

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
September 19, 2019  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Daniel J. Potvin, Michael G. Denault, and Christopher Warren.  
Visitors: Sally Bohl, Rosemarie Curran, Victoria Jefferies, and Pat Sullivan.  
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
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. Updates to the agenda will include additional correspondence and a few old business items.

#### OPENING OF BIDS

1. New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) submitted a reappraisal bid of \$69,600.00 with a start date of July 2020 and a completion date for Grand List year 2022.

NEMRC submitted a bid for assessor services of \$85.00/hour and \$42.50 travel time.

2. Wright Appraisal Company submitted a reappraisal bid of \$83,280.00 with a start date of the summer of 2020 and a completion date of Grand List year 2021.

Wright Appraisal Company submitted a bid for assessor services of 144 hours at \$110.00/hour and \$80.00/hour travel time.

3. Vision Government Solutions submitted a reappraisal bid of \$98,000.0 with a start date of November 2019 and a completion date of June 2021.

Vision Government Solutions declined to bid on the assessor services.

The board compared the bids and discussed the varied ending and start dates. If Vision's reappraisal bid is chosen, they use their own software and it will make it difficult for the town to find an assessor familiar with it. They discussed NEMRC's current contract and its history of being too busy to get work done. Sally Bohl thought choosing the Wright Appraisal bid and assessor services would provide a one-on-one relationship with the town. The same reappraiser would be the assessor going forward and it would provide continuity. NEMRC uses several different data collectors and you don't know who you're going to get. Nancy Bushika noted that the town has saved \$131,000.00 in its reappraisal fund. The board will review the bids thoroughly and discuss at the next meeting.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

Pat Sullivan and Victoria Jefferies brought some of the tiles that were made during the tile project. They came out great. Nancy Bushika said it was a fun project. It was nice getting together and laughing with other townspeople. Victoria Jefferies was very supportive of the ideas people had for the tiles.

#### MINUTES

1. MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 5, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the site visit minutes of September 5, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the public hearing minutes of September 5, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #37 \$ 8,243.32 payroll

WARRANT #38 \$11,689.70 accounts payable

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway department has spent a lot of time on Risky Ranch Road. It needed quite a bit of work.
2. The septic system installation at the garage is finished. Dave Tatro needs to call the engineer for the final inspection. There is no hot water. The board discussed purchasing a small on-demand electric hot water pump.
3. The Selectboard gave ample time for the residents of Poplar Drive to complete the culvert repair on their own and are now at the point where they need to take action to protect the town road. The culver repair work will be done on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 by the highway crew and a letter to all Poplar Drive residents will be sent. All work will be done within the town's right-of-way and the residents will be billed for the cost of the repair.
4. There are a lot of problems with the Ford truck. The turbo is not working, the seals are leaking, the fuel tank leaks and the transmission will only work when shifted manually. It will cost at least \$5,000.00 just in parts. The oldest Freightliner is leaking oil and also needs attention. Dave Tatro is concerned about his highway budget. Nancy Bushika recommended that he have the Freightliner serviced so it will be ready for winter. When the current truck loan is paid Dave Tatro would like to replace the Ford.

## RECYCLING

1. Casella took the recycling container and replaced it with a different one. They told Dave Tatro they plan to put doors on the other side. Dave Tatro would like that same container back.
2. New recycling cards will be needed to access the transfer station beginning November 1, 2019. The Selectboard received a copy of last year's recycling update for review and discussion at the next meeting.

## FOREST SERVICE AGREEMENT

The Forest Service representative stated that the town does not need to sign the contract. It was sent to the town in error.

