

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
November 18, 2021  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault and Brandon Field.  
Carol A. Fachini and Daniel J. Potvin were not present.

Visitors: Robert Bouchard, Carolyn Brooks, Thomas Nazzewski, Beth Phelps, E-Jay Tatro, Jessica Tatro, Pamela Tworig, and Natalie Yorke.  
Mike Smith, Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA).  
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 discussions about the tree lighting ceremony, the Finance Committee and an executive session.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

STAMFORD RIDGE RIDERS

The Stamford Ridge Riders is receiving some pressure from the National Forest and VASA who want to move forward with their project but need a letter of support from the town. They are asking for permission to allow ATV use on a 1/4 mile portion of County Road which would connect the Pownal trail and the Sucker Pond Trail #301. Jessica Tatro acknowledged that there are still many questions that need to be answered but felt this would be a start and the ATV Committee will continue to address the town's concerns. The Stamford Ridge Riders Club has talked to many landowners who support this 1/4 mile trail use. Pam Tworig informed the board that this is a massive project with a planned parking area and reminded the board of the tons of emails that townspeople have been sending in against any ATV use on town roads. Pam Tworig feels it is totally inappropriate for any Selectboard member to sign an agreement on this project. Jessica Tatro feels the ATV Committee's first step would be to propose an ATV Ordinance for the board's review which would spell out the policy and procedures to legally ride. They are working with VASA and the Bennington County Sheriff's Office and the town could appoint a Municipal Officer who could address violations. Connie Yorke expressed frustration that the Stamford Ridge Riders were coming forward with a request that had not been discussed at an ATV Committee meeting first. Jessica Tatro intends to discuss matters with the ATV Committee but their last meeting was cancelled. Beth Phelps asked about the open meeting laws and if a quorum of the ATV members met outside of a meeting and discussed ATV matters, that would violate open meeting laws. The Selectboard would like the ATV Committee to report on their progress at the December 16, 2021 Selectboard meeting and aim to have a final proposal to the board by February. Mike Denault felt if there was no way the ATV Committee could move forward, perhaps it should be dissolved.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 4, 2021 as written.  
SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #45 \$ 5,950.47 payroll

WARRANT #46 \$450,579.82 accounts payable

## ROAD CONDITIONS

None.

## RECYCLING

One hauler has registered with the town.

## PURCHASING POLICIES

The Hazard Mitigation Grant requires that the town has a Purchasing Policy. Brandon Field liked the policy from Orwell, VT. The board would like Dave Tatro's input so the topic was deferred until the next meeting.

## FINANCIALS

Nancy Bushika has a few financial questions for Lori Shepard and will talk with her next week.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine informed the Selectboard that the State is offering a four hour webinar on Local Emergency Management Directors and Coordinators. It will explain their role and the scope of their responsibilities. He feels the Selectboard should attend in order to be familiar with the qualifications they should be looking for and what criteria is needed when choosing a candidate. Also, anyone in town interested in becoming the Emergency Management Director or Emergency Management Coordinator should also consider attending. Feel free to contact Bill Levine or a Selectboard member for more information. You must first create an account with VT LMS (Learning Management System) at: <https://vem.vermont.gov/training/trainingprogram/lms>. Once your account is active, you will be able to sign up for the course. The signup deadline is Monday December 6, 2021.
2. The Fire Department has been discussing the new fire engine purchase. They would like to start now since it is a two year process. The Fire Department would like to increase the amount deposited into the fire truck replacement fund to \$50,000.00/year and will still need to borrow around \$100,000.00 when the truck is purchased. The town will need to finance that amount over a five year loan. EJay Tatro expressed the importance of safe fire equipment and said he wouldn't want to be on the end of the hose from a 35 year old fire truck.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Selectboard will see if the members from last year's committee are willing to serve again. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should contact a member of the Selectboard.

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The board discussed a ceremony similar to last year. Sunday evening would be best. The board will get in touch with last year's volunteers. A resident asked about selling ribbons to decorate the tree as a fundraiser. The board felt there were so many fundraisers already taking place with the school, the PTG and Wreaths Across America, that they didn't want to add another during this busy season, especially when they are already late in the planning stage.

## 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 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:15 p.m. Results of executive session: The Selectboard agreed to pay for time not worked due to a covid required quarantine period. If the town is able to be reimbursed for this time paid and a copy of the positive covid test result is required for reimbursement, the employee shall provide a copy of the test for reimbursement purposes only.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika  
Clerk pro tem

/las

#### REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Commission should submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard by their meeting on December 2, 2021.
2. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard.
3. The Christmas tree lighting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 5 p.m.
4. Anyone interested in helping Bill Levine review the contents of the Red Cross trailer or interested in forming a Citizen Response Group should contact Bill Levine directly or the town office.
5. Please visit the town's official website: [townofstamfordvermont.org](http://townofstamfordvermont.org) for town information and updates.