

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 20, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Robert Bouchard, Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Theresa Denault, Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle, Kurt Gamari, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Beth Phelps, Deborah Righi, James Righi, Ryan Rush-Booth, and Jessica Tatro.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
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. There was some additional correspondence added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Ryan Rush-Booth asked the Selectboard to approve closing down the Main Road during Trick or Treat hours for the safety of the children. He spoke with the Vermont Agency of Transportation who was supportive and recommended that due to liability issues he should have the town or fire department sign the road closure form. He suggested having the fire department re-route traffic over The Lane, East Road and Clough Road. Many felt the increased traffic over East Road would pose additional safety issues. Dave Tatro stated the turn at the top of The Lane would be dangerous for trailer trucks and log trucks. Mike Denault had no problem with it but felt the fire department needed to be on board. Bill Levine felt it would be hard to pull it together for this year, but perhaps it could be done for next year.
2. Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle notified the board that three campaign signs have been stolen in town. Mike Denault suggested she contact the Vermont Agency of Transportation who sometimes picks up signs within the state's right-of-way. Signs at the recycling center were also missing. It was noted that signs are not supposed to be put on a fence or tree or made to look like a road sign.
3. Deb Burchard would like to see a committee to help decorate this year's Christmas tree. She suggested involving the school children to make ornaments, maybe with a theme such as the history of Stamford. The board supported her idea.

ATV REQUEST TO GRANT VASA ACCESS TO A SMALL PORTION OF COUNTY ROAD

The Selectboard asked Jessica Tatro several questions about the Stamford Ridge Riders membership and VASA. Pam Tworig also had several questions. She wanted to prevent the parking at the high tensions on County Road. Since it is private property owned by the power company, there is nothing the town can do. There was confusion as to whether the trail in Pownal was a VASA trail. Rob Bouchard said the trails in Pownal are VASA trails and it is not VASA but the National Forest who requires this piece in order to connect trail 301 and 302. Pam Tworig asked several other questions which were answered by Jessica Tatro and Rob Bouchard. Mike Denault saw the parking lot as a negative, but he feels now is the opportunity for the town to give the club a chance. If there are too many problems, the town can shut it down at the end of five years. Marta Miller voiced concerns about these trails bringing additional traffic into the area. Dave Tatro suggested declassifying that portion of the road from a Class 4 road to a legal trail. There is a Riders Safety Program and Jessica Tatro is working to become a certified trainer.

MOTION by Mike Denault to begin the process of declassifying the 0.3 mile section of County Road from the Sucker Pond Trail due west to the Pownal line to a legal trail. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to grant permission to VASA to use that 0.3 portion of County Road. Without a second, the motion FAILED.

The board revised the Resolution to specifically identify the section of County Road.

MOTION by Mike Denault to grant VASA permission to use the 0.3 section of County Road. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The revised Resolution was signed.

SOUTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Deb Burchard spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission who reviewed the email received from Laura Sibilia requesting the town's support of a new Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone. She stated that the Planning Commission has no input at this time and suggested that the Selectboard invite Jonathan Cooper from the Bennington County Regional Commission to talk to the Selectboard and Planning Commission to provide more information. It is difficult to determine if this will benefit our town so learning more will put us in a better position to make a decision.

MOTION by Mike Denault to invite Jonathan Cooper to the next Selectboard meeting. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MINUTES

Pam Tworig asked for a change in the minutes. In the ATV section of the last minutes it said Pam Tworig agreed that probably 99% of townspeople would support this. She wanted to clarify that her full statement was: if you told the vast majority of the town that the ATV Club and VASA want to go from Klondike Road to Risky Ranch Road, up Sucker Pond Trail and ride to Readsboro and back through the woods, most people would be ok with it. It's the fear that was installed by the Jack Pines Pirates Club requesting access to all the roads, which would allow ATV riding in residential areas, that's what people don't want.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 6, 2022 as revised. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #41 \$ 7,530.92 payroll

WARRANT #42 \$ 20,292.30 accounts payable

WINTER SAND

Dave Tatro requested bids from Allen Whitney, Eilers Brothers and Dailey/Peckham Industries for winter sand. Dailey/Peckham Industries provided a quote for winter sand at the rate of \$10.50/ton (not delivered). Al Whitney provided a quote for hauling only at the rate of \$12.00/ton. Eilers Brothers did not respond.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the bid from Dailey/Peckham Industries to buy the sand and the quote from Al Whitney to haul the sand. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The Lincoln Road project should be completed in the next two weeks. The deck needs to be poured and the guardrails will need to be installed. Nancy Bushika asked about the Bazin Brothers bill. Dave Tatro advised that the town is responsible for providing the material.

2. The Jepson Road ditching project was completed and inspected so we should be able to send in the final paperwork for the project.
3. The highway crew has been grading and removing the leaves from culverts to prevent drainage issues.

RECYCLING

1. The new recycling cards are being sold at the town office. Carol Fachini was approached by a resident asking if the cards could be sold at the transfer station. The Selectboard thought it was best to sell them at the town office. For people who have trouble getting to the town office, punch cards can be purchased through the mail. Checks can be mailed or dropped off using the mail slot in the back wall of the town office and the town office will mail back the punch cards. Credit card payments can also be processed over the phone.
2. Nancy Bushika spoke with someone at the state regarding the recycling of household batteries. The state will get us set up. There is a short training session for the recycling monitors.

DEERFIELD VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

Bill Levine advised that the hurricane has caused a slight delay. They just approved a \$2.5 million expenditure for hardware, cable boxes and other items.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine brought in the radiation meter for Dan Potvin to borrow. He said the town at one time had a supply of potassium iodine pills but not anymore.

JOINT AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

VLCT advised that additional insurance would cost \$3.18 for each additional \$1,000.00 in contents. When the board understood what they consider to be contents and how many items, such as computers, are covered by other sections of the policy, they decided there was no need to increase the values.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The town was contacted by the Bennington County Regional Commission to gather information about our municipal buildings for a new state grant program. The program would help pay for energy efficiency improvements from weatherization to replacement of heating systems. The board felt the town should participate for the town office and highway garage and should pass this along to the school.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

The town clerk has been working on the hazard mitigation grant to assist the town in updating its hazard mitigation plan. The state has forwarded the grant agreement for the board's signature offering a grant in the amount of \$7,612.50 with a 25% match for an anticipated total cost of \$10,150.00. An updated hazard mitigation plan is important if the town sustains damage that is reimbursable by FEMA.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the grant agreement. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

LINCOLN ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT LOAN

The Selectboard signed the promissory note for the loan through Adams Community Bank.

TRANSFER STATION BULLETIN BOARD

Mike Denault has been working with Pam Tworig on the bulletin board for the transfer station. It should be completed soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Denault stated that the needles and trash on Klondike Road which was mentioned at the last meeting is gone. Someone has picked it all up.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee this year should contact a Selectboard member or the town office.

2. Tax bills have been issued and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2022. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.

3. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

4. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted through Election Day. Application forms can be requested by calling the town office at 802-694-1361 or you can register to vote online through Vermont's My Voter Page at <https://www.mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>.

5. The state has mailed ballots directly to all registered voters and many townspeople are beginning to receive them. People can return their voted ballots by mail, by dropping them off at the town clerk's office or by using the mail slot installed in the back wall of the town office. Anyone who would like to vote in person on Election Day should bring their unvoted ballot which they received in the mail with them. They will use this ballot to vote. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2020. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.