

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
June 3, 2021
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Bart Howes and Joe Berard from the Jack Pines Pirates OHV Club, Gary Bellows, Carolyn Brooks, Helen Fields, Kelly Holland, Marta Miller, Jennifer (Curran) Peres, Tyna Senecal, Pat Sullivan, and Clay Zeller-Townson.

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. The agenda was amended to add additional correspondence, perhaps an additional executive session due to a possible lawsuit, and the summer camp program was moved toward the beginning of the agenda.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

JACK PINES PIRATES OHV CLUB

Bart Howes and Joe Berard said they were contacted by the Forest Service to approach the board about enacting an ordinance to authorize connector trails in town for ATV use. They would like to connect the Sucker Pond Trail, County Road and Lesure Road. The town could set curfews, speeds and routes. Readsboro and Whittingham have already created ordinances. They had maps and a draft template for the board's review. Mike Denault was concerned that you have to join the club in order to be able to ride. Bart Howes advised that last year the state passed a law requiring that you have a VASA tag, register your vehicle, have liability insurance and wear a helmet. The board would like to discuss this another time and seek public input.

HARVESTAMFORD COMMUNITY SUPPER

Pat Sullivan reminded the board that the HarveStamford Community Supper is scheduled for August 28, 2021 and she asked everyone for help.

DESTRUCTION OF TRAIN SET

Clay Zeller-Townson, Marta Miller and Carolyn Brooks voiced concerns that someone crashed into the wooden train play set across from the intersection of Main Road and Mill Road. Dave Tatro did not feel it was an intentional attack. He said it looked like someone was coming down Mill Road too fast, didn't stop, and crashed.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Helen Fields was awarded \$30,000.00 to fund a summer camp in Stamford. She and Clay Zeller-Townson are planning three non-consecutive weeks of full day camp for 30 children. They are still organizing but explained their plans so far. Nancy Bushika had several questions and Helen Fields will get back to her with additional information. The Building Community Group received a \$500.00 grant to purchase a tent which might be combined with the camp funds to purchase a larger tent. Clay Zeller-

Townson described a musical fence they will be purchasing and asked for donations of scrap wood, metal, etc. for visual art projects.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #21 \$ 8,536.61 payroll

WARRANT #22 \$206,711.63 accounts payable

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 20, 2021 as written.

SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The board received three bids to purchase the town's 2007 Freightliner truck. A bid from Wayne Jones from Corinth, NY for \$4,500.00 for the truck; a bid from Craig Bartosewcz of Readsboro, VT of \$15,000.00 for the truck, plow and wing, and a bid from Blais Whitney to purchase the truck for \$16,550.00. Although Blais Whitney bid the highest, he is from Maine and has not seen it which made Dave Tatro a little uneasy. The board did not accept any offer and directed Dave Tatro to see if the bidder from Maine will commit to the purchase.
2. Dave Tatro is working with Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission on a grant through the Clean Water Act. The project will install a couple culverts and a stone-lined ditch on a steep section of County Road.
3. The town was awarded the Structures Grant to install the box culvert on Lincoln Road.
4. Nancy Bushika asked about the driveway culvert on East Road. Dave Tatro advised that the property owner has improved the area although the water still doesn't flow as well as it could.
5. The board discussed the condition of our Class 4 roads and the potential damage ATV use would cause. Dave Tatro noted that we only budget \$20,000.00 for road maintenance per year and our two-man highway crew can hardly keep up with it now.

RECYCLING

The next free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be in the morning of July 24, 2021 at the AOT highway garage in Heartwellville.

CHARTER/PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Kelly Holland advised that Vermont is one of five states that does not allow charter schools. She has done a lot of research and gave the board an overview. The education tax is still due the state, even with a private or independent school. Mike Denault saw a need to approach the legislature and wants to be more involved with the school. It appeared that there was interest in pursuing the idea this fall.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The treasurer spoke with two banks and received one proposal. Last year's loan rate was 1.25% with Berkshire Bank.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and approve the application for a loan of \$300,000.00 at the rate of .75% per annum interest with Berkshire Bank to be paid in full in November when taxes are due. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

FLAG CEREMONY

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has invited a designee of Stamford to their annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 13, 2021. Board members will let the town office know if they plan to attend.

EXTENSION TO LODGE THE 2021 GRAND LIST

Lisa Wright, the town's assessor, has requested that the Selectboard approve an extension of time to file the abstract of the 2021 grand list. The town has always been able to meet this deadline except for once that Nancy Bushika remembers. Mike Denault questioned whether she has visited all the properties with value changes. Nancy Bushika and Sally Bohl have put in countless hours on the grand list, as well as Lori Shepard. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to authorize Lori Shepard to email the state to request an extension of time to lodge the 2021 grand list. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS MAP

It was noted that the VAST map erroneously shows County Road as an approved snowmobile trail without the approval of the town. Lori Shepard will contact them.

EMEGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing to report.

DOGS

The town clerk has licensed about 185 dogs and there are about 55 dogs that remain unregistered. Lori Shepard will contact the dog owners in an effort to bring the remaining dogs into compliance.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Helen Fields would like to organize a welcoming committee and send packages to new people in town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of employee matters would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss employee matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:35 p.m. Lori Shepard was invited to participate.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to exit executive session. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:20 p.m. No action was taken.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. The town office continues to be closed in accordance with the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Safe Order to slow the spread of covid-19. The town clerk is scheduling appointments and is willing to assist residents by email, regular mail, telephone or fax.
2. Upcoming HHW Days are scheduled as follows: July 24, 2021 at the AOT highway garage on Main Road in Heartwellville and the usual fall event on September 11, 2021 in Dorset.
3. The transfer station has started its summer hours and is open every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
4. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.