

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING**

October 2, 2019

(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Assessor Clerk.

Luke McKay, Dog Officer.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:30 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. Emergency Management items will be heard when Bill Levine arrives.

MINUTES

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #39 \$ 7,366.07 payroll

WARRANT #40 \$22,859.57 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway department completed the culvert repair at the entrance of Poplar Drive. They used a 10" culvert because it needed to connect to the existing drainage culvert already in place. It took about 1 1/2 hours to complete. Dave Tatro used 3 yards of gravel and incurred the cost of the pipe. The Selectboard agreed to bill each of the landowners on Poplar Drive their 1/5 share using the same town rates as for grant reimbursements.
2. Dave Tatro said the septic system is installed and he is working on the bathroom.
3. Mike Denault said Dave Tatro did a nice job working on Risky Ranch Road.
4. Dave Tatro stated that he will be doing some ditching on Lincoln Road.
5. Nancy Bushika asked about the highway culvert repair plan. Dave Tatro said he used to have a 10 year plan and would replace several culverts each year but he has been cutting back on that budget line item and doesn't have money for yearly replacement. He has replaced over 70 culverts out of the 300 culverts in town and feels he has replaced all of the undersized culverts that needed attention. The next culvert will be the large culvert on Lincoln Road and the town will apply for a grant. He doesn't want people driving through his yard so he wants to have a temporary bridge installed during construction.
6. The 2006 Freightliner is back and cost \$3,000.00 to repair. The check engine light came on today so it will be going back up there again.
7. Eilers Brothers gave Dave Tatro a quote for winter sand that is \$0.25 cents higher than last year's price. Dave Tatro said they haven't requested sand bids for the last couple years because no one ever placed a bid except for Eilers Brothers. Dave Tatro is happy with their service and feels they provide good, quality material. The board accepted Dave Tatro's recommendation and the quote from Eilers Brothers.
8. Dave Tatro will not have time to complete the Grants-In-Aid ditching project on Mill Road. He has until June 2020 to complete the work and will do it next year.
9. The board discussed putting up cameras at the highway garage, salt shed, and near the dog kennel. Dave Tatro will purchase signs stating cameras are in use.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

At the last meeting Dave Tatro asked about yearly maintenance on the generator. Bill Levine contacted Kingsley Power Systems who provided a proposal for several different levels of service. He will also contact the local contractor who services the generator at the fire department for a proposal and will get back to the board.

RECYCLING

The Selectboard reviewed the recycling update and made minor changes. The prices will remain the same. The new information will be posted to the website.

REAPPRAISAL BIDS AND ASSESSOR BIDS

The board reviewed the bids received. Nancy Bushika asked if it was possible to call Nemrc and Wright Appraisals with questions instead of asking them to attend a meeting. Nemrc's bid stated that it does not do utilities. Wright Appraisals did not specify either way. Nemrc's bid did not mention whether they appraise commercial properties. Wright Appraisals included up to \$15,000/year for assessor work but Nancy Bushika does not feel we need that much. Vision is the highest bid and requires conversion to a whole new software program. Sally Bohl recommended the board choose the Wright Appraisal Company and feels she will provide a level of professionalism and consistency which is important. The Wright appraiser is willing to work on weekends when people are home which will result in a more accurate appraisal. She does not believe Nemrc representatives want to work weekends. Mike Denault noted that the Selectboard picked the higher bid for the school blacktopping project because they felt it was worth paying a little extra for a job well done. The town has enough money set aside for the reappraisal work. Mike Denault confirmed that Sally Bohl will stay on as Assessor Clerk if they hire the Wright Appraisal Company.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the bid submitted by Wright Appraisal Company for \$83,280.00 to complete the reappraisal and accept the bid submitted by Wright Appraisal Company for up to 144 hours at \$110.00/hour and \$80.00/hour travel time for assessor services. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DELINQUENT DOGS

1. Melissa Lawrence and Stephen Chipchase have not licensed their dogs with the town. The due date was April 1, 2019. Luke McKay learned that the ticketing system through the Vermont Judicial Bureau can take a long time and was concerned about the risk of having dogs in town without rabies vaccinations. He asked the board to consider impounding the dogs until the owners make arrangements for rabies shots and will release the dogs once they have been licensed with the town and all impound fees have been paid. The board discussed the pros and cons. Dave Tatro felt the board should follow the law and our ordinance and even if it takes a long time, it is better than the emotional distress of taking the dogs away. The board does not want to take the dogs, they just need to have them registered with the town. It was ultimately decided that Luke McKay will issue tickets and will contact the police to accompany him in serving the tickets.

2. Luke McKay asked the board to look into a used vehicle. He has learned that the state recommends transporting stray dogs in a cage inside the vehicle, not in the back of a pickup. The town could be liable if a stray he picks up carries a disease that causes the Dog Officer or his animals to become ill.

DOGS [AND WOLF HYBRIDS] ORDINANCE

The board will discuss at the next meeting.

GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER STREET LIGHT

Green Mountain Power has discovered a street light that is not being billed to the town. If the board wants to keep it on, they will begin billing the town. If not, they will turn off the light. It is near 540 Jepson Road. The cost is about \$11.00 per streetlight per month. Nancy Bushika suggested the board pay for the light for safety reasons. The board will consider the request and would welcome the opinion of the residents.

CLASS ACTION NOTICE OF LAWSUIT

The board reviewed paperwork received concerning National Prescription Opiate Litigation in an Ohio court. Chris Warren said it is not relevant to Stamford and the board agreed.

TOWN OWNED LOTS IN ALPENWALD

John Dupras from Trinity Engineering conducted the perc. tests for lots 176 and 178 in Alpenwald owned by the town. Due to the location of the well and an area of wetlands on the lots, he feels it would be difficult to support a septic system at this time. The Selectboard thought the adjoining lot owners might be interested in purchasing the lots and will write letters to them.

TOWN ATTORNEY/SCHOOL OWNERSHIP

The new town attorney has requested additional information. Nancy Bushika worked very hard to research and copy the documents.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

Nancy Bushika recalled that an All Boards Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the school.

VETERANS DINNER

Dan Potvin has scheduled the pot luck dinner in honor of our veterans for Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the school. He asks everyone to spread the word and invite veterans to attend.

VELCO BRIDGE MATTS

Dave Tatro spoke with Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO) who is willing to leave 9 wooden construction mats for the town at no charge. Dave Tatro said these mats allow trucks to go over culverts without damaging them. The board agreed and signed the Conveyance & General Release Agreement to accept the mats at no charge.

ACT 46 SCHOOL MERGER

The Selectboard reviewed an article that appeared in the Deerfield Valley News recently. Members of the newly formed Readsboro Halifax school union discussed dissolving the union district and going back to two separate schools. The union members will look into it for discussion at their next meeting. Dan Potvin was very interested and thought it was important news for our residents. He felt the school board and principal should read the article. Copies will be given to them.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CF/las

REMINDERS

1. 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.
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. Please visit the town's new official website: 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.