

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 6, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Bruce Richardson, Wojciech Rum, James Stimpson, and Ralph Meima from Green Lantern Solar.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

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. There will be an addition to the agenda under correspondence. There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

Nancy Bushika took a moment to honor the heroes who fought and lost their lives today so we could have the freedom to be here tonight.

OPENING OF REAPPRAISAL BIDS

A bid was received from New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) in the amount of \$69,000.00 with an additional \$85.00 per parcel cost for any parcels over the 694 parcels noted in the request for proposal. Any hearings beyond the Board of Civil Authority will be billed at \$145.00 per hour. NEMRC is unable to meet the town's requested time frame of work beginning in the fall of 2019 through 2020 with a completion date of 2021. The bid gives a completion date of 2022.

A bid was received from Vision Government Solutions from Hudson, Massachusetts in the amount of \$98,000.00. They are able to accommodate the town's requested completion date of 2021.

The board would like time to review the contents of each bid package and will discuss at their next meeting.

Towns that have hired these companies in the past will be contacted concerning their experience.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Ralph Meima of Green Lantern Solar stated that his company has entered into an agreement with John Tietgens to install a 150 kw net-metered solar array on his property. Green Lantern has sent the 45 day notice and revised notice to the town with information concerning the project. There is still room for more commercial sites in Stamford. He thanked the Selectboard for approving the revised Town Plan with the new energy standards because it makes a significant difference for solar developers. Nancy Bushika questioned the statement on their map indicating that information was obtained from tax maps since the town does not have tax maps. Mr. Meima stated that information was obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources' online mapping system. There is a layer which shows parcel boundary lines. He also stated that the town and school and other community organizations should consider becoming an "off taker" where we could buy the excess electricity produced in credits at a discounted rate. It can reduce our energy bill by 10-15%.
2. Wojciech Rum announced that his polish food restaurant is now open on Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and welcomed everyone to stop by. He would like to expand his business by setting up a food truck where the Long Trail crosses County Road. He has obtained all the appropriate licensing and will take care of trash removal. He will have a grill and various food and refreshments available. The Selectboard advised that they have no jurisdiction over mobile food trucks, but suggested he not interfere with road traffic and should make sure he is outside of the town road right-of-way. The National Forest may own the property in that area and it was suggested that he contact the property owner.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the All Boards Meeting minutes of April 24, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

GRIEVANCE HEARINGS

Sally Bohl stated that the date for grievance hearings has been changed to June 18, 2019.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #21 \$ 8,043.20 payroll
- WARRANT #22 \$31,736.45 accounts payable
- WARRANT #23 \$ 7,469.07 payroll
- WARRANT #24 \$17,129.05 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The rock wall project on Collins Road is finished. The final grant paperwork will be sent in.
2. The well has been drilled at the garage and they are getting 20 gallons/minute. They drilled 110 feet down.
3. The highway crew will begin ditching and installing some culverts. After that they will begin mowing.
4. Nancy Bushika asked about the septic system installation. Dave Tatro has ordered the tank but has some road projects he would like to complete first.
5. Dave Tatro received a response from a Poplar Drive property owner concerning the recent letter sent by the Selectboard. They met to discuss the road and Dave Tatro gave a driveway permit application to be completed and returned.
6. Lithia Motors is beginning to send the town bills again for the warranty work which was done back in February 2018. The Ford F550 was taken to Carbone Ford in Bennington. The turbo and manifold needed repair. The manifold was covered under the extended warranty. The turbo work was not and the town paid for that service. When Lithia Motors took over, they began to bill the town for the manifold work done under warranty. Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard have contacted them numerous times by phone, email and text. Several representatives have told Dave Tatro that they understood and would take care of the outstanding balance, but nothing changes. The town sent a certified letter disputing the bill in January. Lithia never responded. They stopped sending bills for a few months, but have now resumed billing. The Selectboard will take no action at this time.
7. The new Freightliner was picked up by the Freightliner of New Hampshire service department for air horn repair which will be covered under warranty. When they return the new truck they will pick up the 2017 Freightliner for some updates. In the past when parts have been ordered, they have delivered the parts without charging a delivery fee. Dave Tatro is very pleased with their service.

RECYCLING

Nancy Bushika has not heard how many residents from Stamford participated in the free Household Hazardous Waste Day last Saturday. She heard that Casella bought out TAM and wondered if the town would see any changes.

