

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
July 15, 2021
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Deborah Burchard, Nelson (Chip) Dunn, Laura Champagne, Helen Fields, Marta Miller, Jason Morin, Sheila Pecor, Beth Phelps, Tyna Senecal, Macy Tatro, Pamela Tworig, and John Webster.

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 the review of income and expenditures.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

TOWN WEBSITE/EMAIL ADDRESSES

Jason Morin is willing to design a town website and provide email addresses for around \$2,000.00. To maintain and run the website would be \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 annually. He has created and maintains over one hundred websites, including the Town of Clarksburg's.

HARVESTSTAMFORD COMMUNITY SUPPER

Marta Miller stated that they will have a cookie contest at the HarveStamford Community Supper on August 28, 2021 at 6 p.m. It will be held in back of the school and tables and chairs will be provided as well as handicapped access as needed.

DEERFIELD VALLEY FIBER COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

Deb Burchard asked why the town didn't consult with Consolidated Communications first since they already have the infrastructure in place. Bill Levine advised that the town would be ineligible for FEMA grant funding and it would have cost the town over \$1 million. DV Fiber's plan is to provide Stamford, Readsboro and Whitingham service by 2022 and the other towns by 2023.

CAMPGROUND

Chip Dunn explained that he is modifying his Act 250 permit to install a campground on his property. He hosted an event a couple weeks ago on his property raising \$5,600.00 for the Wounded Warrior project.

ANDREA DRIVE

John Webster introduced himself as the property owner on Andrea Drive to address complaints made at previous meetings about his property. He agreed that he is in a flood zone and wants to make sure he is doing everything properly with the town.

ATV/UTV TRAILS PUBLIC HEARING

Laura Champagne asked about the public hearing. The Selectboard is waiting to hear back from the school.

REASSESSMENT/ACREAGE CHANGES

Pam Tworig asked about the reassessment notices and the acreage changes. A lengthy discussion ensued. The Selectboard is concerned with the loss of acreage and will continue to look into it.

DOOR TO DOOR CAMPAIGN ON VACCINE STATUS

Beth Phelps expressed concern about what the Selectboard and town could do to stop this push and cited many reasons for her concerns. Mike Denault responded that the Selectboard cannot do anything at this point but recommended that residents who don't want to participate get No Trespassing signs and do not open their door. Mike Denault stated that if the Governor infringes on the United States Constitution or the Vermont Constitution, he took an oath to uphold the Constitution and would not support that breach. Pam Tworig is against the Selectboard having pro or anti vaccine conversations and does not want to see statements reflected in the minutes. Bill Levine suggested the Selectboard enforce the five minutes per visitor, fifteen minutes per topic time allowance.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #27 \$ 7,798.11 payroll

WARRANT #26 \$63,962.34 accounts payable

It was noted that the Bennington County Sheriff's Department cited on their monthly bill that the turnaround area on Sportsmen Road was all torn up from ATV/UTV use and that an officer responded to an ATV complaint on another town road.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of July 1, 2021 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The Selectboard signed the promissory note for the paving loan.
2. Some roads were damaged due to the heavy rain storm and the highway crew had to work to repair the gravel erosion.

RECYCLING

The next free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on July 24, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the AOT highway garage in Heartwellville. Nancy Bushika cannot work the full shift and asked if a Selectboard member could help for a few hours.

TOWN WEBSITE

The board liked the presentation by Jason Morin but is willing to entertain other offers. If anyone is interested in submitting a proposal for the town's website design and maintenance as well as providing email addresses for town officials, please submit your proposal by the next meeting on August 5, 2021 or come to present in person.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. The town clerk is seeking assistance through Vermont Emergency Management and the Bennington County Regional Commission to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is grant funding available.
2. Bill Levine was contacted by the state 911 coordinator about a camp on Dan Potvin's property and a couple others on an adjacent property. Dan Potvin said they are unoccupied, remote camps that do not need a 911 number.

EDUCATION TAX RATES

The Agency of Education has set the 2021 school tax rates. The homestead rate is 1.4996. Last year's rate was 1.4628. The non-homestead rate is 1.7508. Last year's rate was 1.7168.

STATE BUILDING PERMITS

The state is now requiring state building permits for the construction and renovation of public buildings and rental housing through the Division of Fire Safety.

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORTS

The board had no questions on the income and expense reports through June 30, 2021.

TOWN ASSESSOR/ASSESSOR CLERK

The board agreed it would like to have a local resident. The state requires that an appointed assessor have a VPA #2 level education. The state does not require an elected lister to have any education. The town will reach out to NEMRC about the assessor position and will also contact the Secretary of State's office about the process of reinstating the elected lister positions.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. The town office is open with the following hours: Monday – Closed; Tuesday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday – 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
2. The HarveStamford Community Supper is scheduled for August 28, 2021 at 6 p.m. in back of the Stamford Elementary School.
3. 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.
4. The transfer station has started its summer hours and is open every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
5. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.