218 in Alpenwald has withdrawn her offer.

GREEN UP DAY

Jessica Tatro reminded everyone of Green Up Day this Saturday, May 7, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of employee matters would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:55 p.m. After some discussion, Lori Shepard was invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:35 p.m. The Selectboard would like to review the Zoning Administrator's job description. The board will request that the Zoning Administrator attend the next meeting.

MOTION by Brandon Field to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Please visit the town's new official website: www.stamfordvt.net for town information and updates.
2. The summer hours at the transfer station began on April 28, 2021, the last Wednesday of April, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.