

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

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

Visitors: Kurt Gamari, Marta Miller, Beth Phelps, Deborah Righi, James Righi, Natalie Yorke and Allison Strohl, from the Bennington County Regional Commission.  
Luke McKay, Dog Officer.  
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. An executive session was added to the agenda. There was no change to the order.

#### HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN KICK-OFF MEETING

Allison Strohl from the Bennington County Regional Commission explained the process she will use to update the town's plan. She will review all weather-related hazards, storms, floods, high winds, landslides, disease outbreaks, invasive species, etc. She requested a Planning Team to assist her in reviewing what hazards are applicable to our town. The Selectboard suggested Dave Tatro, Bill Levine and Lori Shepard. Bill Levine will see if one of the firemen would like to be part of it.

#### SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #7 \$ 8,739.05 payroll
- WARRANT #8 \$46,057.70 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) submitted a Scope of Work for the Grants-in-Aid highway grant. Dave Tatro explained that he works with Jim Henderson from the BCRC to choose the project and then Jim Henderson inspects and approves the project when it's completed. The BCRC will continue to do this work but instead of being paid by the state, the town's grant amount was increased and the BCRC will be paid by the town. Dave Tatro will meet with Jim Henderson in April to discuss the next project.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept and sign the Scope of Work. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Dave Tatro mentioned the spring thaw we just experienced and the upcoming snow storm. He has been working on the roads and repairing the equipment.

3. Last week a tree limb fell on the new truck. It dented the roof and the town needed to file an insurance claim.

#### RECYCLING

Nancy Bushika told Carol Fachini if she has any problems at the recycling center to let the Selectboard or town office know. Nancy Bushika thanked her for her service as a Selectboard member since this is her last meeting.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The two AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) have arrived. The board will need to decide where to hang the cabinets and whether they will want them alarmed. Bill Levine will set up a course through the Fire Department to learn how to use it.

## HEALTH OFFICER OPENING

The town clerk contacted Eunice Rice, the current Health Officer, who stated she would not be seeking reappointment. Luke McKay, seeing the Health Officer opening listed on the agenda, submitted a letter of interest. Pam Tworig asked if there was any conflict to be both the Health Officer and the Dog Officer. There is not a conflict. Nancy Bushika would like to wait until the next meeting to make a recommendation in case anyone else is interested.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT WARRANT ARTICLE

Natalie Yorke asked if the Selectboard will amend the article since the new sheriff provided a new hourly rate. Mike Denault spoke with Ray Eilers, a Selectboard member from Readsboro, about sharing patrol hours. The board discussed a variety of hours and how much additional money it will cost the town, or how many hours the town would get by keeping only the \$40,000.00 already in the town budget.

## BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

1. Mike Denault acknowledged that he can't control a resident contacting the sheriff, but felt another Selectboard member or emergency management member should not be contacting the sheriff directly, or at least let him know if they are going to. Otherwise, there is no need for him to be appointed liaison.
2. Luke McKay presented a short video of Sheriff Gulley meeting with the Pownal Selectboard after he met with the Stamford Selectboard where he made a questionable statement involving a Stamford Selectboard member. Kurt Gamari felt he was fear mongering in order to convince the Pownal Selectboard to sign a contract with his department. Mike Denault will reach out to Sheriff Gulley for clarification. Luke McKay suggested the board make sure any contract that Stamford signs is very specific in what the town wants the sheriff to do.

## RABIES CLINIC

The rabies clinic will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the town office.

## DOG ORDINANCE

Luke McKay and the Selectboard reviewed the first few pages of the Dog Ordinance and made several revisions. Luke McKay feels this updated model from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns provides more guidance, clearer penalties and gives the town more authority for enforcement. He noted that the kennel purchased by the town a few years ago was the cheapest they could find at the time and is not sufficient. There is not a proper heating system, no insulation, and no electricity, among other things. Pownal just built a new dog kennel for \$40,000.00. The board also discussed increasing license fees and the fines for non-compliance, as well as the costs for vicious and potentially vicious dog hearings. The board agreed that ensuring the safety of our residents is their primary goal. A fund to build up money for future projects was discussed. Nancy Bushika noted that the town has the Future Needs Fund.

## UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the uniform municipal excess weight permit application from Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO). SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

## WEBSITE

Mike Denault said he visited the town's website and thought it looked good. Lori Shepard addressed Carolyn Brooks' concerns. Pam Tworig suggested having some people with fresh eyes look at the website in order to suggest some improvements.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of personnel matters would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Lori Shepard was invited to participate. The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:25 p.m. A letter will be sent to the School Directors with a copy to the principal concerning the failure to perform necessary duties.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 9:26 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 district 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. The rabies clinic will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the town office.
5. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed by April 1st of each year. State law requires a valid rabies vaccination certificate to be filed with the Town Clerk's office. Licensing your dog is very easy. Rabies certificates can be faxed to the town office at 802-694-1636 or emailed to the town office at [townclerk@stamfordvt.net](mailto:townclerk@stamfordvt.net). Once the current rabies certificate is on file, license renewals can be handled in person, by mailing a check, by utilizing the mail slot in the back wall of the town office or by telephone with a credit card. License fees are \$9.00 for each spayed/neutered dog or \$13.00 for each intact dog. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Stamford.
6. Anyone interested in being appointed Town Health Officer should contact the town office or the Selectboard.

7. 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.

8. 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

**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