

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 5, 2023
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Theresa Denault, Tammy Elias, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Marta Miller, Sheila Pecor, Deborah Righi, James Righi, and Richard Silc.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Mike Denault 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. Additional correspondence and an item under New Business were added to the agenda.

ZONING APPLICATION FEES

Deb Burchard handed out copies of fee schedules she gathered from other towns and noted that the fees vary greatly.

MINUTES

MOTION by Pam Tworig to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 21, 2023 as written.
SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #39 \$ 8,834.99 payroll
- WARRANT #40 \$16,832.32 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has been catching up on ditching and will be leaf blowing soon.
2. The winter sand hauler is willing to keep his hauling price the same as last year. If there is a large fuel surcharge, he may need to talk to the board after the new year.
MOTION by Pam Tworig to accept Al Whitney as the sand hauler for the same price as last year.
SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. Dave Tatro will give the winter equipment a test run soon.
4. All of the trucks are working and back on the road.
5. Mike Denault said he had a resident complain about the roads. Some residents expect things to be perfect at all times. We've had extraordinary conditions this summer with the rain and many residents have praised the highway crew for doing such a good job.
6. Deb Burchard asked about the Klondike Road route. They have to drive seven miles through Clarksburg to plow one mile on Klondike Road and drive seven miles back. Dave Tatro has tried to make a deal with Clarksburg but it has not worked and hiring a contractor would be too expensive.
7. Dave Tatro thanked Rob Lamore who helped flush out culverts with the tanker this week.

RECYCLING

Dave Tatro and Pam Tworig viewed the used trash compactor for sale by Casella. Dave Tatro said the controls have been stored inside and Casella will install it. They will remove our old one. He feels it is a good deal for \$10,000.00.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to purchase the used compactor they went to see. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dara Zink from the Bennington County Regional Commission held a remote meeting with Bill Levine, Paul Ethier, Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard to review the results of the survey and discuss the frequency and impact of various hazards. She will attend the next Selectboard meeting and should be nearly finished with the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

DEERFIELD VALLEY CUD

Bill Levine advised that there have been several trucks installing the fiber optic wires. Residents can call or go online to DVFiber.net to sign up.

STAMFORD MAIN RENEWABLES WIND TURBINE PROJECT

Marie Kelly-Whitney feels the project is in violation of our Town Plan and wanted to make a decision on it. Norwich Solar has asked for another extension and the town cannot vote until their petition is filed with the Public Utilities Commission. The new petition no. is 23-2427-PET.

BIDS FOR AUDITING SERVICES

Nancy Bushika contacted Love, Cody & Company. They provided three additional firms and suggested the town send another round of bid packages to them. Bids will be due November 2, 2023.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to send Request for Proposals to the companies recommended by the auditor. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

STREETLIGHTS

Nancy Bushika and Pam Tworig reviewed the lights. Nancy Bushika provided a list of the 29 lights the town pays for. Two lights are not working and Green Mountain Power will replace the bulbs.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VACANCY

The board received letters of interest from Sheila Pecor and Bill Levine. Marie Kelly-Whitney felt both candidates were excellent and qualified but would like Sheila Pecor because she believes Sheila Pecor has more time and Bill Levine has so much going on already. Pam Tworig disagreed. Bill Levine withdrew his application for the position.

MOTION by Marie Kelly-Whitney to appoint Sheila Pecor to fill the remainder of the term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. 3 in favor, 1 opposed (Pam Tworig). Motion APPROVED.

STAMFORD SIGN

The town is waiting for the attorney's opinion on the sign but nothing has come in the mail yet.

DIGITAL SPEED RADAR SIGNS

Mike Denault reviewed several portable and permanent options with the board, varying from trailer mounted, dolly mounted or pole mounted. Prices ranged from \$3,000.00 to over \$7,000.00. Dave Tatro felt permanent signs with AC power placed along the bus route would be best. The budgeted funds are earmarked for law enforcement – sheriff, so they could be used to purchase the signs. The board will review the material and discuss it further at their next meeting.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Pam Tworig is concerned with the price for tires and demolition materials. Dave Tatro is concerned that contractors doing home renovation work aren't paying their fair share.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to keep the price for the access cards the same as last year and address the other recycling fees once more information is received. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

OFFER TO PURCHASE TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

Russell Newland increased his offer to purchase Lot 384 in Alpenwald from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offer to purchase Lot 384 for \$1,500.00. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

The town received the renewal package from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. The building values and equipment were reviewed with the Selectboard and were acceptable.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS IN AID

The cost of the work on Jepson and Boulger Road was less than anticipated since some work was done as part of the FEMA flood repair work. The total cost of the project was \$10,527.06. The town's portion will be 20% or \$2,105.41 and the town will receive grant reimbursement funds in the amount of \$8,421.65.

MOTION by Pam Tworig to approve the grant invoicing spreadsheet and file for the grant funds. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Theresa Denault has begun planning the event and suggested a date of Sunday, December 3, 2023 for the tree lighting ceremony. She asked to have the item added to the next meeting's agenda.

HALLOWEEN HOURS

MOTION by Mike Denault to set Halloween trick or treat hours the same as last year, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31st. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Fire Department will be out with trucks and flashing lights.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to adjourn. SECONDED by Marie Kelly-Whitney. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Marie Kelly-Whitney
Clerk

/las

REMINDERS

1. Individuals who sustained damages during the July flooding event should report their damage to vermont211.org or call Vermont 2-1-1 at 866-652-4636 or 802-652-4636.
2. 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.
3. Residents who sustained flood damage are encouraged to apply for FEMA funds at disasterassistance.org. Information is also available at vem.vermont.gov/flood.
4. 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. 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.
5. 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.