

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 20, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Beth Phelps, and Natalie Yorke.
Heather Tietgens, Tyna Senecal, and Pamela Tworig, Finance Committee.
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. There were no changes to the agenda or its order.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Selectboard reviewed the town and highway budgets. They discussed the mowing and sheriff's patrols. Mike Denault reminded residents to call 911 in an emergency, not the Bennington sheriff. Tyna Senecal liked the Selectboard's decision to use the ARPA funds in a way that will benefit all taxpayers. The board debated putting money into the highway equipment reserve fund. The Finance Committee provided great insight on the budget which prompted the Selectboard to reduce it by approximately \$10,000.00.

WARNING FOR TOWN OF STAMFORD

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept and sign the warrant as revised. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 6, 2022 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the budget work session minutes of January 12, 2022 as written. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #1 \$ 8,468.41 payroll
- WARRANT #2 \$44,226.26 accounts payable

HEARING OF VISITORS:

None.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The board reviewed the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage. There have been no changes.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept and sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage as presented. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The town's loader broke down. Dave Tatro diagnosed it as far as he could and ultimately took it to Caterpillar for repair. Jon Bohl is willing to allow the town to rent his loader for the interim.

3. The highway department has been busy with the recent snowstorms.

4. Nancy Bushika asked if anyone has been trying to go on the closed Class 4 roads. Dave Tatro said he wasn't aware of any activity.

RECYCLING

1. One of the monitors fell at the recycling center this weekend and sustained minor injuries.
2. Michael Batchter from the Bennington County Regional Commission is retiring and Scott Grimm-Lyon will take his place on the Alliance.

TOWN MEETING

Town meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 in the school gym. Voting for elected officials will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WEBSITE

The board felt the website looks good. They are considering a historical section.

MUNICIPAL OPTION TO ENACT A MASK MANDATE IN PUBLIC PLACES

MOTION by Dan Potvin to not mandate a mask mandate in town because there is no scientific data supporting masks. Without a second, the motion failed.

MOTION by Dan Potvin that the Town of Stamford will not mandate mask-wearing in town. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dan Potvin has information on alternative medicine and natural remedies for anyone who has second thoughts after receiving the vaccine or has COVID-19. Both Jane Potvin and Lori Shepard agreed to disseminate this information to anyone who is interested. People can contact Jane Potvin at (802) 694-1301 or Lori Shepard at (802) 694-1445. Carolyn Brooks asked if it is within the purview of the Selectboard to dispense medical advice. Mike Denault said he is just offering information. The board or the town is not promoting any medical opinions.
2. Mike Denault agreed that new business is the section for board members to discuss new topics but he doesn't feel any back and forth interaction is productive.
3. Dan Potvin said he is organizing a 5K race near the end of April. More information will be available soon.
4. The federal government has created a webpage: covidtests.gov, where every household can sign up to receive four free home rapid test kits. Vermont has also launched its first online system at: SayYesCovidHomeTest.org where all Vermonters can sign up to request four home test kits per household. No personal information is needed, just the homeowner's name and mailing address. Karen Kuranda has offered to order tests kits to be mailed directly to any residents' homes who don't have access to the internet or who would like assistance. She can be reached at 978-314-5688.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

/las

REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in helping Bill Levine review the contents of the Red Cross trailer or interested in forming a Citizen Response Group should contact Bill Levine directly or the town office.
2. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.

PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 13, 2022. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 36 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The requirement to submit Nominating Petitions to run for an elected office is waived along with the requirement to obtain signatures of 1% of the registered voters. A Consent of Candidate form will be required to run for an elected office and the deadline to file the Consent is Monday, January 24, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. A Consent of Candidate form may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

Town Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
School Moderator - 1 year term (*William Levine*)
Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Daniel Potvin*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Michael Denault*)
School Director - 2 year term (*Barbara Malinowski*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Gary Bellows*)
Auditor - 1 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 2 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 3 year term (*vacancy*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally Bohl*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Janice Farinon*)
Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Tyna Senecal*)

Town meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with the town portion first, followed by the school.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 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.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Selectboard.