

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
November 3, 2022  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Theresa Denault, Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle, Kurt Gamari, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Deborah Righi, and James Righi.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner, was not present.

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. Carolyn Brooks was excited to announce that the town sign will be constructed this weekend. The project has had great input from volunteers and she listed those who helped in various ways. She would like to have a ceremony to recognize and thank all the people who contributed to the sign at the tree lighting ceremony on December 4, 2022. Nancy Bushika will open the tree lighting ceremony with a few welcoming comments and Carolyn Brooks will acknowledge the volunteers and show the new sign.

2. Eleanor Derby-Kilfoyle handed out some information on polling place signs and rules from the Vermont Statutes. She agreed that you cannot put signs within the highway right-of-way but said there was nothing that says you can't hang a sign on a fence.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 20, 2022 as written.

SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #43 \$ 6,824.80 payroll

WARRANT #44 \$ 11,382.81 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

Nancy Bushika spoke for Dave Tatro who was not present. The Lincoln Road bridge is just about done. The blacktopping is completed and the guardrails are installed. As soon as all the bills have been received and paid, the town will submit a request for grant reimbursement. Nancy Bushika would like to get the funds by the end of the year. To date, the town has spent \$297,448.82 on the Lincoln Road bridge. The guardrails on Jepson Road which were damaged from a motor vehicle accident this summer were replaced.

#### RECLASSIFICATION OF CLASS 4 ROAD TO LEGAL TRAIL

Carol Fachini asked if National Forest will acquire control when the road becomes a legal trail. Mike Denault did not think they would have any control unless the Selectboard gives it to them. It was acknowledged that the National Forest owns the property on both sides of the road in that area. The board will ask the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for an answer before proceeding. Lori Shepard explained the process of reclassifying a road. The board will have to schedule a public site visit and hold a public hearing. They will have to give 30 days' notice to the abutters and interested parties, and publish the notice in the newspaper not less than 10 days before the hearing. A survey is not required but a detailed description of the section being reclassified will have to be prepared. Nancy Bushika found the minutes from the meeting where the road was originally laid out. Kurt Gamari asked why the board wasn't considering declassifying the road from the Pownal line to the Risky Ranch Road intersection. Mike Denault felt that would make it hard on our camp owners. Kurt Gamari acknowledged that the land is a beautiful area. He asked if signs could be installed saying no winter maintenance where the Class 4 ends.

#### RECYCLING

The new recycling cards are selling quickly. There have been a few complaints about the increased price.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Fire Department had the fire trucks out for trick or treating. They had a good turnout of firemen and all went well. Mike Denault noted that the Fire Department was praised on social media. Bill Levine felt everything went well and did not feel there was any reason to deliberately close the road.

#### JOINT AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Nancy Bushika asked if this was something the Selectboard wanted to continue to work on, or if they'd rather keep things verbal as they have been. They felt the agreement was a good idea but would rather wait to discuss it after budget season. Pam Tworig felt the joint meetings were to facilitate communication between the boards. Mike Denault agreed and noted several items that have been worked out so far. He would like to add the Bennington Sheriff to the next discussion as the town was billed for the sheriff's participation in the Walk to School day and it was the first they had heard of it. Bill Levine felt the Selectboard has a responsibility to protect the town and if it means increasing the sheriff's budget for these things then it should be done. Mike Denault explained that when non-emergency items come up, they would like to be notified first. Bill Levine acknowledged that perhaps the school budget should include some funds to cover sheriff's costs.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

No one has come forward expressing an interest in joining the Finance Committee.

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

There are five slots and only three names on the ballot. Marta Miller would like to be written in and she said Deb Burchard expressed an interest as well.

#### TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Theresa Denault gave an update. Several people have volunteered to help in various ways.

## TRANSFER STATION BULLETIN BOARD

Mike Denault said the bulletin board for the transfer station should be installed by next week.

## NOVEMBER ELECTION

The town clerk asked the Selectboard and Justices of the Peace to assist in counting the ballots after the election.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 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.