

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 5, 2019
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Pat Sullivan, Mike Brothers, Allen Desautels, and Theresa Denault.

Luke McKay, Dog Officer.

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. Some correspondence items were added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

BUILDING COMMUNITY GROUP

Pat Sullivan gave the board an update and said the library and town office bulletin boards should be installed by December 20, 2019, weather permitting. She also provided pictures of the three benches that are planned for installation this spring. She really likes the newest design for the gathering space and suggests people visit the library to see the model. The project will be completed in phases as funds allow. The Building Community Group's next meeting will be in January.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the All Boards meeting minutes of November 6, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 7, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 21, 2019 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #49 \$ 8,695.19 payroll

WARRANT #50 \$17,656.21 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway department has been dealing with non-stop snow. We ended up with over 24" in 24 hours from the last storm. All of the equipment is working fine. Dave Tatro asks for everyone's patience, saying the roads are going to be slippery and asks everyone to drive slow. They are over budget on materials. He said the state didn't plow throughout the night and they had to plow the state highway in areas just to get around.
2. Mike Denault asked if Dave Tatro was finding it easier with three men. He agreed that they can make it around town much easier and quicker by spreading the route between three men instead of two, which has definitely reduced the pressure.

RECYCLING

The Selectboard received complaints that the recycling container was full last weekend. The recycling container is supposed to be picked up automatically every Thursday. Because of Thanksgiving, Casella had called stating they would pick up on Friday instead. They never came on Friday because someone in the office noticed that the other containers are only picked up when Dave Tatro calls them, so they took the recycling container off from automatic pickup without notifying the town. Dave Tatro requested automatic pick up again and will follow up with them next week. Casella has bought out all of the large trash/recycling companies and has eliminated the competition.

DOG UPDATE

1. The state and the Vermont League of Cities & Towns were contacted concerning the Chihuahua that was dropped off to Luke McKay, the Dog Officer. VLCT acknowledged that hold harmless agreements and waivers signed by potential adoptive parents will not hold up in court and leaves the town at risk for a law suit. VLCT said the town is not in the adoption business and should not be re-homing any dogs. The purpose of the ten day holding period is to find the owner and return the dog to its owner. If the owner cannot be determined, the town should be transferring dogs to an animal shelter or rescue agency. People can work with the animal shelter or rescue organization if they would like the dog. If the shelter or rescue agency will not take the dog for whatever reason, the dog can be humanely put down. VLCT also stated that the town's ordinance gives the Selectboard the discretion to deem the dog unadoptable due to ill-temperament and have a dog humanely put down after the ten days if the owner is not found.
2. There was one dog that was never registered for 2019 and it has moved out of town. All known dogs are licensed with the town.
3. The town is still waiting for the Vermont Judicial Court to either turn over the ticket fines collected or schedule hearings, depending on whether the two ticketed dog owners pleaded guilty or no contest and paid the fine, or pleaded not guilty and asked for a hearing.
4. The dog kennel has been moved up to Luke McKay's house.

REVIEW DOG [AND WOLF HYBRID] ORDINANCE

The board reviewed the ordinance. Language will be changed as suggested by VLCT indicating that dogs will no longer be directly re-homed by the town. The first, second and third offense under Section 7, penalties and costs, will be clarified by indicating 30 day intervals. Other changes were made and the draft will be reviewed at the next meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER COMMITTEE

Paul Dupuis was not able to attend the meeting. He is working to form the committee to see how to increase volunteers for the fire department. Anyone interested in serving on the Fire Department roster committee should contact the town office, a Selectboard member or Paul Dupuis.

MAPPING PROGRAM

Nancy Bushika received an email Lisa Wright at Wright Appraisals. She is working on a contract for the town to sign for the reappraisal and has suggested the town put off the reappraisal for a year in order to have time to obtain tax maps. The data collected by Susan Boswell at Cartographic Technologies is not the same as tax maps, but we could hire her to complete tax maps for approximately \$3,000.00. Hiring a different company to start the tax mapping process over could be very costly. There are several discrepancies between the data collected by the mapping company and our grand list. If the town updates their acreage to match the mapped data, it would change the property values and put the burden on our taxpayers to prove what they own. Dave Tatro did not feel that was fair to our residents. Mike Denault would like to hear from Lisa Wright as to why the maps are so important and what information she will use when doing the reappraisal.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine stated that Kinsley Power Systems did not receive the signed maintenance agreement for the annual service of the generator and it will need to be sent again.
2. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 9 a.m. at the Stamford firehouse to discuss the poor response times by the VSP and the Agency of Transportation and the lack of proper winter maintenance on the state highway.
3. The town received a letter from the Bennington County Sheriff's Department indicating they have a new liaison to work with the town.

FEMA GRANT TO UPDATE LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The town clerk emailed Stephanie Smith to move forward with this project but she is away until next week.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The school has asked if we could add the Breakfast with Santa flyer to our website and send through our email list to help spread the word about this event. Santa will be coming to a breakfast held at the Stamford Elementary School on December 14, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Selectboard agreed to post the flyer on behalf of the school.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The ceremony was great and everyone had a good time. Mike Denault thanked the McKay family for their help.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Bill Levine spoke with the town's Broadband Group about the high speed internet proposal from the Matrix Design Group. They felt the proposal was very expensive. He suggested the town send out Request for Proposals to other providers. Bill Levine will talk to the group for the names of other providers. We would need to develop an RFP. Nancy Bushika asked about organizing a Communication Union District (CUD) with other towns. Bill Levine said other towns in the area do not have an organized broadband group like we do and did not see any clear advantages to forming a CUD.

BUDGET MEETINGS

1. The board will keep the agenda light for the next meeting and will begin budget work sessions. They will probably need to meet every Thursday in January.
2. Nancy Bushika was contacted by Joan Levine who resigned from the Finance Committee. The board accepted her verbal resignation with regret and said she will be missed. Nancy Bushika spoke with Pat Sullivan to ask whether the Finance Committee needed another volunteer. Pat Sullivan, Heather Tietgens and Tyna Senecal should be able to attend the meetings and did not feel another member was necessary.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Lori Shepard contacted VLCT asking for copies of the course materials since no one could attend the training. VLCT has not yet responded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of employee matters 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 employee reviews and salaries pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:30 p.m. Luke McKay, Dave Tatro, Mike Brothers, Allen Desautels, Lori Shepard and Theresa Denault were each invited individually to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:25 p.m.

Results: Luke McKay will be added to the payroll next year instead of receiving a salary. No other decisions were made. The board will go into executive session at the end of the next meeting. The board will also contact the insurance company to have liability insurance added for the dog kennel at the McKay home.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on the Fire Department roster committee should contact the town office, a Selectboard member or Paul Dupuis.
2. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.
3. 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.

PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 16, 2020. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 33 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The required signatures on a petition to run for an elected office are 1% of the registered voters or at least 7 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 27, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

Town Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
School Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
Town Clerk – 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Treasurer – 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Daniel J. Potvin*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Carol A. Fachini*)
School Director - 2 year term (*Barbara Malinowski*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Cynthia Lamore*)
Auditor - 1 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 2 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 3 year term (*vacancy*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Danielle Smith*)

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Stamford Elementary School. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.