

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 4, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Debra Burchard, Tammy Elias, Lisa Gramlin, Peter Greenbush, Sheila Pecor. 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. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Sally Bohl reported that yesterday's town tax sale went well. Two properties were sold and one Alpenwald property was acquired by the town. Someone contacted the attorney today and purchased the town's interest in the Alpenwald property.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offer and sign the assignment transferring the town's interest to the new buyer. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2023 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #51 \$ 12,728.83 payroll
- WARRANT #52 \$286,014.51 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The road conditions have been muddy. Stone was added to Mill Road and upper County Road.
2. The plow on Dave Tatro's truck had a slow hydraulic leak this week. Dave Tatro replaced the part as soon as he noticed it. The Fire Department was dispatched and cleaned the area. It was only a small amount of fluid. Pam Tworig was grateful for our Fire Department and the job they do.
3. Dave Tatro looked into the sign mentioned by Pam Tworig at the last meeting. It is not regulatory and gives a false sense of security. Dave Tatro will not replace the sign and as he has the time, he will take the signs down.

RECYCLING

Dave Tatro reported that there is a large quantity of batteries at the recycling center. Customers will be asked to cover both ends with tape before disposal. Nancy Bushika felt the recycling monitors can tape the ends of the batteries a little each week.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The final draft of the Continuity of Operations Plan will be added as an appendix to the town's Local Emergency Management Plan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

One candidate withdrew their offer to serve on the committee. No one else has come forward. There is only one volunteer which is not enough. No appointments were made.

FEMA BUYOUT

Mike Denault read the buy out papers and felt the board should look at them carefully. He is not comfortable signing them and is not sure the terms are in the best interests of the town. Pam Tworig felt the language is boilerplate. The board will gather their questions and invite a FEMA representative to an upcoming meeting to explain.

MINUTES

Nancy Bushika would like to see the minutes shortened. Zoom and televising the meetings were discussed. A local resident will be approached to consider livestream or recording of the meetings.

TOWN LAND PURCHASE

The board discussed purchasing a parcel in town to move the highway garage away from the river. MOTION by Mike Denault to use the town ARPA funds to place a bid of \$20,000.00 to purchase the land. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. After discussion, Mike Denault amended his motion. MOTION by Mike Denault to use the town ARPA funds to place a bid of \$25,000.00 to purchase the land. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari.

SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR TOWN REPORT

Nancy Bushika has prepared the town report for the past several years. She asked board members to help by preparing their own drafts for the next meeting.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard worked on the 2024 budget.

NEW STAMFORD SIGN

The Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting to discuss the new sign is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to discuss employee salaries and permit fees pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(5) and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:35 p.m. Deb Burchard was invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 10:15 p.m. The new permit fee structure will be given to the town clerk and new permit forms will be created by the Zoning Administrator and Town Clerk.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 10:17 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 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.