

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 18, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Barbara Barlow, Helen Fields, Luke McKay and Jim Stimpson.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Coordinator.
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. There will be some additional correspondence added to the agenda.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Barbara Barlow thanked the Selectboard for their service. She has been through several constables and although they are great in the beginning, they always move on to another job. The town has voted twice to keep the Bennington Sheriff and has not supported a reduction in patrol time. She praised the Volunteer Fire Department for their excellent response to emergency calls. Barbara Barlow sees the sheriff making his rounds and likes that he is visible in the church parking lot during school hours. She does not feel the town can afford the cost of a constable and the paraphernalia that would be required.
2. Helen Fields thinks the All Boards Meeting is a great idea. In an effort to build community and get to know each other, she proposed that after each board/committee takes a few minutes to state what they have been working on, that the boards break off into small groups to talk about their vision and/or goals for Stamford. Then members can return to their boards and wrap up the night by sharing the ideas they learned. She hopes people can agree on a common theme such as sustainability, community, police safety, communication or town growth, for example.

MINUTES

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 4, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #15 \$ 8,628.99 payroll
- WARRANT #16 \$32,339.37 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro, Nancy Bushika and Lori Shepard met with Chris Taft from the Agency of Transportation. He reviewed the highway budget and calculated the highway financial plan. FEMA will use this plan to determine the town's eligibility in the event the town sustains road or infrastructure damage due to a storm, flooding, etc. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept and sign the Annual Highway Financial Plan. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. Dave Tatro also spoke with Chris Taft about the Act 64 plan. Chris Taft will have a state technician inventory our roads to determine what areas are not in compliance in order to develop a plan for submission to the state. Dave Tatro feels it is difficult to create a plan because the condition of our roads changes constantly with the weather. If the plan calls for work in one area but there is a road problem somewhere else in town, he may not be able to complete the work called for in the plan. Dave Tatro said the highway department's manpower and resources are limited. Nancy Bushika recalled Chris Taft saying the plan is not rigid and if there are legitimate reasons why the work couldn't be completed, it should be fine.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept and sign the Municipal Roads General Permit Planning Report. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. The state requires all ditches to be round at the bottom, which is a big reason why the town bought the excavator. You can no longer dig ditches with a V shape like we used to with the grader.
4. Helen Fields invited Dave Tatro to the next Planning Board meeting on May 13, 2019. They are discussing the town's residential, rural and forest zones and would like his input. The Planning Board wants his opinion on encouraging development, or maybe development on certain roads would make sense, while development on another road should be discouraged for a particular reason. Maybe they should consider the grade of the road when making development decisions. Although the state pushes for clustering development in the downtown area, she doesn't think that is best due to the town's geography and water issues in the center of town.
5. The street sweeper should be here the last week of April or first week of May.
6. Dave Tatro spoke with Parker Wells about drilling the well at the garage. They drilled the well for a resident near the garage and seem reasonable.
7. Dave Tatro has started grading the roads that have dried out and will begin ditching after that.
8. Alan Desautels has his CDL permit and will be taking his test in the next few weeks.
9. The Ford is back from Johnson Ford in Pittsfield. Three wire harnesses were bad.
10. A repairman from the Windmill Group came to fix the grader this week.
11. When processing the payment for the Grants in Aid Program, Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission felt the per hour rate for the excavator was very low. Dave Tatro increased the equipment rate to \$60.77. This is for the work done last year on Mill Road.

MOTION by Chris Warren to sign the revised Grants in Aid Program invoice. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro has not heard from Trevor Mance concerning the used compactor. Nancy Bushika will call him.
2. Helen Fields advised that the Seed Savers received a \$1,000 grant. They would like to buy a composter and will also talk to Trevor Mance about how much compost the school and town are generating. They will start composting at the garden but there may be interest to start our own community composting site for town use.
3. Nancy Bushika attended the last Alliance meeting. The state has revised the SWIP regulations and has removed some of the requirements that were not practical. They will only require two Household Hazardous Waste Days per year instead of four. We still cannot transport hazardous waste collected in town to their event in our town truck.
4. The next free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday May 18, 2019 at the Bennington Transfer Station from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will accept prescription and over the counter drugs.
5. It was noted that residents can bring electronic waste to the Bennington Transfer Station for free.
6. Green Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 8 a.m.