SCHOOL/TOWN BUILDING

Bruce Richardson submitted a report on the research he has done on the ownership of the school building. The deeds state that the property is owned by the Inhabitants of the Town of Stamford, or on other deeds, the Town of Stamford. But in looking at Title 16, section 563(3) and section 563(5), the law gives jurisdiction of school buildings and grounds to the School Directors. Bruce Richardson spent a considerable amount of time searching

the archives for a formal agreement between the town and the school but did not find one. Mike Denault was concerned because the Seed Savers Group and Building Community Group have come to the Selectboard for support of their projects. The fact that the school has allowed the town to make decisions and maintain the grounds could have set a precedence going forward. Nancy Bushika noted that the School Directors discussed removing use of the field from their School Use Form at a recent meeting. The board discussed the school merger. Clarksburg voted to approve \$1 million in repairs but didn't designate how much would go to the school and how much would be used for road infrastructure. Many repairs and updates need to be done to the Clarksburg School. Clarksburg will be voting in June to see whether they want to continue moving forward with the school merger. Several Vermont towns are suing the state over the forced mergers. Bruce Richardson recommended that the Selectboard contact an attorney for legal advice. It was decided that VLCT will be contacted to ask who has the authority over the building and grounds.

BUILDING COMMUNITY GROUP

1. The treasurer opened an account to deposit the \$500.00 grant check that the Building Community Group received from Ben & Jerrys.
2. Nancy Bushika spoke with Pam Fecteau of VLCT. She indicated that if students from Norwich University come to help build the new building, the town may need to obtain builder's risk insurance and A&D insurance for the volunteers.

LIBRARY SUMMER GARDEN CAMP

Nancy Bushika also discussed the summer camp with Pam Fecteau of VLCT. She advised that all volunteers for the camp need to have background checks. Ms. Fecteau stated that all town employees are covered by both workers' compensation and liability. The town's insurance only covers the contents of the town office and town garage. The contents of the library are not covered under the town policy, but may be covered through the school. If the camp children were on town property, they would be covered. If the camp children are on school property, they may need a certificate of insurance to use the grounds. Nancy Bushika felt both Helen Fields and Pat Sullivan should be made aware of the preliminary findings.

COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMITTEE

No one has volunteered yet. Nancy Bushika drafted some guidelines for the creation of the committee. The board will review them and discuss this further at the next meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Community Projects Committee should contact the town office or a Selectboard member.

CONSTABLE/SHERIFF

Mike Denault talked to Jim Stimpson and would like to drop the matter for lack of town interest. Two other people were willing to serve on the committee but the town consensus doesn't support moving forward.

DOGS

1. There are 39 delinquent dogs. 29 dog owners have not licensed their dogs with the town.
MOTION by Chris Warren to turn the list of delinquent dogs over to Luke McKay, the Dog Officer. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. Nancy Bushika asked if the Beware of Dog signs had been installed around the kennel and if not, the Dog Officer will be reminded to take care of it. If he has any paperwork on the recent dog bite, he will be asked to file it with the town.

MCGEE ROAD RENUMBERING

The mapping company hired by the state has been noting any camps that do not have a 911 number and notifying the state. The 911 board contacted Bill Levine to advise that a 911 number needed to be issued for a camp on McGee Road and that an existing home had been numbered incorrectly. McGee Road was laid out as a town road but was given up in the 1930s and is now a private road. Bill Levine spoke to the homeowners about

the need to recalculate their 911 house number. Bill Levine questioned whether the homeowner's driveway should still be considered a driveway since the rest of McGee Road looks impassable. Dave Tatro suggested that the right-of-way remain the same and leave it as their driveway. Bill Levine will speak to the homeowners.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine advised that the fiber optic line to the firehouse is set and is ready to be connected.
2. Bill Levine would like to have West Oil Company move the diesel from the emergency generator to the school oil tank. It has been sitting for two years and should still be good. The generator fuel tank will be refilled.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the representation letter to the auditing firm Love, Cody & Company for the 2018 audit. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

FLAG CEREMONY

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has invited a designee of Stamford to their annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 9, 2019. Board members are unable to attend due to prior engagements.

FOREST SERVICE AGREEMENT

The board received an agreement from the U.S. Forest Service to upgrade portions of County Road, Risky Ranch Road and Klondike Road. The board will read the agreement and discuss at the next meeting.

TAX ANTICIPATION LOAN

The treasurer usually obtains a \$200,000.00 loan in late spring/early summer to get by until tax money comes in. Between the uncollected tax amount and budgets getting tighter each year, \$200,000.00 will not be enough. Last year the town temporarily borrowed funds from another account in addition to the loan.

MOTION by Mike Denault to increase the amount borrowed in anticipation of taxes to \$300,000.00.

SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

WEBINAR

Lori Shepard and Theresa Denault participated in a mandatory webinar presented by the Vermont Department of Health concerning the new procedures for issuing vital records such as birth and death certificates.

STATE REAPPRAISAL LIST

Nancy Bushika wonders why only two firms responded to the town's request for proposal to reappraise when almost fifty packets were sent out to reappraisal firms. Almost ten were returned due to outdated addresses. A letter will be sent to the state questioning how many firms on their list actively do reappraisal work.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 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.