

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
July 7, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Laura Champagne, Kurt Gamari, Deborah Righi, and James Righi.
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. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda. There were no changes to its order.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 16, 2022 as written.

SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #25 \$ 8,190.12 payroll

WARRANT #26 \$12,494.88 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The road crew has been mowing the roadsides and smoothing washboards on the gravel roads.
2. Dave Tatro has been waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers permit to be issued before he can begin work on the Lincoln Road bridge project. He is also waiting for the electric company to move the wires to the newly relocated pole.
3. Dave Tatro received a quote from H.A. George & Sons Fuel Corp. of \$3,400.00 to pre-buy propane for the winter. It is much higher than what was budgeted.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the quote from West Oil Co. and authorize Dave Tatro or Lori Shepard to sign the pre-buy agreement. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

4. The town was approved for a \$12,500.00 grant through the Municipal Mitigation Grant-in-Aid program. The project will be to add gravel to the steep hill on Jepson Road, clean out the ditches and line them with stone. The town's match will be 20%.
5. Lori Shepard filed an insurance claim with the Vermont League of Cities & Towns to assist with the property damage the town sustained in a recent accident.

RECYCLING

1. The Selectboard received one application for the Recycling Monitor position.

MOTION by Mike Denault to hire Carol Fachini, the only applicant, to fill the Recycling Monitor position. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Carol Fachini will be paid the same rate as the current Recycling Monitors. Dave Tatro will provide training. She will start this Saturday. Nancy Bushika suggested that she receive the yearly recycling allotment so that she can purchase gloves and safety equipment.

2. The next Household Hazardous Waste Day will be July 23, 2022 at the AOT garage in Heartwellville.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Bill Levine said there have been several bears around town. He recommended that residents do not leave trash out and do not feed them.
2. Bill Levine advised that there was a warning on Facebook that a man has been trying to take advantage of people living alone in southern Vermont.
3. There has been a series of suspicious activity in town. Bill Levine suggested that people lock their doors and call 911 since all 911 calls are recorded and documented.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

Luke McKay has reduced the delinquent dog list considerably. He sent out letters to the remaining nineteen dog owners giving them two weeks to come in as a last attempt to bring them into compliance. Tickets through the Vermont Judicial Court will be issued to anyone who does not license their dog after that date.

POLICY REGARDING INTEREST ON OVERPAYMENT OR OVERCHARGE OF TAXES

Nancy Bushika explained that this policy is not for the normal overpayment of taxes. This statute refers to a taxpayer that has paid his taxes and then had his appraisal reduced due to a successful appeal. The taxpayer will not be owed interest on the resulting credit from the appeal.

MOTION by Mike Denault to reaffirm the Policy Regarding Interest on Overpayment or Overcharge of Taxes as written. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SNOW AND ICE POLICY

MOTION by Carol Fachini to reaffirm the Snow and Ice Policy as written. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EDUCATION TAX RATES

The Agency of Education has set the 2022 school tax rates. The homestead rate is 1.2379. Last year's rate was 1.4996. The non-homestead rate is 1.5847. Last year's rate was 1.7508.

2022 GRAND LIST

The assessor finalized the Grand List today and lodged it with the town clerk.

TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

The Selectboard signed deed transferring Lot 336 in Alpenwald to Eric and Denise Bruder.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The funding was very easy and the money has been deposited in the town account.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Denault asked about the process to start a business in town. The board agreed that there are several properties that are listed as Air BnBs or Bed and Breakfasts in town that have never come in for permits. Pam Tworig feels there were a lot of changes to the town's Zoning By-laws that no one seems to understand. Kurt Gamari said most of the changes clarified the By-laws and they did make it easier to have home-based businesses. Pam Tworig feels there is a lack of enforcement. Mike Denault asked about the Selectboard's role. The Selectboard appoints members to the Planning Commission and appoints the Zoning Administrator. It was suggested that the Selectboard create a list of questions and concerns and invite the Planning Commission to a meeting. Bill Levine suggested creating an hourly fee

structure for the Zoning Administrator. Mike Denault noted that the town does not tax business inventory or benefit from having business in town. A 1% business tax was discussed.

MOTION by Mike Denault that the Selectboard request the Planning Commission to add Discussion of the Zoning By-laws and Business in Town to their next agenda. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brandon Field stated that his house is under contract and he will be submitting his resignation from the board in the near future. Nancy Bushika stated that once the board receives his resignation they will consider appointing someone until the next election.

2. Kurt Gamari stated that the town has not voted whether to opt-in or opt-out of the marijuana market. Several felt that would bring additional money to the town. Pam Tworig missed the recent VLCT webinar on the municipal side of the marijuana business and asked if the board could still access it. The board believes it is a town vote and had many unanswered questions.

MOTION by Mike Denault to have a special town meeting to decide whether to opt in or out of the marijuana business. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini, Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at the Stamford Elementary School Community Room from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2. Applications for addition to the checklist 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 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2022. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.

4. The next free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be July 23, 2022 at the AOT garage in Heartwellville.