

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 23, 2020
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Helen Fields and Bruce Richardson.

Sally Bohl, Assessor Clerk.

James Stimpson Administrative Officer.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

Pat Sullivan and Heather Tietgens, Finance Committee.

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. There were no changes to the agenda except the order was changed to discuss the budget prior to the parcel mapping.

HEARING OF VISITORS

James Stimpson was contacted by a potential buyer of property on County Road that is in the forest zone. The buyer would like to build a full-time residence there. Dan Potvin stated that the Planning Commission has been working on the By-Laws but have not discussed road classifications. Jim Stimpson stated that the proposed draft of the By-Laws will allow full-time residences in the forest zone. He acknowledged that plowing the roads drops the frost line and creates muddy conditions in the spring, which is why an insurance policy or bond would be needed. Nancy Bushika noted that with a year round residence, emergency vehicles would need to get there. She said the board will have to review the By-laws and discuss this matter with the Road Commissioner.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Selectboard and Finance Committee reviewed the final budget figures. Nancy Bushika noted that she could not reach Dan Denault from Yard Work by Dan and his bid amount was used as the 2020 budget figure. Lori Shepard stated that the Building Community Group revenue and expenses were taken out of the budget and will be shown in the Funds section of the town report instead. It was calculated that the town and highway budget was up 3.5%. Pat Sullivan said the Finance Committee was very happy to be able to work with the Selectboard.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 16, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TOWN PARCEL MAPPING

Sally Bohl spoke to Bruce Richardson who was willing to discuss the parcel mapping with the Selectboard. Bruce Richardson worked with the Pownal listers on several occasions and Susan Boswell from Cartographic Technologies accepted his mapping information as long as the Pownal listers supported the change. He stated that surveys are not required by state law and he is willing to work with the town to clear up some of the discrepancies. Dan Potvin and Mike Denault were happy to hear this because after last week's meeting it seemed that only a survey could fix errors on the parcel maps and they didn't want to pass that financial burden onto our taxpayers. The town was only given three weeks to review the newly-mapped 700 parcels and there was just not enough time. Sally Bohl feels that we need to hire Susan Boswell so she can work with us on the parcels. Bruce Richardson suggested the town download the contract template which is available on the VT GIS website. Nancy Bushika noted that our past listers were not qualified surveyors or deed readers and they did the best they could with the data available to them at the time. The state Department of Property Valuation and Review said if the town did not move forward on the reappraisal, they would withhold all of the school education funds. The state will allow us to delay the reappraisal for a year to work on the mapping data. Bruce Richardson would like to come in next week and begin looking at the parcel data before the mapper comes down.

MOTION by Chris Warren to intend to hire Susan Boswell of Cartographic Technologies on a daily basis and will review the mapping contract mentioned by Bruce Richardson. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to hire Bruce Richardson to assist with the parcel mapping data review. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

WARRANT ARTICLE TO ALTERNATE TOWN AND SCHOOL MEETING

Nancy Bushika recalled that Cindy Lamore asked about a warrant article for the town and school to alternate who goes first at town meeting. Nancy Bushika and Lori Shepard proposed wording for a warrant article which was ok with Bill Levine. Cindy Lamore forwarded the language to the WSSU school union and it was sent to the school attorney for review. The board is in agreement with alternating who goes first each year. Bill Levine did not feel it was necessary to spell out who goes first in the warrant by even/odd years. Nancy Bushika and Lori Shepard felt it is such a busy time of year, it would be much easier to include the alternating by even/odd year language than to keep track.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to approve the warrant article to alternate the order of the start time of the meeting with the school going first in odd years and the town going first in even years. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The board reviewed the draft of the Selectboard report for the town report and made several suggestions.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

MOTION by Dan Potvin to approve the warrant for town meeting. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Chris Warren to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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. Anyone interested in serving on the Sheriff/Constable/State Police research committee should contact the town office, or a Selectboard member.
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.

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.