

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 17, 2021
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Laura Champagne, John Engel, Helen Fields, Victoria Jefferies, Beth Phelps,
James Senecal, Tyna Senecal, Pat Sullivan, and Clay Zeller-Townson.
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 additional items for discussion and correspondence. There was no change to the order of the agenda.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. Pat Sullivan advised that the community captains will be distributing information shortly and she asked if there were other events that should be shared. The Community Projects Committee asks people to send the town office their email addresses or phone numbers if they would like to receive information on upcoming events in town. Nancy Bushika suggested including something with the tax bill insert.
 2. Pat Sullivan stated that the HarveStamford Community Supper is scheduled for August 28, 2021 and she asked everyone for help.
 3. John Engel asked about the ATV discussion, what is allowed now and what was proposed. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning ATV use and the pros and cons. The Selectboard will hold a meeting at some point requesting public input.
 4. Clay Zeller-Townson gave an update on the summer camp he is organizing with Helen Fields. They will need to have contracts signed with their staff. Mike Denault asked about visitors.
- MOTION by Mike Denault to authorize Nancy Bushika to sign the contracts with camp staff members on behalf of the board. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #23 \$ 5,910.25 payroll
- WARRANT #24 \$22,782.40 accounts payable

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 3, 2021 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Blais Whitney has forwarded a check and will make arrangements to view and pick up the truck. Nancy Bushika would like the sale completed within two weeks.
MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the bid from Blais Whitney in the amount of \$16,550.00 to purchase the town's 2007 Freightliner truck. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. James Walker, the Operations Manager for the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union, spoke to Nancy Bushika about cutting the tree branches on the south side of the school. She suggested he speak

to the property owner since the trees are not on school/town property and coordinate with the lawn mowing contractor.

3. James Walker also asked if the town could supply a loader and operator to spread four or five loads of wood chips on the school playground. He expects this will be a full day's work. Dave Tatro felt the highway department is very busy and back to only two men so it would be hard to commit the time, but will do it if the Selectboard desires. The Selectboard agreed that the highway department is too busy and decided to decline the request and encourage the supervisory union to hire a local contractor.

RECYCLING

The next free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be in the morning of July 24, 2021 at the AOT highway garage in Heartwellville.

SECURITY CAMERA

The town has reached the maximum limit and can no longer access stored photos with the limited free plan. The cost for a storage plan will be around \$100.00 annually. Nancy Bushika noted that the camera app is on Lori Shepard's personal phone and can't be transferred to a computer. She hates to spend the money but feels that it would be better to run the app on town equipment, not on personal equipment. It is also preferable to issue town email addresses and not mix town business and personal emails together. Mike Denault will look into this option.

SALE OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

1. MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the offer from Robert J. Bleau in the amount of \$500.00 to purchase Lot 279 in Alpenwald from the town. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offers from Charles Gregg to purchase lots in Alpenwald from the town as follows: Lot 264 for \$1,135.00; Lot 265 for \$1,160.00; Lot 278 for \$918.00; Lots 176 and 178 for \$1,300.00 and Lot 378 for \$590.00. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DOGS

The town office has licensed several dogs since the last meeting. There are about 20 dog owners and 26 dogs that remain unregistered. The delinquent dog list will be turned over to the Dog Officer to bring the remaining dogs into compliance.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The board reviewed the updated plan.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The plan was adopted in 2015 with a grant and the assistance of the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). We may want to contact the BCRC again or consider updating the plan ourselves. It is lengthy and the board will review and discuss it at their next meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine offered transportation assistance to anyone who wants the COVID-19 vaccine and is having trouble getting there.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The board signed the note for the tax anticipation loan.

MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM

The Selectboard signed a Letter of Intent to participate in the program for FYE 2022.

ZONING COMPLAINTS

Mike Denault has received additional complaints concerning the lot along Main Road. He wants to make sure the town handles it properly.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The board signed the Community Projects Committee Guidelines which were approved at the last meeting.

TOWN/SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING

The treasurer received a check from the Stamford School in the amount of \$416.00 toward the cost of purchasing the microphone system and tent rental which was \$3,966.72. The board was disappointed as it is a joint town and school meeting. The board directed the treasurer to see if the school would be willing to pay half of the cost.

REMOTE ACCESS TO SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

MOTION by Mike Denault to cancel the Zoom remote-access account and return to in-person meetings. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The town office can re-open now that the Governor has ended the Emergency Declaration Order and lifted the restrictions. The town office will re-open on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 as follows: 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 – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

1. The first meeting to review the voter's checklist will be scheduled for July 15, 2021 with a follow up meeting to finalize the changes on August 19, 2021, both at 5 p.m.
2. Nancy Bushika noted that one Justice of the Peace has not accepted the position nor taken the oath. The town clerk will contact the Secretary of State's office for direction.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The town clerk provided information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Lori Shepard as the town contact and representative for ARPA. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Vermont League of Cities & Towns is now contracting with the National Insurance Services of Wisconsin Insurance Trust and Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. to provide group term life and long and short term disability plans for the town. New contracts were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika 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 Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss employee matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. Sally Bohl and Lori Shepard were invited to participate. MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:43 p.m. The board will request more information concerning the bill.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. The town office will re-open on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 as follows: 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. Upcoming HHW Days are scheduled as follows: July 24, 2021 at the AOT highway garage on Main Road in Heartwellville and the usual fall event on September 11, 2021 in Dorset.
3. The transfer station has started its summer hours and is open every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
4. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.