

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 7, 2021
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Daniel J. Potvin, and Brandon Field.
Carol A. Fachini did not attend.

Visitors: Robert Bouchard, Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Alex Dargie, Helen Fields, Stephen Greene, Karen Kuranda, Marta Miller, Beth Phelps, Bruce Richardson, E-Jay Tatro, Jessica Tatro, Pamela Tworig, Allen Whitney, Jr., and Natalie Yorke.

Martina Barnes, Manchester District, U.S. Forest Service.

Catherine Bryars, Callie Fishburn, Bennington County Regional Commission.

Mike Smith, Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association.

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. The agenda was amended to add an update and correspondence. There was no change to its order.

Nancy Bushika offered the Selectboard's condolences to Dan Potvin on the passing of his father.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. Karen Kuranda requested that the board return to hybrid remote and in-person meetings using zoom. She is willing to donate new equipment and technical training. She feels it is important to include others who cannot attend in person. Mike Denault asked if she would be willing to set up and provide the training without requiring all present to wear a mask, which she agreed to. The board will consider the offer.
2. Helen Fields informed the board of the PTG Fall Fest fundraiser which is planned for Saturday October 30, 2021 at the school. She also said the Seed Savers is planning a work bee this Sunday to paint and clean up.

NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE/ATV TRAILS

Martina Barnes, the District Ranger for our area, stated that the National Forest approved summer ORV (off road vehicle) use of the Risky Ranch Road and Sucker Pond trails as part of the South of Route 9 project. This decision is contingent upon the town's approval of the Risky Ranch Road trail since the National Forest policy allows connector trails to established networks, not stand-alone trails. The National Forest decided it was preferable to allow and manage ORV trails, instead of dealing with the non-authorized use of forest land. They have plans to provide a parking area and to re-route the Sucker Pond trail to a drier area for a more sustainable, long-term trail. Bruce Richardson noted that the Forest Service's 2006 regulation prohibits construction of a parking area. Martina Barnes did not have answers to some of the questions posed and will get back to the town. Mike Denault felt the conversation should be taken up by the newly formed ATV Committee. Martina Barnes is willing to attend these committee meetings. On behalf of the Forest Service, she wants to be a good land steward and partner with the town.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2021 as written.

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

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #37 \$ 5,809.59 payroll
- WARRANT #38 \$271,892.11 accounts payable
- WARRANT #39 \$ 7,912.52 payroll
- WARRANT #40 \$ 23,172.65 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro obtained two proposals for winter sand, one from Peckham Industries (formerly William Dailey) and one from Al Whitney. The quotes to haul the sand were both \$9.00/ton and about the same total price as last year.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the bid from Al Whitney in the amount of \$9.00/ton to deliver winter sand for the town. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Dave Tatro picked up the new Dodge plow truck last week.

3. The sweeper has picked up the excess stone left from the chip seal coat which completes the road resurfacing project. Dave Tatro will mix the extra stone with our sand.

4. Dave Tatro has talked to others about the winter salt and the state's contract this year. The prices aren't available yet but they are projecting a significant price increase this year.

5. The Agency of Transportation contacted Dave Tatro to inform him that due to a shortage in painting supplies, they will be prioritizing the roads that will need white and yellow line painting this fall. Dave Tatro responded that Stamford did not need any lines painted this year.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro ordered the new steps to the recycling bin and they should be in soon.

2. The Selectboard reviewed the Recycling Update and discussed the fees. Dave Tatro does not feel the town should be collecting appliances with coolant since we do not have a proper way to store them. Nancy Bushika will review the transfer station recertification plan to see if the town has to accept them and when the plan can be updated.

MOTION by Mike Denault to increase the initial fee to purchase access cards to the transfer station from \$60.00 to \$65.00 for 50 punches. The senior rate will be raised from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for 50 punches. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. Nancy Bushika attended the recent Alliance meeting. The budget is up \$4,000.00 from last year. The state mandated that they build an asphalt collection bin and accept asphalt shingles which would be ground up and used on dirt roads. The State Health Department stepped in and said they could not be used on the roads. The Alliance will hold off on building the collection bin for now.

DOG UPDATE

1. Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, announced that all dogs have been licensed with the town.

