

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**August 15, 2019**

**(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Helen Fields.

Cynthia Lamore, Erika Bailey, Kelly Holland, Barbara Malinowski and Jessica Tatro, School Directors.  
Chris Lynch, Matrix Design Group  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:42 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 additional correspondence.

#### FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

Chris Lynch gave an overview of his company, the Matrix Design Group. They have built many large and small networks all over New England. The firm has been talking with Readsboro, Whitingham and Marlboro about bringing in high-speed fiber optic internet. His company needs at least 500 homes to support a local technician, which he would have if at least two towns sign on. He looks for a density of at least 10.5 homes per mile, which Stamford has, and 6 subscribers per mile. His company would design, build, maintain and operate the network. The town would need to pay for the feasibility study and obtain the rights-of-way needed for attachment to each utility pole. He believes there are several grant opportunities available. After three years, the town would have the first right to purchase the network. Houses built and connected after would have to pay the connection fee. He guarantees that his standard internet tier will meet or exceed the FCC's definition of broadband. The Matrix Design Group will offer 50 Mbps symmetrical (both up and down) speed for \$95.00/month and 100 Mbps symmetrical speed for \$135.00/month.

#### SCHOOL DIRECTORS

The Selectboard explained that they had asked Bruce Richardson to research the deeds to determine who has ownership and authority of the school/town building and grounds. He reported back to the board that some deeds show ownership in the name of the Inhabitants of the Town of Stamford, other deeds are in name of the Town of Stamford. But he found a section in Vermont law stating that once a school is built, the School Directors have authority over the building and grounds. He advised the Selectboard to seek a legal opinion. The Selectboard questioned Laurie Rowell, the town attorney. She advised that she could no longer represent the town. The board searched for a new attorney and has just hired Attorney Robert Fisher from Dover, VT, but has not received an opinion from him yet. Cindy Lamore agreed that the town and school have always had a gentlemen's agreement and there is nothing in writing. She said the town is a welcome tenant in the building and acknowledged that we pay for the mowing, the plowing and other things. In light of the school merger, the Seed Savers Group, and the Building Community Group, the Selectboard felt it was important to clarify who does what. The Selectboard granted permission to the Seed Savers Group to use the tennis courts and now questioned whether they had the authority to do so. Cindy Lamore stated that the School Board has full authority over the building and grounds when school is in session. Mike Denault questioned whether the property is considered public or town property when school is not in session. If the attorney advises that the School Board has authority at all times, would they want the Selectboard to refer all questions and requests to the School Board? Some town offices that are located in school buildings were charged rent after their school merged. Kelly Holland said with the Vermont school mergers, they had to turn the ownership of their building over to the school union. With the proposed Clarksburg merger, we may not be required to turn the building over to the union. Each board will continue to handle matters the same way and will wait for the attorney's

opinion.

#### TILE PROJECT

Pat Sullivan thanked everyone who participated in the tile project. The tiles came out great and will be used around the bulletin board. They will be imbedded into the bench which will be near the library and in the plaque in front of the school.

#### HARVEST STAMFORD COMMUNITY SUPPER

Pat Sullivan invited everyone to come to the supper on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the school.

#### BUILDING COMMUNITY GROUP

The Building Community Group received a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation in the amount of \$3,000.00.

#### SUMMER GARDEN CAMP

Pat Sullivan applauded Helen Fields for running the summer garden camp. She said the children loved it. Helen Fields thanked all the volunteers and parents that helped. She said the kids were fabulous. Sierra Tatro is working on a website which should be up and running soon.

#### DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

There are no animals allowed on school grounds, yet Helen Fields has seen several people walking their dogs while she's working in the garden or during camp. People have walked their dogs on the school grounds for years and it was suggested to designate an area where dog walking was allowed. Helen Fields would like to set up doggie bag station with bags available so people could pick up after their dogs. Micah Hayre is willing to pay for half and she asked if the Selectboard would pitch in half. Nancy Bushika said dogs should not be on the property. Mike Denault agreed that putting a doggie bag station encourages dogs on the property. Helen Fields suggested creating a trail system and maps where people could walk their dogs. Chris Warren would rather crack down and prevent animals on the property. The Selectboard discussed how to enforce it. Jim Stimpson suggested creating an ordinance and issuing tickets. Cindy Lamore said the school also has a policy about animals on the property. She will send a copy of the school's policy for the Selectboard's review. Mike Denault would like to review the school's policy and work together to affirm their position by considering a similar Selectboard policy.

