

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
March 5, 2020  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Daniel J. Potvin, Carol A. Fachini, and Christopher Warren.

Visitors: Brian Jowett, Frederick Nazzewski, Sheila Pecor, James Stimpson, and Colleen Zajac.  
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

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 correspondence, an executive session for personnel reasons and Continued Continuity of Operations under Emergency Management. There were no changes to the order.

Nancy Bushika congratulations Carol Fachini and Dan Potvin on their re-election.

#### REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

MOTION by Carol Fachini to nominate Nancy Bushika as Selectboard Chair. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to nominate Chris Warren as Vice Chair. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to nominate Carol Fachini as Clerk. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Nancy Bushika read a letter from the Planning Commission recommending that Jim Stimpson be re-appointed as Administrative Officer for another three year term. Jim Stimpson said he would like to see everyone reapply each year before being reappointed.

Nancy Bushika read a letter from Luke McKay who is interested in being nominated Health Officer. She read a letter written from Eunice Rice who is also interested in serving as Health Officer.

Bill Levine said he has some things to resolve first and asked the board to hold off on appointing the Emergency Management Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator.

Chris Warren would like to consider increasing the Road Commissioner term to three years.

Discussion ensued concerning the duties of the Health Officer. Luke McKay felt being the Dog Officer and Health Officer would facilitate dog bite cases and their follow up. Bill Levine felt if we have any real medical situation, it would be a strong advantage for the Health Officer to have a nursing background.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to appoint Luke McKay as Health Officer to streamline the Dog Officer and Health Officer positions for the town. Without a second, the motion failed.

Nancy Bushika felt having a Health Officer that could visit dog owners with Luke McKay would be helpful.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint each as designated below. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Administrative Officer: James Stimpson, 3 year term

Zoning Board of Adjustment: Theodore N. Dobbert, 3 year term

Emergency Management Director: William H. Levine, 1 year term

Dog Officer: Luke McKay, 1 year term

Energy Coordinator: Jennifer Hughs, 1 year term

Septic Officer: Maura Hawkins, 1 year term  
Planning Commission: Kurt Gamari, 4 year term  
Planning Commission: Aaron Malachuk, 4 year term  
Conservation Commission: Kurt Gamari, 4 year term  
Conservation Commission: Jennifer Lovett, 4 year term  
Road Commissioner: David R. Tatro, 1 year term  
Tree Warden: Bruce Richardson, 1 year term  
Bennington County Regional Commission representatives: David R. Tatro and Daniel J. Potvin, 1 year terms  
Green Up Day Coordinator: Patricia Sullivan, 1 year term  
Health Officer recommendation to state: Eunice Rice

#### JUDICIAL BUREAU APPOINTMENTS

MOTION by Mike Denault to remove Angela Brothers as Custodial Official and add Theresa Denault, and to remove Kurt Gamari as an Issuing Official and Appearing Official and add Eunice Rice as an Issuing Official and Appearing Official. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF MEETING DATES

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Meeting dates are subject to review and may be changed.

#### DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPER FOR PUBLICATIONS

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to designate The Berkshire Eagle as the newspaper for publications. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF SELECTBOARD MEMBER TO REVIEW WARRANTS

MOTION by Mike Denault to designate Nancy Bushika and Carol Fachini to review bills and have the authority to approve payments prior to Selectboard meetings. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF HIGHWAY LIASON

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to appoint Dan Potvin as liaison to the highway department. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF SHERIFF/STATE POLICE LIASON

MOTION by Dan Potvin to appoint Mike Denault as liaison to the sheriff's department/state police. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the special meeting minutes of February 27, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #9 \$ 9,736.59 payroll
- WARRANT #10 \$4,552.04 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew put up their spring road posting signs this week.
2. Dave Tatro thinks we should get through mud season without too much trouble.

3. Ron Paquette praised the highway department for their outstanding service.
4. Freightliner said they would not pay the towing bill when the new truck needed repair. Carol Fachini wondered if the town's insurance through VLCT might have a provision for towing reimbursement.
5. Dave Tatro has not had time to search for another highway vehicle. Bill Levine provided an application form for the Federal Surplus Allocation.

#### RESIDENCE ON CLASS 4 ROAD IN FOREST ZONE

The board reviewed the proposed draft of an agreement between the town and the proposed buyer of the property on County Road. After reviewing the terms and making some revisions, the board decided to send the agreement to the town attorney for his opinion. The board would like to update the Highway Ordinance. This agreement should allow the proposed buyer to build a full time residence and plow a Class 4 road while still protecting the town.

