

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**February 4, 2021**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, and Michael G. Denault.  
Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Theresa Denault, Helen Fields, David Grayck, Esquire,  
Kimberly Roberts-Morandi, Thomas Morandi, and Pat Sullivan.  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. She read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Some correspondence was added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

Attorney David Grayck spoke about his litigation against Governor Scott concerning Act 250. The Governor recently attempted to use an Executive Order to amend Vermont statute. Normally an Act 250 permit would have hearings at a local level by the Environmental Commission in Bennington County. The Governor's Order requires all hearings to be conducted in Montpelier by a commission appointed by him. Attorney Grayck is not saying whether the handling of Act 250 hearings at the state level or the local level is better or worse, his case states that the Governor is not following the natural process of changing law through the legislature. He has no authority to make changes to the law through Executive Orders. The senate and house can reject his order, or let it become law by doing nothing. Nancy Bushika suggested that residents contact their legislators and ask them to veto the order. Helen Fields supported the change to the state level. Mike Denault asked him to keep the board informed of the litigation.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2021 as written.  
SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #3 \$ 8,305.65 payroll  
WARRANT #4 \$56,272.33 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

Date Tatro was not at the meeting but spoke to Nancy Bushika about someone plowing the beginning of the Class 4 section of County Road. The Selectboard believes it is the new camp owner who has submitted paperwork and proof of insurance to the town. The Selectboard will ask him to sign the Road Plowing Agreement.

## RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

## SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR TOWN REPORT

The board reviewed the draft and made a few changes.

## TOWN MEETING

The board discussed holding town meeting in person on Monday evening, April 19, 2020 outside on the town grounds. If the weather is too bad, the meeting will have to be held in the multi-purpose room. They discussed renting a tent and lights. Some have suggested having town meeting at the Community Church pavilion, but the board would prefer to keep it on town grounds. Pat Sullivan supported the board's recognition of the town building and grounds. Helen Fields felt that remote attendance for the town meeting should be offered by zoom and said many will not attend without it. Bill Levine agreed with Mike Denault that it would be very difficult to have a hybrid meeting. They discussed the hurdles and difficulties. Kim Roberts-Morandi offered to help the Selectboard create a webinar-based zoom meeting where the chat function is used by those attending remotely. Nancy Bushika will contact the School Directors to see what they are doing.

## VOTING

The town and school have postponed the local election until Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The town is part of the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District in Bennington which has not postponed their election. Voting on the SVRTSD ballot only will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. here in Stamford. Absentee SVRTSD ballots maybe requested until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine asked if anyone eligible for the vaccine was having difficulty making a reservation. Eunice Rice offered to meet people at the town office to assist people in scheduling appointments.
2. Bill Levine attended the recent Deerfield Valley CUD meeting. Chris Lynch from the Matrix Design Group stated at the last meeting that the CUD wouldn't be able to secure funding and that Stamford would not be part of the first round. The CUD approved sending RFPs to a variety of contractors and it seems funding will be available if they secure a contractor. The CUD is also committed to beginning with the least served populations first, which would be Stamford. Bill Levine feels that the Matrix Design Group would provide fiber to most homes in Stamford that were feasible but not all, whereas the CUD will run fiber to all homes.

## UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Carol Fachini to sign the permit applications for Barrett Trucking Co., Inc. and Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc./Carroll Concrete Co., Inc. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The proper fees and insurance information were received from each applicant.

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Selectboard received a letter from Ilse Vergi thanking them for standing up for our principles and ideals and pledging to uphold the U.S. Constitution and the Vermont State Constitution.

#### CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

Lori Shepard worked with Kerry Alley at the Agency of Transportation to resolve the confusion surrounding the discontinuance of the small sections of Lincoln Road in 2020. The town received the finalized 2020 Certificate of Highway Mileage approved by the state.

The Selectboard reviewed the 2021 Certificate of Highway Mileage.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2021. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### MISREPRESENTATIONS

Mike Denault expressed his frustration with people who continue to make inaccurate statements. He feels the Selectboard has tried very hard to compromise and do their job to the best of their ability. It makes it hard when people continue to misrepresent the truth and it bothers him very much.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini  
Clerk

CAF/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The town office continues to be closed in accordance with the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Safe Order to slow the spread of covid-19. The town clerk is scheduling appointments and is willing to assist residents by email, regular mail, telephone or fax.
2. Voting on the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District ballot only will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. here in Stamford. Absentee ballots maybe requested until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
3. Please visit the town's official website: [townofstamfordvermont.org](http://townofstamfordvermont.org) for town information and updates.

#### PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

**(REVISED)**

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, March 4, 2021. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 35 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The requirement to submit Nominating Petitions to run for an elected office is waived due to Act 162 along with the requirement to obtain signatures of 1% of the registered voters. A Consent of Candidate form will be required to run for an elected office and the deadline to file the Consent is Monday, March 15, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. A Consent of Candidate form may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

Town Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)  
School Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)  
Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Nancy L. Bushika*)  
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Christopher Warren*)  
School Director - 2 year term (*Erika Bailey*)  
School Director - 3 year term (*Kelly Holland*)  
Auditor - 1 year term (*vacancy*)  
Auditor - 2 year term (*vacancy*)  
Auditor - 3 year term (*vacancy*)  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)  
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*David McKay*)  
Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Barbara Goldstein*)

Voting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room or outside, weather permitting. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.