

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 19, 2023
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Michael G. Denault, Pamela Tworig, and Daniel J. Potvin.

Visitors: Kurt Gamari, Marie Kelly-Whitney, Beth Phelps, and Natalie Yorke.
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika 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 was added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 5, 2023 and the budget work session minutes of January 12, 2023 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the Certificate of Highway Mileage as presented. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. There were no mileage changes this year.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept and sign the Request for Proposal seeking contractors to update the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, and to send it to all contractors on the list provided by Vermont Emergency Management. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The town has received a hazard mitigation plan grant in the amount of \$7,612.00 with a 25% match.
2. Bill Levine attended a Preparedness webinar offered by the state. They are looking for towns to participate and the exercise will be a major power outage in the southern part of the state. Towns should be prepared on an individual basis for 72 hours until the state can step in with additional assistance. He suggested purchasing vegetarian/vegan alternatives to MREs for around fifty people for three days. They are guaranteed to be shelf-stable for five years.
3. Bill Levine has scheduled the yearly generator maintenance.
4. Paul Ethier will be purchasing two AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) for the fire department and will negotiate buying two more for the town.

MODERATOR

Bill Levine stated that there is a webinar for moderators on February 8, 2023. This would be a great course for anyone who is interested in becoming the moderator.

LAWN MOWING BIDS

The Selectboard reviewed the draft of the lawn mowing bids and made some minor changes. They will send out the invitation to bid in February and added several contractors to the list.

WARNING FOR THE TOWN OF STAMFORD

The Selectboard reviewed the articles. It could not be finalized since the Fire Department's figures are not available. The Selectboard included \$40,000.00 in the budget for law enforcement as well as a warrant article for an additional \$40,000.00. The Selectboard is not voicing support for this article, but is choosing to put the issue in front of the voters for them to decide if they want to pay for additional law enforcement coverage or keep the current amount of coverage. Dan Potvin felt that the article for an additional \$40,000.00 in law enforcement should be removed because it will increase taxes too much and many people in town are on a fixed income and are already struggling to pay their taxes.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The board reviewed and revised the Selectboard Report that will be included in the Town Report.

RESIGNATION FROM THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the resignation of Jan Farinon from the Cemetery Commission.

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

A list will be compiled of vacant elected and appointed positions that will be available this March.

Please contact the town office or a Selectboard member for more information.

TOWN CLERK TRAINING

The town clerk recently attended a webinar on reasonable suspicion. Ongoing training is required as part of the town's CDL program.

PLOWING OF CLASS 4 ROAD

Ryan Wolters was contacted concerning the agreement and the plowing contractor has provided an updated insurance policy. Bill Levine noted that there was an article in the January VLCT newsletter concerning Class 4 Road policies that the board should read.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Nominating papers and the Consent of Candidate form for the elected positions listed below can be picked up at the Town Office. The petition must be signed by at least 1% of the registered voters, which is eight people, and the deadline for filing these forms with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 30, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.
2. The next Selectboard meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 will begin at 6:30 p.m. since there is a Board of Abatement meeting earlier.

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 19, 2023. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 37 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 30, 2023 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 (*William Levine*)
- School Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
- Town Clerk – 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
- Treasurer – 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
- Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Nancy L. Bushika*)
- Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Carol A. Fachini*)
- Selectboard member – 1 year remaining on a 3 year term (*Daniel J. Potvin*)
- School Director - 2 year term (*Erika Bailey*)
- School Director - 3 year term (*Danielle Smith*)
- Auditor - 1 year term (*vacancy*)
- Auditor - 2 year term (*vacancy*)
- Auditor - 3 year term (*vacancy*)
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
- Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
- Cemetery Commission - 2 years remaining on a 3 year term (*Janice Farinon*)
- Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Linda Rodovick*)

Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with the school portion first, followed by the town.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 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 6, 2023. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in being considered for an appointed board position should contact a member of that board or the Selectboard. Please review the list of appointed positions that expire below.

Zoning Administrator

Ryan Rush-Booth (3 year term) 2023

Board of Adjustment

Theodore N. Dobbert (3 year term) 2023

Emergency Management Director

William H. Levine (1 year term) 2023

Emergency Management Coordinator Sheila G. Lawrence (1 year term)	2023
Dog Officer Luke McKay (1 year term)	2023
Energy Coordinator Jennifer Hughs (1 year term)	2023
Septic Officer Maura Hawkins (1 year term)	2023
Planning Commission Daniel J. Potvin (4 year term)	2023
Carolyn Brooks (4 year term)	2023
Conservation Commission David L. Saldo (4 year term)	2023
Vacancy (4 year term)	2025
Vacancy (4 year term)	2024
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Road Commissioner David R. Tatro (1 year term)	2023
Tree Warden Bruce Richardson (1 year term)	2023
Bennington County Regional Commission Debra Burchard (1 year term)	2023
Daniel J. Potvin (1 year term)	2023
Green Up Day Coordinator Susan Flash (1 year term)	2023
Community Projects Committee Clay Zeller-Townson (3 year term)	2023