

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 4, 2020
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Laura Champagne, Barbara Dolle, Charles Dolle, Pat Sullivan, Al Whitney, Jr., Al Whitney, Sr. and Lisa Whitney.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. People participated both in person and remotely by zoom video conferencing. Nancy Bushika led with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. She read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. The agenda was revised to add some correspondence and the order was changed to move the executive session to the beginning of the meeting.

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 Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to discuss employee matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:05 p.m. Jim Stimpson was invited to participate and Al Whitney, Jr. was asked to participate briefly near the end.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 6:35 p.m. No action was taken.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. Barbara Dolle and Charlie Dolle stated that they continue to have problems with their neighbor who allows her chickens to roam freely. Charlie Dolle showed pictures of chickens in his yard and feces in his garage one day when he left the garage door open. Barbara Dolle is very concerned with the bacteria her three-year-old granddaughter could pick up running barefoot and doesn't want to see her get sick. The board sent a letter to the neighbor in 2017 asking for her cooperation. Chris Warren felt it was outside the scope of the Selectboard. Dan Potvin said there are laws to prevent horses and cows from roaming freely, but no state law that will hold up legally against chickens. He advised that spraying chickens with a water hose is a good deterrent. Mike Denault suggested they contact the game warden.

2. Green Up Day was very successful. There was more participation than last year. Nancy Bushika thanked everyone who helped to clean up the town and Pat Sullivan for coordinating the event.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 7, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 21, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #23 \$7,956.27 payroll

WARRANT #24 \$7,213.06 accounts payable

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mike Denault reviewed the recent invoice received from the Bennington County Sheriff's Department. The town was charged for an officer "finding a baby squirrel and bringing it to rehab". The town was also charged on three occasions for "directing patrols". Mike Denault feels compassionate about animals, but the town should not be paying for this sort of thing. Personally, he is not happy with the service the sheriff's department is providing. He doesn't feel we are getting our money's worth, but some townspeople have been clear that they want to keep the sheriff. Although Sheriff Chad Schmidt used to be willing to patrol how and where the town wanted, the past year he has said he will not be micromanaged by the town and will not be told how to run his department. The Sheriff has already stated he would like to cancel its contract with the town. Mike Denault will invite Sheriff Schmidt to the next Selectboard meeting.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has started the culvert repair work on Mill Road. The town received a grant through the Clean Water Act. Dave Tatro said it is work he has to do anyway. Although the town's share is 10% or 15%, since the highway crew will be using their own equipment, the town will come out ahead. Nancy Bushika would like the final figures for the Selectboard report at the end of the year.
2. The crew spent a lot of time rebuilding the center section of the mower.
3. Dave Tatro acknowledged that the roads are dry, dusty and bumpy. He has ordered more chloride and is doing what he can.
4. Dave Tatro received a quote to replace the Lincoln Road culvert for over \$340,000.00. The Agency of Natural Resources is requiring a concrete box structure. The town will apply for a structures grant to fund the project.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro got rid of over 100 tires last week. He also brought a load of electronics to Readsboro.
2. The recycling attendants are not collecting money for demolition or punching tickets in order to comply with social distancing. The demo bin is getting full. The board will review the matter in two weeks to consider returning to normal with provisions to protect the people who are uncomfortable.

RABIES CLINIC

Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, has scheduled the rabies clinic for Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stamford highway garage at 610 Mill Road. Nancy Bushika would like to contact dog owners with dogs that need vaccinations.

DOGS

The town continues to have problems with dog owners walking their dogs on the property. Nancy Bushika would like two signs made to hang on each fence saying No Dogs or Animals Allowed on Town/School Property. She talked with Micah Hayre and Erika Bailey and they both support the idea. Dave Tatro will have the signs made.

DEERFIELD VALLEY COMMUNICATION UNION DISTRICT (CUD)

Surveys are still coming in every day and are being entered. Bill Levine will check with Bob Briggs for an update.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing to report.

BUDGET REVIEW

The state legislature is allowing Selectboards to review their budgets and make adjustments to them and their tax due dates because of the impacts of the corona virus. The board has already waived the late fees for dog licenses and waived demolition receipts at the recycling center and the punching of cards. The board did not see any items that could be waived that would make a big difference. The state is not waiving any portion of the education taxes due it by towns.

VLCT RESOLUTION

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns has joined the National League of Cities' campaign to lobby Congress for federal aid to cities throughout the country. VLCT prepared a resolution for Selectboards to adopt to show their support. Chris Warren was not fully convinced after reading it. Nancy Bushika felt the town should support VLCT. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adopt and sign the resolution. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

COVID-19 MASKS

The Selectboard thanked Karen Kuranda for sewing and donating masks for the Selectboard.

SCHOOL/TOWN OWNERSHIP OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

1. The town attorney's and school attorney's opinions concerning the ownership of the town and school grounds have been distributed by email and put on the town website. Mike Denault asked why Erika Bailey requested that the WSSU superintendent's summary of the school attorney's opinion be withheld. He would like to know why and feels it should be disseminated with the rest of the information. Erika Bailey will be contacted.
2. Nancy Bushika will contact Erika Bailey to reschedule the joint meeting with the School Directors for the end of June.

BUILDING COMMUNITY GROUP

Nancy Bushika noted that the new bench in front of the school looks great. They also did a beautiful job with the town office sign above the window.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on a high speed internet research committee should contact the town office or Chris Warren directly.
2. Anyone interested in serving on the Compost Committee should contact the town office or Helen Fields directly.
3. Anyone interested in serving on the Fire Department roster committee should contact the town office, a Selectboard member or Paul Dupuis.
4. Anyone interested in serving on the Conservation Commission, please contact a Selectboard member or the town clerk.
5. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.