

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 3, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, and Douglas Wright.
John Dunn was not present.

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Debra Righi, James Righi, and James Stimpson.
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.

STAMFORD RESILIENCY FAIR

Marta Miller reminded residents of the upcoming Stamford Resiliency Fair on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stamford School. All are welcome to attend and learn about resiliency, preparedness, and independence.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2024 as written. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #39 \$ 9,139.18 payroll
- WARRANT #40 \$41,611.20 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has completed the Jepson Road Grants-in-Aid project.
2. The Freightliner is back in the shop. Dave Tatro just had the transmission repaired which cost approximately \$4,900.00 and it immediately had more transmission problems when they picked it up. It now needs a full transmission replacement which will cost around \$11,000.00 and the garage does not want to give the town any credit for the first \$4,900.00 bill. Mike Denault asked if there were other Freightliner garages we could do business with. Dave Tatro likes the convenience of using this garage.
3. Al Whitney is willing to keep his hauling price the same as last year. He has been very reliable and Dave Tatro would like to hire him for the 2024-2025 season. The Selectboard agreed.
4. Dave Tatro will be moving the excavator up to Klondike Road and will work his way around County Road.
5. It has been too dry to grade the gravel roads. Nancy Bushika asked if he would add Millard Road to his list.
6. The FEMA final grant application was signed for the Mill Road repair work from last year's flooding. The cost of the repair was over \$69,000.00 and the reimbursement the town will receive is a little over \$52,000.00.

7. Selectboard members visited the Saie property on Forgette Road. They reviewed a letter submitted by David Saie. Dave Tatro believes they need to install a driveway culvert to control the water runoff. The town has a Highway Ordinance which must be followed. The Selectboard will send a letter to the Saie's with the board's decision.

8. Deb Burchard questioned the board regarding the activity on Mill Road from the National Grid infrastructure upgrade. National Grid did respond, detailing the project and stating that they are following the transportation laws they are required to follow. Deb Burchard feels they are not being truthful. Mike Denault is concerned with the safety of residents due to the speed and the wide load vehicles that are travelling on Mill Road.

9. Greater Heights submitted a quote of \$6,500.00 to remove the trees at the intersection of The Lane and East Road. The board accepted the quote and told Dave Tatro to move forward with the work.

10. Dave Tatro advised that the garage roof material has been ordered but the work has not begun.

11. Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard worked together to submit a grant application for MERP (Municipal Energy Resiliency Program) funding to replace the highway garage doors.

12. It is time to do another assessment of the town's hydrologically-connected road segments. The state requires this every five years. Last year Dave Tatro worked with the Bennington County Regional Commission and he would like to hire them again this year.

13. Board members received a copy of the current Highway Ordinance. Nancy Bushika asked board members to review the ordinance for discussion at the next meeting.

14. A resident requested that the highway crew remove a bee hive formed on one of our town bridges. Dave Tatro did not feel it was the responsibility of the highway department. The Selectboard agreed.

RECYCLING

Tom Nazzewski advised that the Stamford Ridge Riders ATV group has started cleanup efforts and will do some more cleaning this Sunday morning.

PLANNING COMMISSION RESIGNATION

The board received two letters of interest to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission, one from Jim Stimpson and one from Marta Miller. Kurt Gamari felt both were great candidates. Dave Tatro suggested the Selectboard increase the Planning Commission to nine members and appoint him as well.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to bring the membership on the Planning Commission back up to nine members and appoint Jim Stimpson, Marta Miller and Dave Tatro. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Marta Miller was appointed to fill Maura Hawkins' term ending in 2025. Jim Stimpson was appointed to a staggered three years remaining on a four year term ending in 2027. Dave Tatro was appointed to a four year term ending in 2028.

STAMFORD SIGN

The building permit application was denied by the Zoning Administrator due to the setback from the road being 35 feet instead of the required 50 feet. Deb Burchard did not feel she could issue a waiver.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appeal the Zoning Administrator's decision to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

HALLOWEEN HOURS

1. 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.

Bill Levine will request the presence of the Fire Department with their trucks and flashing lights.

2. Laura Champagne said the Stamford Ridge Riders group has received permission to give out candy in the church parking lot with their side-by-sides.

MAILBOXES

Laura Champagne stated that her mailbox along with others at the bottom of Jepson Road has been damaged. She has filed a complaint with the post office.

NOVEMBER ELECTION

Marta Miller feels it is important to spread the word that voters need to bring the ballot they received in the mail with them to vote in person on election day. A poster will be created.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

The list is down to three people and four dogs. The Dog Officer continues to work on it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. MOTION by Kurt Gamari to find that premature public discussion of an attorney/client/civil action would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to enter executive session for an attorney/client/civil matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:20 p.m. Lori Shepard was invited to participate.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to exit executive session. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Action: Lori Shepard, Mike Denault and Doug Wright will participate in the status conference on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

STAMFORD RIDGE RIDERS

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to grant permission to the ATV club riders to ride for one night on Mill road only on October 31, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to hand out candy for Halloween, with the stipulation that all laws must be followed. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
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. Anyone interested in applying for the part-time Assistant Assessor Clerk position should submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard.
3. The Wednesday afternoon summer hours at the transfer station will end on Wednesday, October 30, 2024.
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.