

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
August 4, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, Kurt Gamari, Marta Miller, Beth Phelps, Douglas Wright, and Natalie York.
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 July 21, 2022 as written.

SECONDED by Carl Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #29 \$ 6,882.83 payroll

WARRANT #30 \$45,991.08 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

Dave Tatro was not present but left word that the Lincoln Road bridge work is progressing well.

RECYCLING

Nancy Bushika and Pam Tworig attended the recent Household Hazardous Waste Day. The weather was nice and it was fairly well attended.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing to report.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

The Judicial Bureau sent the wrong ticket books. Another set will be requested. The board discussed publishing the names of the delinquent dog owners.

PREPARE FOR CANNABIS SPECIAL MEETING

1. On Monday, August 22, 2022 at 7 p.m. there will be a special town meeting. The townspeople present will vote whether to enact a 1% tax on sales, meals and alcoholic beverages, and rooms, if the town is eligible to do so. The town clerk has been unable to get a straight answer as to whether the town is eligible to assess this tax. An informational meeting will also be held Monday night to discuss the question of cannabis retail establishments in town.

2. Voting will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to vote on whether to allow cannabis retailers and retail portions of integrated licensee establishments in town. Absentee ballots are available and can be requested until Monday, August 22, 2022 at 4 p.m. For more information, visit the Vermont Cannabis Control Board website at <https://ccb.vermont.gov/>.

INVESTMENT/FINANCE POLICY

The board reviewed the policy and a few changes were made. They will review the updated draft at the next meeting.

SET TAX RATE AND SIGN TAX WARRANT

The treasurer reviewed the tax calculations. The town and highway rate is up 4 cents from last year. The school is down 26 cents. The town and highway rate also includes the cemetery, library, fire department, fire truck escrow, and other items that were voted in at town meeting.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the tax warrant as presented with the tax rates as indicated on the tax calculation sheet. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TAX BILL INSERT

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the insert which will accompany the tax bills.

VILLAGE CENTER DESIGNATION

Deb Burchard advised that the town's village center designation was approved by the state. Kurt Gamari described the land that is included. At this point nothing changes for the town except the designation opens the door for more grant possibilities within the district. It was suggested that the grant information should be on the website. The next phase will be to discuss what a new village center zoning district would look like and the new zoning regulations that would apply to that district. Kurt Gamari stated that one of the changes is that development within the district could be exempt from Act 250. He feels now more than ever it is important to get the language right. Deb Burchard encouraged everyone to be diligent and pay attention.

CYBERSECURITY

Mike Denault advised that there is a new law in Massachusetts that if your website or emails are compromised, you are mandated to hire a second IT technician to evaluate your original IT technician. He doesn't know if this will also be passed in Vermont.

SMOKING POLICY

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the Smoking Policy as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The town clerk will post signs in the areas affected by the Smoking Policy.

DEED FOR SALE OF ALPENWALD LOT

The Selectboard signed both deeds transferring Lots 191 and 195 in Alpenwald to David and Jennifer Dupre.

SELECTBOARD LETTERS

The town has received a letter of interest from Kurt Gamari and from Deb Burchard to be appointed to the Selectboard when Brandon Field submits his resignation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Nancy Bushika has received verbal approval from the school principal to use the school gym occasionally if the Selectboard meeting overflows.
2. Nancy Bushika attended a recent webinar on Government Finance Overview for Selectboards. The town is following the law and doing everything we're supposed to be doing.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS

Deb Burchard would like the Planning Commission to have access to VLCT. Jim Sullivan at the Bennington County Regional Commission is extremely knowledgeable but sometimes the Commission needs more. The Selectboard in the past has only authorized Lori Shepard to contact VLCT on the board's behalf and private citizens do not have access. They considered allowing the chair of each board authority to call.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Pam Tworig and Mike Denault attended the recent Planning Commission meeting. They discussed zoning, the permitting process, starting a business and the duties of the Zoning Administrator. Mike Denault learned a lot and thought it was a great meeting. Deb Burchard stated that David Drake, a Vermont attorney and Act 250 and land use specialist has offered to attend a Planning Commission meeting to talk about Act 250 and how it affects the town's By-laws. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 6 p.m.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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. A special town meeting and informational meeting will be held on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 7 p.m. with voting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The matter to be decided is whether to institute a local option tax on businesses and whether to allow cannabis retailers and the retail portions of integrated licensee establishments in town.
3. 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/>.
4. Absentee ballots will be available until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2022 for the primary and until Monday, August 23, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. for the special election. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.