## DELINQUENT DOGS

There are still 3 delinquent dog owners although one has stated she will come in tomorrow. Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, and the Selectboard have tried for months to bring all dog owners into compliance. It becomes a health and safety issue if there is no proof that a dog has its rabies shot. They agreed to issue tickets and bring people to court. All court costs, fees and expenses of the Dog Officer and town will be passed onto the dog owner. Mike Denault would like to see a line item added to the budget to cover these expenses. Chris Warren suggested the board update the dog ordinance stating that any expenses the town or Dog Officer incurs to bring dog owners into compliance will be the sole responsibility of the delinquent dog owner. Dog licensing guidelines will be added with a shorter grace period and then tickets will be issued. The board reviewed the tickets and will send a letter to the dog owners along with the ticket. The Dog Ordinance will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## DOG COMPLAINT

Dan Potvin filed a written complaint with the Selectboard concerning a dog on Robillard Road. When he was running on Sunday the dog left its yard and crossed the road, growling, bearing its teeth and threatening to bite. Although the dog did not bite, this is the third time Dan Potvin has been threatened by the dog when passing. Dan Potvin is concerned for other children in the area. A potentially-vicious dog hearing will be scheduled.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dave Tatro asked if there was a yearly maintenance contract for the generator. Since Jim Stimpson was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator, the board will contact him to discuss with Bill Levine what needs to be done.

#### TOWN OWNED LOTS IN ALPENWALD

The board reviewed the perc. tests for lots 176 and 178 in Alpenwald. A prospective purchaser asked for permission to have perc. tests done prior to making an offer. The proposed buyer declined to make an offer. John Dupras will be contacted to explain the results of the testing.

#### LICENSE VIOLATION

A test was conducted at Billmonts Country Store concerning the sale of alcohol to minors. Although the store passed the test, the employee did not have the proper training and Billmonts was cited for the violation. Because of this violation, the store will be unable to sell beer or wine on October 7, 2019.

#### TAX SALE

The town tax attorney erroneously published the notice of the tax sale in the Bennington Banner instead of the Berkshire Eagle. Attorney O'Toole confirmed that the sale was still valid since the Banner is a newspaper circulated in town. The Vermont League of Cities & Towns was contacted since the Selectboard each spring designates the Berkshire Eagle as the designated newspaper for publications. VLCT advised that this designation is made to determine which newspaper the Selectboard will use to publish the town warning for town meeting if they choose publication.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY/SCHOOL OWNERSHIP

The new town attorney has been researching the matter of ownership of the school building and grounds and has asked for some additional information. Nancy Bushika has been looking up the documents this week.

#### ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The school has a policy preventing horses on school grounds but it does not include other animals or dogs.

#### TOWN CLERK SEMINAR

The town clerk thanked the Selectboard for supporting their continued education and stated that the two day conference she attended with Theresa Denault was very dynamic and inspiring.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

Nancy Bushika reviewed a letter received from the BCRC concerning their appointed representatives. Dan Potvin was appointed in March. Dave Tatro stepped down to allow someone else to serve and was not reappointed. Dave Tatro stated that he will go to the meetings with Dan Potvin if no one else is interested in serving.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of an employee matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The board entered executive session at 8:06 p.m. Luke McKay was invited into the executive session.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:29 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to issue tickets to all delinquent dog owners and if a court date is set, to reimburse

the appearing officer at a rate of \$160.00 per day. All expenses are to be paid by the dog owner. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### POTENTIALLY VICIOUS DOG HEARING

A potentially vicious dog hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 6 p.m. The regular Selectboard meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Selectboard meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2019.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini

Clerk

CF/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The next regular Selectboard meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a Thursday meeting.
2. Tax bills have been issued and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2019. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.
3. A tax sale is scheduled for October 8, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the town office. There are 12 Alpenwald lots and 3 other parcels of land in town which will be sold at auction if the taxes are not paid by the sale date: Lots 279, 308, 292, 220, 137, 321, 322, 288, 289, 264, 286, and 278 in Alpenwald, Lot 7 on Sparrow Drive, Lot 13 on Schenk Road and 5.5 acres off of Collins Road.
4. Please visit the town's new official website: [townofstamfordvermont.org](http://townofstamfordvermont.org).
5. 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.