2. Tickets through the Vermont Judicial Bureau were issued to bring the last two dog owners into compliance. A dog owner advised that they contacted the town office to say that their dog had passed away in May and their two new puppies did not need to be licensed until they reached six months old in September. The dog owner wants the town to either dismiss the ticket or reimburse them for the \$25.00 no contest fine. Luke McKay has spent a great deal of time contacting dog owners and knocking

on doors to bring these dogs into compliance. Mike Denault acknowledged that registering dogs every year is state law and the town has to follow the protocols that are in place.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to keep the ticket in place. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DOGS [AND WOLF HYBRIDS] ORDINANCE

The Selectboard approved the final revisions to the Dog Ordinance at their last meeting. The updated Ordinance was signed.

HALLOWEEN HOURS

MOTION by Mike Denault to set Halloween hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31st.

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

The Fire Department will be out with trucks and flashing lights again this year.

BYLAW MODERNIZATION GRANT

Catherine Bryars from the Bennington County Regional Commission informed the board that the state has released grant money to assist towns in modernizing their Bylaws. Dan Potvin said the Planning Commission just spent two years updating the town's Bylaws and he is not interested in doing it again. Catherine Bryars presented the results of a study of towns in Bennington County and said these Bylaw updates could expand opportunities for new homes and unprecedented investments in housing and infrastructure. She suggested reducing the minimum lot size in the center of town to develop tighter growth in the town center and create a village downtown designation. She also suggested the Bylaws could allow greater density in the town center by creating more multi-unit and mixed unit housing. The town would be able to apply for a variety of grant funds if we allowed the village downtown designation. The BCRC estimates the bylaw update would cost \$11,000.00. The BCRC would be paid \$10,000.00 in grand funds to assist the town with Bylaw revisions and the town would have to pay \$1,000.00 as their share. The Selectboard asked for more information on the benefits the town would receive if they decided to move forward. Catherine Bryars will need the Selectboard to commit to this Bylaw update by November 1, 2021.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS FORM

Sally Bohl and Nancy Bushika noticed an error in the 2021 grand list. Because the grand list has been finalized and lodged with the Town Clerk, it can only be changed with approval from the Selectboard.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the Errors and Omissions Certificate. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

REAPPRAISAL CONTRACT

Nancy Bushika received the NEMRC contract to provide town-wide reappraisal services for \$75,000.00. NEMRC will begin next summer and complete the project for the 2024 grand list.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the Reappraisal Contract with NEMRC for reappraisal services. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine will move the Red Cross trailer out and plan a time to review the contents.
2. Bill Levine had more information on the restructuring of the Local Emergency Planning Commissions into Regional Emergency Management Commissions. Each town will have two voting representatives at the regional meetings. Bill Levine, as Emergency Management Director, will be one representative. Since Sheila Lawrence was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator in May, she will be able to

vote in Bill Levine's place if he is unable to attend a meeting. Bill Levine would like the Selectboard to appoint a second person to attend meetings and vote. Dan Potvin was concerned about losing local control but Bill Levine felt the restructuring would not change the local control.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Dan Potvin as the second voting representative. SECONDED by Brandon Field. 3 in favor, Dan Potvin abstained. Motion APPROVED.

3. The town office received copies of the official state forms appointing Harry Klein as Forest Fire Warden and Mitchell Meranti as Deputy Forest Fire Warden.

TOWN WEBSITE

Jason Morin met with the town clerk and has started designing the new website.

ATV COMMITTEE

The ATV Committee plans to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the town office. All are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL

1. Nancy Bushika is working with Erika Bailey to set a date for the joint meeting with the School Directors.
2. The Selectboard asked Helen Fields for an update on the status of the wood chip pile. The board would like to have it removed before snowfall since it is in the way of plowing the parking lot. The board will send a letter to the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union requesting that the chips be removed within the next two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan Potvin thanked everyone for their condolences on the passing of his father and discussed the arrangements the family has made.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. The town office is open with the following hours: Monday – Closed; Tuesday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday – 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
2. Anyone interested in helping Bill Levine review the contents of the Red Cross trailer or interested in forming a Citizen Response Group should contact Bill Levine directly or the town office.
3. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.