

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 2, 2023
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Pamela Tworig, and Daniel J. Potvin.
Carol A. Fachini was not present.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Kurt Gamari, Luke McKay, Marta Miller, Deborah Righi, James Righi, and
Natalie Yorke.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:30 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.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN BIDS

The Selectboard received three bids: one from Allison Strohl at the Bennington County Regional Commission in the amount of \$9,889.00; one from Shawna Pinette of Threat Owl, LLC in the amount of \$9,600.00, and one from Stephanie Magnan at Seam Solutions in the amount of \$9,900.00. The board members would like time to review each bid. They will reconvene on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the bids in detail.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 19, 2023 as written.

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

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #3 \$10,023.19 payroll

WARRANT #4 \$28,389.25 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

Dave Tatro asked the board to consider setting money aside for the highway department. He felt there are a lot of needs that he has been hesitant to ask for which would be much better than \$40,000.00 on the sheriff. The loader is 30 years old, the heating system at the garage is inadequate, the garage ceiling could be lowered along with some insulation and in five years the town will need another plow truck. The \$40,000.00 to increase the sheriff's patrol time is fruitless when compared to what improvements could be done in the highway department. Pam Tworig felt they were two separate things and that his concerns were valid. The board considered a warrant article for the highway department. Mike Denault believes that another \$40,000.00 might pay for nine more hours of patrol time per week at best. For every three hours of patrol time, the sheriff's department charges one hour of travel time. Dan Potvin suggested cancelling the warrant article to increase the sheriff time and replacing it with a warrant article to increase the equipment replacement fund. Pam Tworig suggested keeping both warrants and letting the voters decide. Mike Denault noted that the increases in the budget are directly related to the cost of resources like salt, sand and fuel. He felt the current 13 hours of patrol time already provides a speeding deterrent since you never know if or when the sheriff will be in town. It was his opinion that paying an additional \$40,000.00 would not provide enough patrol time to make a difference and he understood Dave Tatro's argument that \$40,000.00 could be better spent for an actual highway need.

He asked for a good reason to justify how another nine hours of patrol time would benefit the town. No one had any strong reasons. Natalie Yorke felt increased hours would help and she would like to hear what the sheriff has to say at the next Selectboard meeting. Kurt Gamari suggested contacting Efficiency Vermont for an energy audit. They also might have grant funds or other assistance available to make energy upgrades at the garage. Nancy Bushika liked the lively discussion.

RECYCLING

Nancy Bushika attended the quarterly Alliance meeting. Recycling expenses are up overall 11%. Each member town will need to approve an amendment to the Solid Waste Plan because when the permanent household hazardous waste facility begins operating, they won't be holding the three Household Hazardous Waste days per year. The board will discuss this further at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine suggested moving the regular transfer station hours from Saturday to Sunday this weekend since it will be so cold. The board felt it will be hard to get the word out in time and didn't know if the recycling monitors would be able to work on Sunday. No change was made.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The report was reviewed and finalized.

WARNING FOR THE TOWN OF STAMFORD

The Selectboard added an article to put an additional \$40,000.00 into the equipment replacement fund. MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept and sign the warning as revised. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2022 AUDIT

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the engagement letter for the firm of Love, Cody & Company to conduct the 2022 audit of town accounts. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. This confirmation agrees to provide the auditors with all information necessary to conduct the audit at a cost of \$13,125.00. Last year the cost was \$12,000.00.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc. / Carroll Concrete Co., Inc. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

NATIONAL FOREST ASH TREE TREATMENT

Pam Tworig consulted with the National Forest regarding their plan to treat ash trees in Stamford. They intend to treat up to 30 trees within a 31 acre area by injecting a liquid pesticide into the tree. They hope this practice will save ash trees that are dying from the emerald ash borer insect. Pam Tworig feels it is important for the town to have some control over what the National Forest does.

SNOW PLOWING

Natalie Yorke noted that it is illegal to plow snow across town roads yet a lot of people are doing it. Dave Tatro acknowledged that when they leave a lot of snow in the road where he has already plowed it can be irritating.

TOWN OFFICE MAIL SLOT/DROP OFF BOX

Pam Tworig would like the mail slot to be more secure. An estimate has been requested for the work.

VOTERS AT TOWN MEETING

Only registered voters can participate and vote at town meeting. Pam Tworig asked how it is handled. Bill Levine knows most people in town. Nancy Bushika noted that some towns check voters in as they enter and give cards or voting paddles that you raise to vote. Pam Tworig was in favor of the idea.

DOG ORDINANCE

Luke McKay said the Dog Ordinance is outdated and asked the Selectboard to begin the review process.

MOTION by Mike Denault to recess the Selectboard meeting until Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with the school portion first, followed by the town.
2. 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.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
4. 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

Vacancy (4 year term)

2024

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