

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 16, 2020
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Christopher Warren and Michael G. Denault.
Daniel J. Potvin was not present.
Visitors: Erika Bailey, Robert Briggs, Laura Champagne, Pat Sullivan and Trevor Tatro.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The meeting was conducted remotely by conference call. Nancy Bushika led with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. The agenda was revised to add under Old Business the scheduling of a meeting with the School Directors concerning their attorney's response regarding the ownership of the school building and grounds. This topic will also be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

BUILDING COMMUNITY GROUP

1. Pat Sullivan announced that the small tree planted in memory of Heather Torres has been moved to its new location on the north side of the property. It is receiving special care each day.
2. The ground has been prepared for the placement of the three benches. The gabions have been ordered. It is time to begin collecting Stamford rocks to fill the gabions. Two bins will be along the fence line at the far end of the library and at the recycling center. The bins will be labeled and residents are asked to drop off softball to volleyball size rocks.
3. Anyone willing to donate crushed stone to place under the benches (3' x 6' area) would be most appreciated and should contact Pat Sullivan directly.
4. Green Up Day has been rescheduled to May 30, 2020.

SCHOOL/TOWN OWNERSHIP OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Erika Bailey advised that the School Directors have received a response from their attorney concerning the ownership of the school building and grounds. A joint meeting between the Selectboard and the School Directors was scheduled for May 7, 2020 at 6 p.m. Erika Bailey will forward a copy of the attorney's letter and the superintendent's summary for the Selectboard's review prior to the meeting. Carol Fachini asked if the meeting could be held in the gym. Erika Bailey did not know since the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order shut down the school building. The Selectboard noted that the gym has always been considered a joint, town gathering and community room and the school is also the town's designated emergency shelter. Mike Denault asked if this was a law or if she could request approval to hold the meeting in the gym. Erika Bailey will look into it.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 2, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The following orders were reviewed by Nancy Bushika who stated that everything looked in order:

WARRANT #15 \$ 7,890.89 payroll

WARRANT #16 \$36,346.78 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

Dave Tatro was not able to call in to the meeting, but Nancy Bushika reported the following:

1. The highway crew has been working and making sure to adhere to the 6' social distancing guidelines.
2. Allen Desautels raked and cleaned up the school yard and it looks very nice.

AGREEMENT TO PLOW CLASS 4 ROAD

The Selectboard deferred this discussion until the next meeting when Dave Tatro could participate. Chris Warren stated that the language made the agreement continue in perpetuity. The agreement should become subordinate to future revisions of the town highway ordinance.

RECYCLING

1. The free Home Hazardous Waste Day planned for May has been postponed due to COVID-19.
2. Nancy Bushika attended the last alliance meeting by phone. The state has set guidelines concerning the operation of the transfer station. Only regular household recycling, trash and food scraps are to be accepted. Although people may be at home getting a head start on their spring cleaning, people are asked to keep their spring cleaning and other items at home until the Governor lifts the order. Only necessary household trash should be delivered at this time.
3. Carol Fachini stated that the metal bin is full. She said Shapiro is not open to the public, but they will still come to pick up bins.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The promissory note for the tax anticipation loan which was approved at the last meeting is ready to be signed. The board members will stop in the town office over the next few days to sign it.

LETTER TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO REVISE VTEL'S FRANCHISE

VTel has the original franchise to provide cell service throughout the state, but they have never made any attempt to provide cell service in Stamford. Laura Sibilias group suggested that the town write to our state legislators to request that they remove Stamford from the VTel franchise. This would allow the town to pursue funds to seek cell service through other providers. Nancy Bushika asked if he had a form letter they could follow. Bill Levine did not know if other towns have done this but would look into it.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine has not worked on the Continuity of Operations form. It will be deferred to the next meeting.
2. Bill Levine presented a Mutual Aid Agreement for the board to consider. The town may have a previous agreement with Readsboro and Clarksburg to either loan or borrow equipment or operators, so costs could be reimbursable through FEMA. The Selectboard will review the document and discuss at the next meeting.
3. The Windham County Communication Union District (CUD) is newly formed in order to obtain funds to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of bringing fiber optic internet to each home. This is similar to the organization Bennington has. Bill Levine feels that physically, it is more practical for us to join with Windham County CUD than Bennington. Chris Warren felt this would be good for the town. There is no cost to join at this point. Bob Briggs indicated that the Broadband Group fully supports the CUD. Laura Champagne feels with so many people trying to work from home, that it is the perfect time to look into high speed internet. Bob Briggs agreed to review the cover letter and survey.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Chris Warren to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Casella Construction. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Nancy Bushika asked if the board would like to consider paying for a subscription to hold meetings through Zoom. Laura Champagne said Zoom needs more bandwidth to stream their video meetings. She suggested the board use

Google Hangout instead. It does the same thing, is free, and takes less bandwidth. Chris Warren agreed it is very easy to use. We will look into it for the next meeting.

STAMFORD SEED SAVERS/COMMUNITY PROJECTS GROUP LETTER

Helen Fields provided the final draft of the letter to be sent to all Stamford residents. The board reviewed the letter and approved of its mailing. It would be nice to coordinate this letter with the internet survey but the board wasn't sure the timing would allow them to go out together.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 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. Anyone interested in serving on the Conservation Commission, please contact a Selectboard member or the town clerk.
5. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.