#### BULLETIN BOARD IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL

Nancy Bushika asked when the Plexiglas doors would be installed. Helen Fields said the wood has been milled and it will be finished soon.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jim Stimpson has taken the liberty of starting to redesign the building permit. He would like to add language explaining the appeals process and said he does have the right to refer applications to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, in addition to denying applications. There is also a package of energy standards that should be provided to each applicant building a home. He would like the town clerk to give this information out along with the application. Since this information is only needed for new houses, Nancy Bushika suggested he send the package out when he returns the building permits. The board suggested he provide a draft to the board for review.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 1, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #33 \$ 7,542.08 payroll

WARRANT #34 \$25,438.13 accounts payable

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has been ditching.
2. Dave Tatro is beginning to work on the septic system.
3. Dave Tatro is working with Jim Henderson on an \$8,000.00 grant for stone-lined ditches near the land slide area, the replacement of two undersized culverts and the installation of a new culvert.
4. Dave Tatro asked the board to consider a debit or credit card for the town. He likes to buy local, but there are times where the parts he needs are not available locally. Alan Desautels used his personal credit card to purchase parts online. This situation also comes up in the town office. The board authorized the town clerk to look into it and report back to the board.
5. The board reviewed the Employee Policy. When the state mandated earned sick and personal leave, the policy was revised and is confusing at first glance. Chris Warren suggested adding the language "at date of hire" and bulleting each item instead of one long paragraph. The board will review at the next meeting.

## RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika asked if anything has changed since Casella took over and whether Dave Tatro was still going to look for a used compactor for the town. He has automatic weekly pick up now which is easier than calling when the container gets full and waiting for them to come.
2. Nancy Bushika attended a recent Alliance meeting. 11 of the 13 towns were represented. The outreach coordinator continues to work with schools and businesses. She said the most difficult are the restaurants. The next free Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be September 14, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Dorset. The alliance fee will be increasing and Stamford will pay \$113.00 more this year. The HHW contractor charged \$17,000.00 in 2018 and in 2019 the cost was \$29,000.00. The alliance is looking at other collectors and thinks maybe the state should pitch in. Dave Tatro asked if they were considering having a small collection day here in Stamford again. He thinks it's helpful. Otherwise, the items that aren't accepted at the transfer station aren't either dumped over the bank or left against the fence when no one is looking. The state will allow individuals with no training to drive their hazardous waste all the way to Dorset, but will not allow the town truck to transport the same items without training. The board will send a letter to see what is the minimal amount of training required to be able to transport our own waste to the event.

## FOREST SERVICE AGREEMENT

Dan Potvin recommended that the board does not sign the agreement until a Forest Service representative comes to explain it. There is an office in Manchester so they should be able to send someone down.

## DELINQUENT DOGS

1. There are 12 dog owners who have not licensed their dogs. The letter was sent imposing penalties and a copy was also sent to the dog officer.
2. The board discussed licensing dogs for two and three years in relation to the rabies certificate expiration.

## FINANCES

The highway budget is already over in winter sand and salt from last spring, but the piles are full and he hopes to get through the year without ordering more. Dave Tatro is very frugal and tries to under spend other line items to make up for overages, but the budget is getting so tight, there is not much room anymore.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jim Stimpson contacted Bill Levine. He will create a procedural manual listing who to call and what to do if there is a problem with the generator.

#### DOG COMPLAINT

The Selectboard reviewed a complaint concerning a dog running loose on Clough Road. A letter will be sent enclosing a copy of the town's leash law.

#### TOWN ROAD DISCONTINUANCE

A public site inspection is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at 2581 Main Road to consider discontinuing a small section from Main Road to the former Shippee house and the section from that point to the current Lincoln Road. A public hearing will immediately follow on September 5, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the town office to receive comments concerning the proposed discontinuance.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini  
Clerk

CF/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The harvest supper will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 5 p.m. in front of the Stamford School.
2. A public site inspection is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at 2581 Main Road to consider discontinuing a small section from Main Road to the former Shippee house and the section from that point to the current Lincoln Road. A public hearing will immediately follow on September 5, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the town office to receive comments concerning the proposed discontinuance. The regular Selectboard meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2019.
3. Please visit the town's new official website: [townofstamfordvermont.org](http://townofstamfordvermont.org).
4. 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.