

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**January 25, 2024**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Debra Burchard, John Dunn, David Saldo, Diane Saldo, Sheila Pecor, Deborah Righi, and James Righi.  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
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. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda. A request was made to move the warrant article discussion to the beginning of the meeting.

#### PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE

Nancy Bushika did some research on the petition received concerning the FEMA buyout article and the Selectboard cannot change the wording of the article. Mike Denault agreed and referred to the Moderator's Handbook. Dave Saldo felt that the voters should have the right to weigh in on important matters that will affect the tax base. He said this program was intended to help poor people who could not afford to re-establish their home after a disaster, but unfortunately, it seems that it is wealthy people who are taking advantage of it. Marie Kelly-Whitney was concerned that voters could be misled by voting on a matter that is only advisory.

MOTION by Mike Denault to put the warrant article on the warrant as written and to tell voters it is advisory. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard reviewed the revenue and expense reports. Bill Levine requested that the highway department either consider hiring a third laborer or budgeting money for flaggers. Dave Tatro feels most of their roadwork can be done safely without a flagger. The board supported putting money aside to improve infrastructure and reduce the highway workload instead of hiring a third person. Future town development and potential roads to be paved were discussed. The board will consider studying it this year.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to accept the budget as presented. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### WARRANT

1. Pam Tworig suggested having the school go first each town meeting instead of alternating. Bill Levine explained why the order was changed a few years ago by town vote.
2. The board discussed Bill Levine's article to explore all options available before removing the sign. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the option available and the Zoning Board's decision that the

sign was to be removed by January 28, 2024. Mike Denault did not want an open-ended article and did not want to spend more money on it.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to write a letter to the Zoning Board of Adjustment asking for an extension of the January 28, 2024 removal date until spring due to the winter weather conditions and to allow the Selectboard to pursue an appeal through the Environmental Court. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to accept the warrant as revised. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR TOWN REPORT

The Selectboard reviewed the first draft. Pam Tworig asked if something should be added concerning the FEMA buyout program. The board debated waiting for information from FEMA to understand the town's involvement and commitment before signing the paperwork or moving forward now for the benefit of Deb Burchard.

MOTION by Marie Kelly-Whitney to proceed with filling out whatever they need to have filled out as a board with the understanding that once they talk to FEMA, they can either continue or pull out at that time. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Mike Denault), 1 abstained (Nancy Bushika). Motion APPROVED.

#### NEW STAMFORD SIGN

The Selectboard acknowledged the response from the Zoning Board of Adjustment denying the Selectboard's appeal and its ability to make the removal date decision outside of a public meeting.

#### REAPPOINTMENT LETTER

The Selectboard received a letter from Sheila Pecor requesting re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment at the expiration of her term.

MOTION by Marie Kelly-Whitney to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Marie Kelly-Whitney  
Clerk

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#### 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. Anyone interested in serving as Green Up Day Coordinator should contact a Selectboard member or the town office.
3. 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.