

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 20, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Chuck Bullett, Stephen Greene, Scott Lincoln.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., opened with the pledge of allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Updates to the agenda will include a delinquent dog review, a PILT update, and a road right-of-way question. There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

ROAD DISCONTINUANCE

Scott Lincoln asked the town to discontinue the town road from the Main Road in front of the former Shippee residence at 2581 Main Road north to Lincoln Road at Chuck Bullett's house. He said it doesn't serve any real purpose as a town road. The pavement is breaking up and the culvert needs to be repaired. Dan Potvin asked if anyone else uses the right-of-way. Scott Lincoln said no, he had the land surveyed and the road only goes through his property and Chuck Bullett's property. Mike Denault noted that if the town gives up the road, the culvert repair would be Scott Lincoln's responsibility. Dave Tatro stated that the portions of the old road before and after this section have already been discontinued by the town. Dan Potvin suggested that the board consult Bruce Richardson since he researched the history of all the old roads during the ancient roads study. The board will look into the discontinuance process.

SUMMER GARDEN CAMP

Steve Greene spoke with Pam Fecteau at the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT). She advised that if the garden camp was a town-sanctioned event, it would be covered by the town's liability insurance. It is currently being run under the authority of the library trustees. Pam Fecteau advised him that if the town were to accept the checks for the parents and handle the money, it would be acceptable. The town is already holding the Community Building Group funds and Steve Greene would like the town to hold and administer the Summer Garden Camp funds. Then it would be covered by the town's insurance. It was assumed that the school carries insurance for the school building and grounds. Mike Denault was concerned that since the authority of the school building/grounds has been questioned, he is not sure the Selectboard should make any decision.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to authorize Lori Shepard to contact the town attorney and send the research completed by Bruce Richardson. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Dan Potvin suggested he obtain a quote on the cost of an insurance rider in case it is necessary. Dave Tatro asked about the current summer reading program and why this wasn't being handled the same way. Lori Shepard stated that the library program is financed by the town with the money budgeted and voted on at town meeting. The town's liability policy also provides liability coverage for the library and workers' compensation for the librarian. Steve Green stated that the library trustees were approached and have approved this program. It was agreed that the summer garden camp should be handled in the same manner as the summer reading program and therefore, would also be covered by the town's liability insurance. Steve Green will confirm this with Caroline Burch and move forward.

MINUTES

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 6, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #25 \$ 7,228.33 payroll

WARRANT #26 \$25,012.84 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of May.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The road crew has been ditching and grading.
2. The road crew attended a flagging class at the Stamford fire house. Bill and Joan Levine, Lori Shepard and five highway employees from Readsboro also attended. You no longer have to renew it every couple of years; it is good for life.
3. The new Freightliner was returned by the Freightliner of New Hampshire service department and they took back the new truck for some updates. It should be back Monday or Tuesday.
4. The Ford hydro boost needs repair. They will repair it in-house. Mike Denault asked what impact taking the Ford out of service would have. Dave Tatro said they use the Ford all the time. It still plows good and is easy to pick up parts. Alan Desautels doesn't have his CDL yet so it's the only truck he can drive right now. Dave Tatro's plan is to get something else in a couple years when the 2017 Freightliner is paid.
5. Dave Tatro bought some used truck parts from Dave Pessolano. It was a good deal and he will definitely use the parts in the future.
6. Lori Shepard received a call from a resident asking where the town portion of Henry Hill ends. The road has lost a lot of gravel beyond the paved section and the resident doesn't know if it affects the town part of the road. Dave Tatro turns around above the Pillings' driveway, which is beyond the town section, but there isn't room enough to turn around in the Pillings' driveway and Frank Alfonso has given him permission. The map states that Henry Hill is .11/mile long. Dave Tatro will measure it.
7. The well is finished. They drilled about 125 feet down.

RECYCLING

The board acknowledged a letter from TAM advising that they were bought out by Casella. Trevor Mance assured a smooth transition and hopes everything will remain the same.

SCHOOL/TOWN BUILDING

No further discussion since the board agreed to contact the town attorney.

COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMITTEE

Pat Sullivan has volunteered to serve on the Community Project Committee.

McGEE ROAD RENUMBERING

Bill Levine has talked to Chris Kilfoyle about his e911 house number. He showed the board a map. McGee Road was laid out from the end of Boulger Road to Klondike Road. The road was discontinued in the 1930s and is now a private road. Bill Levine is in agreement with the state that the Derby-Kilfoyle house number will be 491 McGee Road as measured at the point where his driveway leaves McGee Road.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The mapping firm has also located two unnumbered camps on Wiley Mountain Road. The state has contacted Bill Levine about it and will assign numbers.
2. The Green Lantern Solar Company has asked for a 911 number for the Tietgens solar array. The driveway they will use is the same entrance to the driving range which is 89 Main Road. The number will be given to Green Lantern.

