

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
October 6, 2022  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Laura Champagne, Theresa Denault, Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle, Kurt Gamari, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Beth Phelps, Deborah Righi, James Righi, Jessica Tatro, Trevor Tatro, and Natalie Yorke.

Luke McKay, Dog Officer.

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. Jessica Tatro on behalf of the Stamford Ridge Riders Club requested permission from the Selectboard to grant VASA access to the 0.3 mile portion of County Road from the Sucker Pond Trail (#301) to the Pownal line. The Club has met with National Forest and Martina Barnes has issued a letter stating that she would not include the parking area in their South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project. National Forest will not consider reopening Trail #301 and Trail #302 without this small connecting piece. Jessica Tatro provided a map showing the segment and Nancy Bushika asked several questions to clarify the request and location of the trail. Jessica Tatro noted that they have not received any complaints on their website. She said the board is not giving up the road or turning over control of the road, just granting permission. Mike Denault noted that this is a section of County Road that Dave Tatro does not maintain and hasn't maintained for years. Natalie Yorke was concerned that allowing VASA in would bring in a lot of riders. Pam Tworig asked why they were requesting permission now when National Forest won't consider opening the trail until the spring of 2024. Jessica Tatro said the Club would like to apply for a grant and can begin making improvements to the trail. She said the Club would be happy to work with Dave Tatro and the Selectboard. Marta Miller felt that a lot of time was already spent to reach a decision that was a compromise for both sides. She was concerned that this would create issues in residential areas. The lack of enforcement was also mentioned. Jessica Tatro noted that the Club obtained over 70 signatures from people who supported the small connector trail. Pam Tworig agreed that probably 99% of townspeople would support this. Mike Denault stated that the Readsboro Jack Pines Pirates' request to open up all the roads really hurt the Club who isn't asking for that. Mike Denault said he hasn't decided how he would vote yet, but felt if they granted permission now for a five year period, the first couple years would only be trail improvement work. The Selectboard could see how things go. He is not satisfied with the language about the parking lot and if the Selectboard does agree to grant permission, the wording would be important. Nancy Bushika suggested that the board table this matter until next meeting so it can be on the agenda for discussion.
2. Laura Champagne said Mill Road is a shuffleboard and needs attention.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 15, 2022 as written.  
SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #37 \$ 8,407.32 payroll
- WARRANT #38 \$ 38,209.50 accounts payable
- WARRANT #39 \$ 8,047.57 payroll
- WARRANT #40 \$181,773.28 accounts payable

## FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of September.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

No update.

## RECYCLING

Small household batteries should be recycled and not put in the demo bin. The battery collection box cannot be located. A new box will be requested from the state.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the recycling update as presented. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine, Eunice Rice and Pam Tworig reviewed the contents of the Red Cross emergency trailer at the firehouse. Everything is in good shape. They created a small list of items that should be purchased such as a folding table. Carolyn Brooks is willing to donate some folding chairs. The trailer has a Plexiglas vent on top that was cracked and created a small leak. They repaired it temporarily but will need to order a new vent. Any monetary donations can be made to the town.
2. The Vermont Emergency Management Group met recently. A website is being created called [Survivermont.org](http://Survivermont.org) providing direction on how to prepare for a variety of emergencies.
3. Bill Levine stated that Paul Ethier has applied for another fire truck grant. He explained the electronic control panels that are installed on new trucks.
4. Dan Potvin asked him if he still has the radiation meter. Bill Levine said he would bring it to the next meeting.

## NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. 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. Bill Levine suggested that voters make sure to turn the ballot over as there are races on the back. Nancy Bushika suggested urging the state to allow town clerks to mail out the ballots. The town office is available to answer any questions.

## TRANSFER STATION BULLETIN BOARD

Pam Tworig felt it was important to get the voting information out to residents. She would like to see a bulletin board at the transfer station. Mike Denault agreed to build it if she draws it up.

## OFFER TO PURCHASE TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the bid from Jay and Natalie O'Neil to purchase the 1.42 acre parcel on Main Road for \$1,000.00. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Nancy Bushika felt the meeting went well. She typed the first draft of an Agreement for Services between the Selectboard and School Directors. The board will review it for further discussion at the next meeting.

#### LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

The Selectboard reviewed the policy values and will see what the cost will be to increase the value of the town office contents before making a decision.

#### HALLOWEEN HOURS

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to set Halloween trick or treat hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31st. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The Fire Department will be out with trucks and flashing lights again this year. Mike Denault noted that they do a great job.

#### MOWING CONTRACT

The board felt the proposed mowing bid was acceptable. They would like to send the invitation to bid out in March or early April next year.

#### LINCOLN ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT LOAN

The Treasurer contacted two banks for quotes to borrow \$220,000.00 with a five year term payable annually. Adams Community Bank bid 4.49% and Berkshire Bank quoted 5.0%

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the quote from Adams Community Bank in the amount of 4.49%. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

1. The board received a request to read out loud the letter from Martina Barnes concerning the parking lot. Pam Tworig and Mike Denault discussed the wording and agreed they cannot control what National Forest does on their land. Mike Denault felt the Selectboard can control how the permission is worded and can terminate the agreement if the parking lot comes up. National Forest may never agree to reopen the trails, even if the Selectboard grants permission. Mike Denault felt by granting permission, the Selectboard is not being part of the problem, but is working with our residents who want to ride.
2. The Selectboard received an email from Laura Sibilia requesting the town's support. The state has created a Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone which includes the 44 towns in southern Vermont. The Committee wants to create a development strategy for southern Vermont to increase population, infrastructure and economic development. Pam Tworig feels the state keeps pushing us to increase our population and grow our economy but that may not be what's best for Stamford. Bennington or Wilmington might benefit from more people but it's not necessarily good for Stamford. Kurt Gamari felt that vast infrastructure improvements would have to be made to our town center to support more population. Natalie Yorke suggested that the town send out a survey to see what direction the residents would like. Kurt Gamari noted that the state is promoting low income housing as the way to increase population density. The Selectboard would like input from the Planning Commission before moving forward.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There are still four dog owners who have not responded or licensed their dogs. Tickets have been issued and hearings will be scheduled in court.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Selectboard will be looking for volunteers to serve during the upcoming budget season. Pam Tworig felt it is important to have an accounting background, especially because the school budget is difficult to understand. Mike Denault felt anyone who has business sense would be fine. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee this year should contact a Selectboard member or the town office.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mike Denault stated that people routinely walk on Klondike Road and pick up trash. They discovered some used needles. Mike Denault asked about the proper protocol for handling this waste. We do not have a sharps container at the recycling center. The highway crew often picks up large items that have been dumped on the back roads. Kurt Gamari suggested the highway crew should receive blood born pathogen training if this is something they will be expected to handle. It was decided that Tapestry in North Adams, MA will be contacted to obtain a container and the needles will be picked up and returned to Tapestry.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 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.