

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 16, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Carolyn Brooks, Laura Champagne, Theresa Denault, Thomas Nazzewski, Beth Phelps, and Natalie Yorke.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m., opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 2, 2022 as written. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #23 \$ 7,545.84 payroll
WARRANT #24 \$164,375.71 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Two nights ago a vehicle was horsing around doing donuts in the highway yard and kicked up rocks that broke the window on the Zetor tractor and cracked the headlight on the Kubota tractor. Brandon Field will donate some Plexiglas to repair the window. Dave Tatro will need to purchase a new headlight. He did not feel it was worth filing an insurance claim. The Selectboard discussed installing a game camera. Mike Denault noted that we could not have predicted the rise in diesel fuel costs and we will probably be over budget this year. It would be a good idea to install a camera and a sign letting people know they are on camera.
2. The highway crew is mowing and grading.
3. A delivery van went off the road and crashed into the guardrails on Jepson Road. The State Police were called. Dave Tatro will need to get an estimate for the replacement guardrails and work with the delivery truck's insurance company. He set up orange cones for now.
4. The electric company has moved the pole on Lincoln Road and Dave Tatro is waiting for the electric company to move the wires before he can begin the culvert project.
5. Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission prepared the initial paperwork for a stone-lined ditching project on Jepson Road for next summer's Municipal Road Grants-In-Aid project.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the Letter of Intent to Participate in the FY23 Municipal Roads Grants in Aid Program. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

6. Dave Tatro reviewed a traffic study that was performed on Mill Road near the highway garage. Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission set up the equipment. There were 2,089 vehicles over an eight day period. The average speed was 32 mph. Thirteen vehicles were clocked doing between 40 and 70 mph and two were clocked travelling over 75 mph. Carolyn Brooks asked about scheduling the sheriff to sit in certain places at certain times. Discussion ensued concerning the sheriff's coverage in town.

RECYCLING

1. One of our Recycling Monitors is leaving and the town will need to hire a new Monitor. The position will be advertised on the front door, Bilmont's and the website. Nancy Bushika suggested having someone from the Alliance come down to train the new employee. Dave Tatro didn't feel it was necessary.

2. Mike Denault stated that there was more dumping on Klondike Road.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine said there was nothing much going on. He has not had time to work on the Red Cross rescue trailer.

DEERFIELD VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

On July 11, 2022 the state is supposed to award the grants for the fiber construction. They want to have contracts that are shovel ready.

911 NUMBERS AND PERMITS

Mike Denault recalled driving around a few years ago to review 911 numbers for camps. He asked when a permit is approved in town for a camp or garage who issued the 911 numbers. Bill Levine advised that the building needs to have a 911 number assigned to it before the permit is approved. Mike Denault asked if there was any recourse for not putting up a 911 number. Bill Levine said we've never really enforced it, but the state does have a process for enforcement. He confirmed that it's for safety purposes that a 911 number is assigned to assist an ambulance or emergency personnel. Mike Denault asked why a person would not post a 911 number. The town's Bylaws could be amended to require all rentals and Air BNBs to be registered with the town. It would be nice to have all rentals post the 911 location and an emergency phone number.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

Luke McKay has attempted to contact everyone and is down to 37 dogs. He will send out one more reminder and then will begin ticketing those dog owners who have not licensed their dogs.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The treasurer spoke with two banks and received one proposal. Last year's loan rate was 0.75% for a \$300,000.00 loan with Berkshire Bank.

MOTION by Mike Denault to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and approve the application for a loan of \$400,000.00 at the rate of 2.00% per annum interest with Adams Community Bank to be paid in full in November when taxes are due. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TOWN OFFICE USE POLICY AND VISITOR POLICY

The board signed the Town Office Use Policy and Visitor Policy which were approved at the last meeting. The board also resigned the approved Copy Policy for Recorded Documents and Key Policy.

POISON PARSNIP ADVISORY

Kurt Gamari wants to spread the word that poison parsnip is in full bloom along the roadsides and can cause burning and blistering if it comes in contact with your skin.

TAX SALE

Nancy Bushika stated that the town held the tax sale last week at the town office. Out of the eight properties listed, two were paid up, one was auctioned off to the highest bidder and the other five were taken by the town. There has already been interest in the Alpenwald lots acquired by the town so please contact the town office if you or someone you know might be interested.

USE OF SCHOOL GYM/COMMUNITY ROOM

Last year Nancy Bushika requested the use of the gym if needed for Selectboard meetings for a year. The board would like her to reserve the gym for another year through August 2023.

JOINT SELECTBOARD/SCHOOLBOARD MEETING

The joint meeting between the Selectboard and School Directors will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

The board asked if there was any follow up on the complaint concerning the structure built on Jepson Road being used as a residence. The Zoning Administrator will be in next week to review the paperwork.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika 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 Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss employee matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:00 p.m. Lori Shepard and Dave Tatro were 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. Results of executive session: The Selectboard decided all future requests should go before the Selectboard.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Please visit the town's official website: www.stamfordvt.net for town information and updates.
2. The next free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be July 23, 2022 at the AOT garage in Heartwellville.