

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
April 4, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Pat Sullivan, Carl Taylor.
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 were no changes to the agenda or its order.

The board expressed its sympathy to the Shepard family for their loss.

CONSTABLE/SHERIFF

Carl Taylor asked the board to take a good look at law enforcement in town before making any decision. He feels there will be considerable start up costs, liability expenses, and vehicle costs. The town may need a chief and a secondary part-time officer. He hopes the board can lay out a full itemized plan for consideration, not just a lump sum cost. Chris Warren suggested the board formulate the research committee which was suggested at town meeting. Carl Taylor is willing to provide input but not serve on the committee. Mike Denault agreed the board should form the sheriff/constable research committee. Anyone interested in serving should contact a Selectboard member or the town office before the next meeting on April 18, 2019. The committee will research the details, the pros and cons and the costs and report to the board with their results and recommendations.

LIBRARY PROGRAM/GREEN UP DAY

1. Pat Sullivan announced that she has been working with a group of students on a history project which will culminate in a video produced by the students on April 25, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Stamford Library. She hopes everyone can come.
2. Green Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2019 beginning at 8 a.m. Last year 55 people attended and Pat Sullivan is hoping for 60 this year.

MINUTES

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 21, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #13 \$7,340.20 payroll
- WARRANT #14 \$5,103.55 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The board reviewed and confirmed bank statements for the months of January and February.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. It's spring. Dave Tatro is dealing with mud and snow, sometimes in the same day.
2. The Ford has a computer issue and was taken to Johnson Ford in Pittsfield. Since the town is having billing problems with Lithia Motors and Carbone Ford in Bennington, Dave Tatro thought he would try Pittsfield.

3. Nancy Bushika asked when Dave Tatro plans to begin the Collins Road project. He needs to wait for the water level to go down first.
4. The garage septic system installation and well will probably be done in late summer.

RECYCLING

1. 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.
2. The summer hours at the transfer station will begin on the last Wednesday in April from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

The Selectboard planned to hold an all boards meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. Pat Sullivan, Sally Bohl and Bill Levine had pre-scheduled conflicts and cannot attend. It was ultimately decided to change the date and time of the all boards meeting to Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. The board reviewed the agenda and cover letter and made some minor changes. It is their intention to have all board chairs and members attend.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission met last Monday night and approved the revised Town Plan which includes the new Chapter 10 - Energy. Dan Potvin summarized the content and the board will review the chapter and discuss it at their next meeting. The plan sets forth the direction the town would like to go and conforms to the state energy goals. The town will concentrate on wind and solar energy, wood and renewable energy sources, and weatherization projects. The state hopes to achieve these goals by 2050. Jim Sullivan from the Bennington County Regional Commission stated that weatherization techniques can save older homes 30% of their overall energy/heating costs. It was suggested that a note be included with tax bills about saving money through energy conservation.

ENERGY SURVEY

Bill Levine responded to a state survey requesting energy conservation.

SCHOOL/TOWN BUILDING

Dan Potvin has not had a chance to talk to Bruce Richardson about searching the records.

REAPPRAISAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND LIST OF REAPPRAISAL FIRMS/ASSESSOR CLERK

1. The board discussed the Reappraisal Request for Proposal and cover letter. They decided items like whether or not to have flat fees for sheds can be discussed with the firm when hired. Nancy Bushika asked Sally Bohl to check with the presenters at an upcoming lister seminar. They added a clause asking for the contractor's earliest start date and will review the updated draft at the next meeting. They agreed to send the RFP to all appraisal firms and appraisers on the state list.
2. Sally Bohl has found someone to assist with the assessor work. She has prior lister experience and fits the position well. Nancy Bushika recalled that the NEMRC contract has a renegotiation clause and if the town has two assessors, maybe the town could use NEMRC more as a consultant. Sally Bohl spoke to John Tiffany, the NEMRC representative working with Stamford and he was agreeable with the town hiring a second person and taking on more of the work. He said NEMRC is just too busy. The board questioned the lack of work NEMRC has had time for in town and whether NEMRC has upheld their end of the contract. Sally Bohl informed the board that the assessor clerks will not be able to complete this work in the nine hours/week allowed by the Selectboard. The board noted that they may have to overspend the assessor clerk line item, but they should save money not having to pay NEMRC as much.

MOTION by Mike Denault to increase the assessor clerk's position to twenty hours per week for each clerk until the end of June and hire Eunice Rice as assessor clerk at the current assessor clerk rate. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The board will revisit the matter in July.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The next LEPC meeting is April 25, 2019. Someone from Homeland Security will be talking about CARE, a Civilian Auxiliary Response group consisting of trained volunteers to help support emergency responders, fire departments, etc.
2. A Red Cross Shelter group was formed several years ago but has been inactive for many years. This summer Bill Levine would like to pull the trailer down to the school and go through it and conduct some practice exercises. He has talked to Sara Bonthuis about heading the Red Cross portion of the shelter.

TOWN MEETING DAY SURVEY

Nancy Bushika will respond to the Secretary of State's town meeting Selectboard survey.

2018 GRAND LIST

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the 2018 Grand List stating there were no suits pending. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the permit applications for United Natural Foods, Inc., Eilers Bros. Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Valley Crane Services, Inc., Renaud Bros., Inc., and Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The proper fees and insurance information were received from each applicant.

DOG KENNEL/DOGS

1. The dog kennel looks nice. Luke McKay has purchased supplies for it. Nancy Bushika would like to have BEWARE OF DOG and KEEP OUT signs posted. The Selectboard authorized Luke McKay to spend up to \$75 to purchase the signs.
2. Dave Tatro advised there is already a dog in the kennel. The board discussed the fees for an impounded dog and will review the town's dog policy at the next meeting. The Selectboard will discuss the daily fee the Dog Officer receives for an impounded dog as well as what the dog owner pays when picking up an impounded dog.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACCOUNT

Nancy Bushika informed the board that Jim Sullivan from the Bennington County Regional Commission recalled the Planning Commission's \$3,000 account. He clarified that it was from a grant more than 25 years ago, too old for any documentation, and there was no problem with the Planning Commission spending the left over funds however they saw fit.

ENERGY COORDINATOR

The Selectboard read the resignation letter from Bill Levine as Energy Coordinator. The letter stated that Jenifer Hughs was interested in serving as Energy Coordinator.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the resignation of William Levine as Energy Coordinator and to appoint Jenifer Hughs to serve for the remainder of his term. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

HOUSING

Dan Potvin attended a recent BCRC meeting. Habitat for Humanity, Shires Housing and two other contractors were there to talk about how they build housing units with government assistance. Sally Bohl said when government funds are used, all Bennington County residents are considered eligible, not just Stamford people. They also mix low income families with the elderly. One of the contractors was willing to come to Stamford to discuss what they have to offer. The board did not think it was something Stamford needs right now.

EMPTY HOUSES

Sally Bohl asked the board what could be done about some of the empty houses in town. Some of them are falling into disrepair. The board stated there is not much that the town can do unless there is a health risk. Sally Bohl disagrees with the NEMRC assessor who feels the value should be wiped out and considered salvage. Sally Bohl felt if the owner is not taxed, there is no incentive to fix up the house. The Selectboard agreed with her and felt there is always some value in the home as well as the water, septic, and landscaping and asked that she bring that back to the NEMRC assessor.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 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.