REAPPRAISAL BIDS

1. The board approved and signed the letter to the state concerning the list of reappraisal firms they provided and the lack of responses the town received.
2. The Selectboard reviewed the bid packages from both contractors. They also reviewed the responses from towns which provided references for the companies. Chris Warren said Vision's good software support system stood out as an important feature. Nancy Bushika wondered if the town could wait a little bit to see which company is awarded the state contract for tax billing software. We know that Vision is bidding on the work. Nemrc's bid said they would assess all the real property but didn't mention commercial. Vision's bid stated they would assess both real property and commercial. Chris Warren was very concerned that Nemrc's program still uses FoxPro which was outdated more than 15 years ago. Both contracts will want the town to move to a cloud-based system and both may require purchasing a new computer for the listers. Chris Warren explained the cloud to the board. Vision stated they would take front and back pictures of all buildings and in ground pools. Nemrc said they would only take pictures of the front of homes and of significant buildings. Nancy Bushika questioned what they considered significant. Sally Bohl suggested the town consider combining with Readsboro for a joint assessor to handle the day to day work in both towns. One of the listers contacted for a reference said we shouldn't have to choose an appraisal firm based on the type of software they offer, but that seems to be the backward way it works. If we don't choose Nemrc to do the reappraisal, they probably won't do the assessment/permitting update work. The lister suggested the town should consider bidding out for both - a reappraisal firm to do the town-wide reappraisal and a reappraiser/assessor who can do the yearly updates/permits. There are a few independent assessors who know Nemrc & could come down to do the yearly spring permits and assessor work. That way we can keep our current Nemrc software, we won't have to transition to a new software that is probably much too big for our needs, and we are not automatically locked into the Nemrc staff to do the work. This option would give the town some choices. Sally Bohl thought this was a good idea. The board chose to soften the reappraisal deadline by allowing bidders to provide their proposed time frame for consideration.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to bundle the two jobs and send out new requests for proposals combining the Assessor position and the town-wide reappraisal. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

FOREST SERVICE AGREEMENT

The board reviewed the agreement from the U.S. Forest Service to upgrade portions of County Road, Risky Ranch Road and Klondike Road. Some terms were confusing and the agreement contained statements about the town paying a share. A forest representative will be invited to the next board meeting to explain the agreement.

DOGS

1. Four or five dog owners have come in to license their dogs.
2. Luke McKay has purchased the Beware of Dog signs and he will hang them up at the dog kennel.
3. The town received word of a dog bite incident from the emergency room which must report all bites. The dog had its rabies vaccination and bit its owner. No action is needed by the board or the Health Officer.

TAX ANTICIPATION LOAN

The Treasurer received two bids for the loan in anticipation of taxes:

1. Berkshire Bank offered a loan with repayment at the rate of 2.35% per annum with a five month term.

2. Adams Community Bank offered a loan with repayment at the rate of 2.25% per annum with a five month term.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offer made by Adams Community Bank to borrow \$300,000.00 in anticipation of taxes at a rate of 2.25% per annum with a payoff due November 22, 2019. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The promissory note provided by Adams Community Bank was signed.

PACIF GRANT

The fire department and highway department are submitting a joint application for safety equipment through the VLCT PACIF grant program. The fire department is applying for \$1,565.56 worth of equipment and the highway department is applying for road work signs and stands and a road closure barricade totaling \$842.30. The grant funds will pay for half and the fire department and highway department will each pay for their half.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to approve and sign the PACIF grant application. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

PILT CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

The town clerk received an email from the attorney indicating that they have reached an agreement in the Class Action Lawsuit and the next step is to calculate the payments.

POPLAR DRIVE

Nancy Bushika asked if there was any update concerning the culvert on Poplar Drive. Dave Tatro said not yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy Bushika acknowledged an email from CJ Vadnais concerning a tree that fell on the tennis court fence. There is another tree leaning. Mike Denault was not sure the town should take any action until clarification is received concerning the town/school property. There are several trees that have already fallen in the river. The state engineer recommended the town plant vegetation to reduce erosion. Nancy Bushika lives near the river and has spent a lot of money due to flooding but it doesn't prevent future flooding or erosion. Nancy Bushika felt the tree that fell on the tennis court should be removed. Chris Warren agreed that it was a safety issue. Dave Tatro will take a look and cut it down.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CF/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 on the proposed Community Project Committee, please contact the town office or a member of the Selectboard.
4. The next Selectboard meeting will be July 11, 2019 since the first Thursday of the month is July 4th.