

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 17, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Daniel J. Potvin, and Christopher Warren.
Michael G. Denault was not present.
Visitors: Helen Fields.
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
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. A discussion of the recent tax sale was added to the agenda. Review of the Dog [and Wolf Hybrid] Ordinance will take place when Luke McKay arrives.

MINUTES

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 2, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #41 \$ 8,938.31 payroll
- WARRANT #42 \$20,465.14 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. We've had a lot of rain and wind and the road crew had to handle several trees that came down. There was no water damage to our roads.
2. The 2019 Freightliner is undergoing repairs. The 4-wheel drive stopped working. The repairs will be covered by warranty. The truck has about 5,000 miles on it.
3. The road crew has been working on ditches.
4. The bathroom is almost complete at the garage. The water source is terrific.
5. Allen Desautels obtained his CDL license.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

VLCT INSURANCE POLICY

The Selectboard reviewed the coverage for the town office contents, the garage, and highway equipment. The town clerk emailed Paul Ethier the sections related to the fire department coverage and he felt the renewal was fine. The insurance policy will be renewed as is.

DELINQUENT DOGS

Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, with the Bennington County Sheriff served Melissa Lawrence and Stephen Chipchase tickets and entered the matter in the Vermont Judicial Bureau court system. They must send in their plea to the court within 20 days. They can either admit or enter a no-contest plea and pay the fine, or they can contest the ticket and ask for a court hearing. The Judicial Bureau will let the town know how the defendants respond and if a hearing is requested. Luke McKay intends to follow the judicial process to its end. Melissa Lawrence came in yesterday to license her dog. There has been no response from Stephen Chipchase. Although the Selectboard

discussed sending a letter to the landlord, the board chose to issue tickets instead. They questioned whether the landlord would receive the notice since the landlord has listed their address as the property address.

DOGS [AND WOLF HYBRIDS] ORDINANCE

The board will discuss the ordinance at the next meeting.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

The last All Boards meeting was very successful. At this meeting they would like to break into smaller groups and focus on the future of our town. Helen Fields recalled there was a short amount of time to present and a long time for discussion afterwards which she felt everyone liked.

TOWN ATTORNEY/SCHOOL OWNERSHIP

The town attorney provided the Selectboard with his opinion on the town/school land and building. The Selectboard has not had a chance to read it yet and Nancy Bushika would like to give board members time to review the document and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. Helen Fields asked if it could be released. MOTION by Dan Potvin to make the opinion available to the public. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. No vote. It is a moot point; it was not marked attorney-client privileged or confidential and would be considered a public document.

GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER STREET LIGHT

The board received no input from residents on Jepson Road which would be affected by the streetlight. Dave Tatro feels the light should be kept on for safety reasons. He feels it is a tight corner and there is a cold spot there that tends to ice up. Nancy Bushika suggested a light should be installed at the intersection of Jepson Road and Boulger Road. Dan Potvin didn't have a strong opinion either way but didn't know if he'd want a streetlight shining at his house. Dave Tatro has had cars almost hit the plow truck when he is cleaning up the intersection and agreed a light should be there for safety reasons. Helen Fields considers it light pollution and asked that the board minimize the amount of light in town. If the board chooses to keep the lights, she asked that they be limited in their distance and directed down toward the road. Letters will be sent to the adjacent residents for their opinion.

TAX SALE

The town acquired ten lots at the tax sale since no one bid on them. Nine lots are in Alpenwald and one is off Collins Road. The town has been able to sell many lots and get them back on the tax rolls.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine stated that we received 4 1/4" of rain in the past 24 hours. The brooks are high but have not caused any problems. Dave Tatro stated that a large tree blocked Lesure Road all morning and the highway crew assisted the power company because it came down on a live wire.

HALOWEEN HOURS

The Selectboard agreed to set Halloween hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st. The Fire Department will be out with trucks and flashing lights again. The firehouse will be open at 5:30 p.m. since an informal children's parade starts there and walks to the school to begin trick or treat.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Efficiency Vermont offering to conduct a free energy audit of the town office and highway garage. The board was interested and Efficiency Vermont will be contacted to schedule a visit.

REAPPRAISAL BIDS AND ASSESSOR BIDS

Letters were sent to NEMRC and Vision Government Solutions stating that their bids were not chosen. Nancy Bushika would like to talk to Lisa Wright about the reappraisal and assessor work. The Selectboard discussed a telephone conference but decided it would be best to invite Lisa Wright to an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

The board asked Lori Shepard to contact Chris Lynch from the Matrix Design Group to request a detailed cost estimate for Stamford along with funding opportunities and what the town would be responsible for.

SEED SAVERS GROUP

The group met recently, cleaned up the beds and worked on the garden shed. Stephen Greene purchased equipment that will be used to collect rain water. Several new kids showed up to participate and Helen Fields was very happy with how well they worked together. She had a total of 15 helpers which was a great turnout and they got a lot accomplished. Nancy Bushika said the Selectboard agreed to allow one or two cars down at the tennis courts but she was told there were a lot. Helen Fields said they were loaded with tools for the cleanup work and will make sure that it doesn't continue in the future.

VETERANS DINNER

The pot luck dinner to honor our veterans will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the school. Nancy Bushika will donate the paper products. Dan Potvin will bring the drinks. Carol Fachini offered to donate tablecloths. Dan Potvin would like to invite our fire department members since they also risk their lives for the benefit of the community. Helen Fields asked if this is a Selectboard project. Dan Potvin responded no, he came up with the idea a few years ago and each year has been great. Please extend the invitation to veterans you know and bring a dish to celebrate and honor them.

BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEMS MEETING & TOUR

Dan Potvin noted the informational meeting on Biomass Energy in Bennington which will take place on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 3 p.m. They will give a tour of Mount Anthony Union High School's wood chip burning system and the Applegate Apartments biomass system. Anyone interested in attending and/or carpooling can contact the town office or Dan Potvin directly.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CF/las

REMINDERS

1. Halloween trick or treat hours will be 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31, 2019.
2. Summer recycling hours will end on the last Wednesday in October.
3. New recycling punch cards for use beginning November 1, 2017 are available at the Town Office.
4. Tax bills have been mailed and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2019. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.
5. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
6. The town clerk's office hours are: Monday: closed; Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Wednesday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thursday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.