

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
July 18, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, Douglas Wright, and John Dunn.

Visitors: Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Josh Landes from WAMC Northeast Public Radio, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, and James Righi.

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. There was some additional correspondence added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Josh Landes from WAMC Northeast Public Radio asked the Selectboard as leaders of the town if they wanted to comment on the resignation of the school principal. The board felt it was more of a school matter than a town matter.

MINUTES

MOTION by Doug Wright to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 20, 2024 as written. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #25 \$ 10,027.11 payroll
- WARRANT #26 388,522.40 accounts payable
- WARRANT #27 \$ 8,652.83 payroll
- WARRANT #28 \$83,941.79 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Lori Shepard stated that the grant agreement with FEMA for the Klondike Road culvert mitigation project was finalized. The total cost of the project was \$11,602.00 and will require a 25% match from the town.
2. The hazard mitigation plan has been approved by the state and the Selectboard will adopt it at an upcoming meeting.
3. The town was approved for a Class II Roadway and Structures Grant of \$160,000.00 to resurface a portion of East Road. The total cost will be approximately \$200,000.00.
4. The board discussed the trees at the intersection of The Lane and East Road which are causing a visual hazard for cars. John Dunn asked if a mirror would be helpful so cars could pull out safely. The trees are in the road right-of-way and Dave Tatro would

like to hire a tree company to remove them. A letter will be sent to the property owners.

5. The high winds from Tuesday night's storm took down a massive amount of trees and limbs and the road crew worked hard to make the roads passable again. They had to wait for the power company in some areas where trees were on wires. The roads are clear but there is extensive debris along the sides of the roads. Dave Tatro would like to hire a tree service to remove the debris in the right-of-way, at least as far back as the road crew mows and might have to push snow back. He has contacted Patrick Wilson at the Vermont Agency of Transportation to see if the town would qualify for state aid.

MOTION by Mike Denault to hire a tree company to remove the debris from the sides of the road. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Dave Tatro will contact a few tree companies to have the work done. John Dunn offered to ride around with him and assess the damages.

6. Dave Tatro plans to do some culvert repair.

7. Dave Tatro received the hydraulic study for the culvert on Sportsmen Road. He also received the conceptual design from Josh Carvajal, the state river engineer, to realign the river and install new culverts. Lisa Gramlin asked for copies to bring back to Mike Cole since Alpenwald Village had requested the culvert improvement.

8. Nancy Bushika discussed VLCT's recent risk assessment survey at the highway garage. Dave Tatro will implement some of the recommendations on their list.

9. The municipal energy resilience program assessment of the garage is being scheduled. Even if several improvements are cited in the assessment, there is not funding available to complete the upgrades and no guarantee that the town will receive the funding when it becomes available.

10. Dave Tatro noted that although he contacted the road sweeper several times this spring, they never showed up to sweep the roads. The board discussed renting a sweeper or working with Readsboro.

RECYCLING

The transfer station was closed on Wednesday. There was still no power from Tuesday's storm. Whether the town should continue to accept air conditioners and refrigerators was also discussed.

NEW FIRE ENGINE

Bill Levine advised that the cab and chassis is ready for delivery and he requested \$107,670.00 from the fire truck fund. The town is receiving a discount for committing to the fire truck purchase early. A new warrant article may be needed for next year to continue to set aside \$50,000.00 annually for the truck.

DVFIBER

The application forms will be completed so that residents can apply for financial assistance to help with the cost of the DV Fiber connection and/or conduit installation expenses up to \$500.00.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lisa Gramlin asked about the emergency shelter with the extreme heat, recent storms and about a cooling center. Bill Levine said Bob Briggs had discussed putting together a Civil Emergency Response Team and they would be willing to train volunteers. Mike Denault encouraged people to check on and work with their neighbors.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

People have been coming to the town office to license their dogs. There are ten people who have not yet come in.

PAYROLL TAXES

The treasurer received a letter from the IRS stating that they were happy with the documentation sent in for the 4th quarter of 2023 and there is no additional amount due. Lori Shepard has also disputed their determination that the first and second quarters were filed late.

POLICE PATROLS

Mike Denault noted that the state troopers were in town three days in a row. He spoke to the detective to request more patrols in town.

COUNTY ROAD DECLASSIFICATION

Nancy Bushika reminded the board that the County Road declassification site visit will begin on August 1, 2024 at 4:45 p.m. at the Town Office. The public hearing will follow at 5:30 p.m.

TOWN SIGN

John Dunn produced two samples for the Selectboard's review. One was 3' x 4' and the other was slightly smaller. He will prepare a final draft based on the board's feedback for the next meeting. The next step would be to fill out a permit application and contact the Zoning Administrator. Lisa Gramlin asked if he considered the size needed for safe viewing at 30 mph. Donated funds will be used for the construction of the sign.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter and a land purchase would place the town at a substantial disadvantage.

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and the purchase of land pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2).

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. Dave Tatro was asked to participate in a brief portion of the executive session.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:05 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to place a bid on a piece of property in town for the benefit of the town. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:07 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. The state primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the Stamford Community Room from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
2. Applications to register to vote will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day. Forms can be obtained at the town office or you can register to vote through Vermont's online voter registration system at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
4. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at vtaalert.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.
5. The transfer station is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the summer months.
6. 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.