

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
October 19, 2023  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Theresa Denault, Tammy Elias, Jedidiah Gramlin, Sheila Pecor, Deborah Righi, and James Righi.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of the tax sale 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 for property tax sale pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2). SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 6:01 p.m. Sally Bohl was invited to participate.

MOTION by Marie Kelly-Whitney to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 6:10 p.m. Results: the Selectboard granted permission to Sally Bohl, the Delinquent Tax Collector, to hire the attorney and proceed with the tax sale.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Additional financial reports were added to the agenda.

**MINUTES**

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 5, 2023 as written. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. 4 in favor (Nancy Bushika abstained). Motion APPROVED.

**SELECTBOARD ORDERS**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #41 \$ 8,418.57 payroll

WARRANT #42 \$79,775.09 accounts payable

**ROAD CONDITIONS**

None.

**RECYCLING**

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to purchase the compactor along with the \$2,000.00 installation fee. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Nancy Bushika would like to use ARPA money for the purchase. Bill Levine felt it is a safety hazard and agreed that infrastructure is a valid reason to spend ARPA funds.

2. The board reviewed the proposed Casella contract and the current bills. It was noted that the recycling yard is not locked. The board questioned if the demolition costs are high because people are dumping after hours and not paying for their demolition. Pam Tworig questioned if small home contractors are dumping all their demo in town because it's cheaper. The townspeople should not have to carry a large burden for demo because a few people renovate their homes. It was also stated that some people are filling up dump trucks with sand and that is not right. Mike Denault will work with Dave Tatro to purchase two deer cameras for the recycling center and sand/salt pile. Pam Tworig said the town needs to do something about the tires that have been dropped off. Mike Denault noted that we don't have any other contractor if we do not renew with Casella. Nancy Bushika agreed because the state requires the trash to stay in Vermont which prevents us from hiring Delmolino or companies that dispose their trash in Massachusetts.
3. The board reviewed the recycling update and after a lengthy conversation, agreed to increase several the demo fees.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine issued six new 911 numbers.
2. Bill Levine received a request from the school nurse to look into new paddles for its AED because they are expiring. Since the North Adams Ambulance donated the AED, he will ask them if they are willing to donate another set of paddles.
3. The Vermont Emergency Management and Bennington County Regional Commission are co-sponsoring an exercise to plan for a long power outage. It will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 in Arlington, Vermont from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He invited Selectboard members and said there would be room for interested townspeople if not all of the Selectboard members attend.

#### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Theresa Denault explained the tree lighting ceremony planned for Sunday, December 3, 2023. People will meet at the Stamford Community Church. Santa Claus will arrive on a horse-drawn carriage and everyone will follow the carriage down to the school singing Christmas carols. Santa will light the tree and hand out treats and then head back to the North Pole.

#### STAMFORD MAIN RENEWABLES WIND TURBINE PROJECT

Pam Tworig misspoke at the last meeting when Marie Kelly-Whitney wanted to vote on the project. She said the board should be gathering all comments and preparing to submit a response prior to the deadline. The group of neighbors near the proposed project have contacted Annette Smith. The board scheduled a special meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 3 p.m. as a work session to prepare a response.

#### DIGITAL SPEED RADAR SIGNS

The board felt permanent, non-solar, signs on poles on each end of the school zone would be best. The radar signs do not need to take pictures or store data on the cloud. Mike Denault will work with Glenn Ethier on a basic radar sign and will get back to the board.

#### FEMA BUYOUT

The Selectboard was contacted by a FEMA representative on behalf of a resident who has requested a FEMA buyout after the July flooding. Kurt Gamari felt there are many houses in the flood zone and this could start a trend. The town would no longer receive tax money for these homes. Mike Denault questioned why the town would want to do this. Bill Levine noted that a couple homes in

Readsboro have been bought by FEMA. It was unclear whether the homes have to have sustained substantial damage or just need to have a risk of flood damage to qualify. Nancy Bushika will contact the FEMA representative to schedule a zoom meeting with the Selectboard to collect more information.

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Third quarter income and expense reports were provided by the Treasurer.

#### DOG UPDATE

1. The Dog Officer still has two dogs in his care. The board was frustrated. Luke McKay will contact a new shelter opening in Pittsfield to see if they will accept the dogs. With the kennel full, there is concern if the town acquires another dog, especially during the winter since our old kennel is inadequate for winter use. The board discussed raising fees and moving the dog kennel to the town garage. The dog owners should be responsible for all payment of all fees, not the taxpayers.
2. There are four dogs that are not licensed with the town. The Selectboard has no other alternative but to issue tickets through the Vermont Judicial Bureau to enforce the Dog Ordinance and bring these last four dog owners into compliance.

#### STAMFORD SIGN

1. The town has not heard from the attorney concerning the sign. Discussion ensued as to whether a permit is still needed and if it is negated since 14 days have passed since the Zoning Administrator's verbal decision. Mike Denault had several questions and stated that it's not right if they are holding up the vote because they are afraid of the outcome. Mike Denault feels this shows that our policy has flaws and the town should be taking steps to correct this in the future.
2. The board received a letter from Darryl Pecor requesting to store the old sign that was removed from the school lawn in his barn. If the town ends up with a Historical Society location that can store the sign properly, he would be willing to return it.  
MOTION by Kurt Gamari to give Darryl Pecor the old sign to store in his barn. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. A resident asked if there were any plans to install new signs designating the town office and school. Pam Tworig did not feel anyone will volunteer because of the problems with the new sign. The grant funds used to install the sign have been spent down through landscaping costs and the movement of the tree to the north side of the school yard.

#### ZONING APPLICATION FEES

The Selectboard reviewed the list of building application fees provided by Deb Burchard. They will discuss the fees at a future meeting when Deb Burchard can attend.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. 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. Residents who sustained flood damage are encouraged to apply for FEMA funds at [disasterassistance.org](http://disasterassistance.org). Information is also available at [vem.vermont.gov/flood](http://vem.vermont.gov/flood). The application deadline has been extended to October 31, 2023.
3. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed by April 1st of each year. State law requires a valid rabies vaccination certificate to be filed with the Town Clerk's office. Licensing your dog is very easy. Rabies certificates can be faxed to the town office at 802-694-1636 or emailed to the town office at [townclerk@stamfordvt.net](mailto:townclerk@stamfordvt.net). Once the current rabies certificate is on file, license renewals can be handled in person, by mailing a check, by utilizing the mail slot in the back wall of the town office or by telephone with a credit card. License fees are \$9.00 for each spayed/neutered dog or \$13.00 for each intact dog. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Stamford.
4. 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.