CONSTABLE/SHERIFF

Paul Dupuis contacted Mike Denault with an interest in serving on the sheriff/constable research committee. The board clarified that this committee is only to research the facts and costs of a town constable vs. the Bennington Sheriff/State Police. It is not a group to figure out how to make it happen. Mike Denault felt the term constable is outdated and the position the town is looking at is really a police chief. The officer would have the credentials and be qualified to hold the position. The thought is to get a full-time law enforcement officer vs. the very part time law enforcement we have. Barbara Barlow feels what we have is working and there is no need to change. Mike Denault would like to see more people join the committee. Anyone interested in serving on this research committee should contact a Selectboard member or the town office before the next meeting on May 2, 2019. Helen Fields suggested the board send a survey asking residents when they thought their safety needs were not met by the current Sheriff/State Police or when residents were not happy with the service or response of the current Sheriff/State Police.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

1. The notice and agenda have been sent out and posted. It will be held at the school on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. Nancy Bushika would like people to get to know each other and anticipated starting the meeting off with each board talking about their projects or achievements and seeing where things go after that. Bill Levine said historically the All Boards meeting was used to communicate ideas so that if different boards were working on similar projects, they could get together and coordinate. Mike Denault thought it would be good to have more than one All Boards meeting and use this meeting to introduce each board and see what they are working on and hold another All Boards meeting in three to six months which can be more of a community idea-sharing event.
2. Helen Fields is starting a newsletter. She doesn't know where the funds will come from, but feels communication in town is important. She has a few volunteers to help. She used to do a newsletter years ago which was paid for by the Selectboard.
3. Helen Fields is using grant money to create a four-section bulletin board which will be hung on the outside school wall near the bicycle rack. The town office will have one section.

REVISED TOWN PLAN

The Selectboard accepted the revised Town Plan which includes the new Chapter 10 – Energy requirements from the state. The public hearing is scheduled for June 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the town office.

SCHOOL/TOWN BUILDING

Dan Potvin was not present to say whether he talked to Bruce Richardson about searching the records. Helen Fields said it is urgent to determine who owns the town/school land and buildings since she is applying for Seed Savers Grants. The board asked Lori Shepard to call Bruce Richardson.

REAPPRAISAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND LIST OF REAPPRAISAL FIRMS

The board discussed the Reappraisal Request for Proposal and cover letter. They made a few changes and moved the due date to June 6, 2019. All the reappraisal firms and independent appraisers will receive a copy. The board asked Lori Shepard to contact the town's District Advisor to see if the Reappraisal Supervisors should also receive a package.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to send out the Reappraisal Request for Proposal with the changes to the reappraisal firms and independent appraisers and to the approved project supervisors if needed after checking with the District Advisor. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DOG ORDINANCE

At the last meeting the board was unsure if the Dog Ordinance required dog owners to pay a fee when picking up their stray dog. The Dogs [and Wolf Hybrids] Ordinance contains an administrative fee of \$25.00 to be paid by dog owners before an impounded dog is released to its owner. Owners are also liable for boarding, food, and veterinary expenses. They reviewed a copy of the minutes of December 1, 2016 where they decided to pay the Dog Officer \$3.00/day for each dog he picks up as well as mileage. Mike Denault felt the fees should be higher to reimburse the Dog Officer cost and the dog budget for expenses incurred. A maintenance fund could be started to offset these costs.

MOTION by Chris Warren to increase the \$3.00/day impound fee to \$10.00/day. Luke McKay will receive \$5.00/day for each dog he picks up as well as mileage and \$5.00/day will be placed in a maintenance account for future expenses. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine recommended that the board attend the ICS402 (Incident Command for Executives) class in Bennington on May 9, 2019 at 2 p.m. They will need to call the state at 802-828-2751 for an account number and then they can go online to register. All Selectboard members should be trained in incident command.

2. The first draft of the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) was given to the board. Brown Brook Road needs to be added to the map and the board considered adding a few more residents to the vulnerable population list. An updated Emergency Phone List was also provided.
MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the LEMP with the changes. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor.
Motion APPROVED.

INTERSTATE MERGER COMMITTEE MEETING

The board acknowledged the notice of meeting which will be held at the Stamford School at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2019.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the permit applications for Barrett Trucking Co., Inc. and Casella Construction. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The proper fees and insurance information were received from each applicant.

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT NOTICE

The Selectboard reviewed a Class Action Settlement Notice against mastercard and visa for violation of anti-trust laws. The town received the notice because we accept mastercard and visa cards. A copy will be given to the Selectboard to review and decide if any action is necessary.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE

Michael Batcher from the Bennington County Regional Commission asked that we provide a link on our website to the alliance's website. Chris Warren will help set it up.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Carol Fachini
Clerk

CW/las

REMINDERS

1. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
2. 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.
3. Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member or on the sheriff/constable committee, please contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.
4. Green Up Day will be Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 8 a.m.
5. The free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday May 18, 2019 at the Bennington Transfer Station from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.