

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
January 11, 2024  
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Pamela Tworig, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, and Marie Kelly-Whitney.

Visitors: Sally Bohl, David Saldo, Diane Saldo, Sheila Pecor, Deborah Righi, James Righi, and Douglas Wright.  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. There were no changes to the agenda or its order.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Dave Saldo asked if there were any permits issued concerning the demolition of the house on Main Road. He believes a permit should have been issued from the State Fire Marshall and all hazardous material should have been taken care of prior to the demolition. There is another house on Mill Road that will have to come down. The Selectboard will check with Deb Burchard, the Zoning Administrator concerning the permit.
2. Dave Saldo would like to propose an article asking the town if they are in favor not to participate in FEMA's purchasing program allowing homes and structures in the flood area to be demolished and removed from the tax roll, restricting any future building development and requiring town maintenance thereafter for life. He felt if the town allows one, then it opens the door for everyone. Pam Tworig said the Selectboard can pick and choose what houses they would accept into the FEMA program and her list is down to 12 houses that she would even consider. Dave Saldo feels taking property off the tax roll should be a town decision since all the other taxpayers have to make up for the lost tax revenue. Kurt Gamari would support an article bringing this matter to the town.

#### WARNING AND WARRANT ARTICLE WEBINAR

Nancy Bushika shared topics she learned with the board.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

1. The Selectboard worked on the 2024 budget and began to consider warrant articles.
2. Bill Levine would like to propose an article asking the voters to amend the Zoning By-laws to exempt the town from the sign requirements. He would like the decision to be made retroactively and suggested the town could consider municipal signs only or religious organization's signs also. He suggested if the new sign is removed, that it be temporarily stored until it can be reinstalled again. The board discussed the 15-year look-back period for structures built in violation of the By-laws. Kurt Gamari would like to see it only go back to when Deb Burchard took over the Zoning Administrator position. The Selectboard will contact the Bennington County Regional Commission concerning the Zoning By-law amendment process and ask whether they can initiate an amendment to the By-laws and whether they can amend the By-laws themselves, in which case no article would be needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter and a contract would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss employee salaries and a contractual matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(5) and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:47 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:50 p.m. The new salary figures will be given to the town clerk. There was no action taken concerning the contract.

MOTION by Marie Kelly-Whitney to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 9:55 p.m.

Marie Kelly-Whitney  
Clerk

/las

REMINDERS

1. Townspeople should sign up with the state’s free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at [vtalert.gov](http://vtalert.gov) to receive notifications. You can choose how you would like to be alerted (phone call, text or email) and can choose what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.
2. The town office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays.

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 18, 2024. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 36 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 8 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 29, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers and the Consent of Candidate form 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 *(Paul Dupuis)*
- School Moderator - 1 year term *(Paul Dupuis)*
- Selectboard member - 2 year term *(Pamela Tworig)*
- Selectboard member - 3 year term *(Marie Kelly-Whitney)*

School Director - 2 year term *(Elizabeth Parrington)*  
School Director - 3 year term *(Kelly Holland)*  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term *(Sally A. Bohl)*  
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term *(David McKay)*  
Cemetery Commissioner – 1 year remaining on a 3 year term *(Sheila G. Lawrence)*  
Library Trustee - 3 year term *(Caroline S. Burch)*

Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with the town portion first, followed by the school.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office up to and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024. 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.