

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**August 1, 2024**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, Douglas Wright, and John Dunn.  
Visitors: Debra Burchard, Martina Barnes from the Green Mountain National Forest, Laura Champagne, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Marta Miller, Michael Murphy, Thomas Nazzewski, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, and James Righi.  
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. Additional correspondence and discussion were added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting.

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

Michael Murphy spoke on behalf of his son who owns property at the end of Sportsmen Road. He would like to be part of the discussion surrounding the culvert replacement that has been discussed. Nancy Bushika suggested they sign up for the Selectboard emails so he can see the agendas and read the minutes.

**MINUTES**

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of July 18, 2024 as written.  
SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**SELECTBOARD ORDERS**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #29 \$ 8,210.32 payroll
- WARRANT #30 \$10,246.00 accounts payable

**ROAD CONDITIONS**

1. The Grants-in-Aid grant agreement was presented for review. Two undersized culverts will be replaced along with stone-lined ditches on Jepson Road.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the grant agreement. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The town received two quotes to remove the tree limbs and debris from the sides of the road. Greater Heights submitted a quote of \$3,735.00 per day and Big Paw Firewood & Landscaping for \$8,200.00 for storm cleanup. John Dunn recused himself from the vote but felt Greater Heights was a reputable company that does good work. If the contractor was able to dispose of the debris in town instead of chipping and hauling it away, the job could be done cheaper. Mike Denault thought if the board accepted the quote from Greater Heights, the company could also take care of the trees at the intersection of The Lane and East Road that are creating a visibility hazard.

MOTION by Mike Denault to give Dave Tatro permission to negotiate with Greater Heights to remove the debris and cut the trees down at the intersection of The Lane and East Road if the price for both is reasonable. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. 4 in favor, 1 recusal (John Dunn).  
Motion APPROVED.

## RECYCLING

1. John Dunn noted that the steel bin at the transfer station was full.
2. Mike Denault will speak to his contact about accepting air conditioners.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Dara Zink from the Bennington County Regional Commission will attend the next meeting to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mike Denault does not want to drag out the adoption as it affects the amount of emergency funding available to the town.
2. It is important for residents to sign up for notifications from the VT Alert system. It is another tool to communicate with people in the event of an emergency.

## SALE OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The town received an offer to purchase Lot 188. The board discussed accepting the offer or negotiating for a higher price.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offer of \$500.00 from Aaron Tyler to purchase Lot 188 in Alpenwald. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## DVFIBER

The agreement between the town and DVFiber to distribute the ARPA funds set aside to assist residents with installation costs was reviewed. Bill Levine suggested an application deadline of December 1, 2024. ARPA funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024 and spent by 2026. Any unused portion of the \$7,500.00 designated to assist residents with DVFiber installation costs will be returned to the town. Bill Levine has asked for the names of residents in need of conduit work but DVFiber has not released the names due to confidentiality. He wants to contact these residents to see if this assistance will help with the additional conduit costs they will incur. The application forms were also reviewed.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the forms with the changes discussed. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## COUNTY ROAD DECLASSIFICATION

Mike Denault stated that the site visit and public hearing to consider the declassification of a portion of County Road from Class 4 status to a legal trail was held earlier this evening. Although he was initially for the declassification, after the public hearing he does not feel it is best for the town. The town can control the use of the road as a Class 4 road, but it may lose some or all of its rights to control the usage if it was downgraded to a trail.

MOTION by Mike Denault to keep the classification of the 0.3 portion of County Road beginning at the intersection of the National Forest Trail no. 301 (Sucker Pond Trail) and County Road, to the Pownal, Vermont town line, a Class 4 road. This decision can be reconsidered if new information becomes available. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## DELINQUENT DOG LIST

Nancy Bushika asked for the status of delinquent dogs. The amount of people coming in has dwindled. Nancy Bushika will contact the Dog Officer.

## STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

The town clerk reminded the board that the state primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Board of Civil Authority, made up of the Selectboard members and Justices of the Peace, should come at 7 p.m. on that date to count the ballots once the election closes.

#### TENNIS COURT

Frances Busa contacted Nancy Bushika. In the spring she began a program with pre-K through 4th grade to teach them gardening skills. She is sad to see that the Selectboard is dismantling the seed savers gardens. She asked if the boxes and soil could be brought up closer to the school building along with a picnic table so that she could resume the program this fall. The board will talk to Dave Tatro about helping to move the material.

#### SCHOOL DUMPSTER

Mike Denault noted that the school rented a large dumpster and threw out a lot of stuff. He feels that was all purchased with taxpayer money and it was a shame to throw so much away. John Dunn agreed that it that could have been given to residents or donated.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Kurt Gamari  
Clerk

/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The state primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the Stamford Community Room from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
2. Applications to register to vote will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day. Forms can be obtained at the town office or you can register to vote through Vermont's online voter registration system at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
4. The deadline for filing a petition to run for the office of Justice of the Peace is Friday, August 16, 2024 by 12 p.m. The petition must be signed by 1% of the registered voters or at least 8 signatures. Nominating papers and the Consent of Candidate form may be picked up at the Town Office.
4. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at [vtalert.gov](http://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.
5. The transfer station is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the summer months.
6. 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.