#### RECYCLING

1. The free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 1 pm. at the Mt. Anthony Middle School in Bennington, Vermont.
2. Nancy Bushika met with the Alliance. Stamford does not have a formal written contract with Casella. The board agreed that we would join other towns in the Alliance to renegotiate a hauler contract with Casella hoping to obtain a better rate than if the towns negotiated individually.
3. The Alliance received a \$78,000.00 grant to build a household hazardous waste building at the Bennington Transfer Station. The Alliance refused the grant because of the stipulations imposed by the state, such the Alliance needs to keep it running for ten years, and the Alliance would have to pay all the construction costs up front and seek reimbursement after. The Alliance does not have that kind of funds.
4. The members also discussed staying as an Alliance or forming a Solid Waste District. They feel a Solid Waste District will have more power.
5. The Alliance received a \$10,000.00 grant for a facility to accept shingles. It will be a closed dumpster on a pad. The state is requiring that transfer stations accept clean shingles and have a place for them.

#### TOWN MEETING REVIEW

The board felt town meeting went well. Mike Denault stressed the importance of contacting our legislators concerning laws and proposals that are important to us.

#### RABIES CLINIC

MOTION by Mike Denault, SECONDED by Chris Warren to support Luke McKay's organization of a Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. It will be held at the Stamford Highway Garage. The town clerk will be available to license dogs during the clinic.

#### DOG

A dog that was running loose was dropped off to Luke McKay on Tuesday. He has posted signs around town and may have found the owner. The board instructed him to follow the terms of the Dog Ordinance.

#### CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

MOTION by Dan Potvin, SECONDED by Mike Denault, to send the letter drafted by Nancy Bushika to the state in an effort to resolve the legal trail and road classification error. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board will sign and file the Certificate of Highway Mileage after the state responds to the letter.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE FOR COMPILING GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL USE

1. The board has not received the school use policy from the School Directors as yet. The town clerk will follow up.
2. Nancy Bushika and Dan Potvin volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

## PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Selectboard received a response to their letter from the Planning Commission member who has been unable to attend meetings. The member wants to stay on the Commission and Nancy Bushika was not comfortable revoking his appointment, knowing he wants to stay on. Dan Potvin felt it is important for members to attend meetings and participate. When the Planning Commission reorganizes at their next meeting, they will confirm their rule that three consecutive missed meetings will be grounds to request the revocation of membership. Chris Warren suggested the board take no action at this time but if the member does not attend the next Planning Commission meeting, then the revocation can be made.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine provided the board with an email from Emily Harris at Vermont Emergency Management concerning the Continued Continuity of Operations form. She included a template to follow. We started working on the form a few years ago. This would put a plan in place if a virus comes through or some other type of emergency and half of the town staff cannot go to work. Who would take care of the roads, or if the town office was short staffed, who would pay bills and write paychecks. It's a good idea to think about these things before we need to.
2. Bill Levine would like to pull out the Red Cross trailer and review its contents.

## 2019 GRAND LIST

MOTION by Dan Potvin to sign the 2019 Grand List stating there were no suits pending. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Chris Warren to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from Riggs Distler and West Oil Company. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.  
The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

## BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Mike Denault emailed Sheriff Chad Schmidt to ask who had authorized the canine visit at the school. Due to our limited budget, he asked that people who call with non-emergency requests be directed to the state police. The town cannot afford to pay for these calls. Sheriff Schmidt said that no one authorized the canine visits, they are choosing to do them on their own and he stated he wanted to cancel the contract with the town. He does not want to be held hostage by the town with what services they provide and what the board wants to pay for. Mike Denault asked him not to cancel the contract until he could discuss the matter with the board. He invited Sheriff Schmidt to come, but he refused. Dan Potvin noticed a difference in the sheriff's attitude because before they were willing to patrol however the board wanted. The board is not against their patrolling. They are questioning why the town is paying for them to follow up on accidents at the state police's request, or investigate a deer case at the Fish & Wildlife's request, or repeated canine visits to the school, all on our dime. Although he would be fine if the sheriff cancelled the contract, Mike Denault feels the people wanted to keep the sheriff and he would like the people to decide. Nancy Bushika felt maybe when the school has their merger vote this summer, they could also discuss the sheriff. Mike Denault will respond to Sheriff Schmidt saying the board does not want to cancel the contract at this time.

## CARTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

The board approved a statement for the mapper's work to date in the amount of \$1,638.60. The contract which was approved at the prior meeting was available for review and signature.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Chris Warren to find that premature public discussion of employee matters would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Chris Warren to enter executive session to discuss an employee matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:45 p.m. Bill Levine and Lori Shepard were invited to participate. At 8:50 p.m. Bill Levine and Lori Shepard left executive session and Dave Tatro and Mike Brothers were invited in.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:09 p.m. No action was taken.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini  
Clerk

CAF/las

#### REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on a high speed internet research committee should contact the town office or Chris Warren directly.
2. Anyone interested in serving on the Compost Committee should contact the town office or Helen Fields directly.
3. Anyone interested in serving on the Fire Department roster committee should contact the town office, a Selectboard member or Paul Dupuis.
4. Please visit the town's new official website: [townofstamfordvermont.org](http://townofstamfordvermont.org).
5. 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.