

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 18, 2021
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Todd Gross and Luke McKay.

Helen Fields, Pat Sullivan and Clay Zeller-Townson, Community Projects Committee.
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. She read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Some correspondence was added to the agenda and the order was changed to move the Town Meeting discussion closer to the beginning.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Todd Gross offered to purchase two lots owned by the town in Alpenwald since they appear to be more buildable than the lot he currently owns.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the offer of \$200.00 per lot and to sell Lots 288 and 289 in Alpenwald to Todd Gross. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The Community Projects Committee gave a summary of their progress. They have 25 Community Captains to communicate information to their neighbors. Their contact list is meant to supplement existing town communication networks and committee and board chairs can contact Helen Fields, Pat Sullivan or Clay Zeller-Townson for assistance.

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The town's contract with the sheriff's department expired on January 31, 2021. A new contract will be requested.

TOWN MEETING/VOTING

1. Nancy Bushika provided the board with information from a recent webinar. The State Elections Division and Vermont League of Cities & Towns strongly discourage in person town meetings. They are recommending that towns change to Australian voting this year which means all articles would be voted by paper ballot on Tuesday. Stamford has always had Town Meeting where we vote all articles on the floor and an Australian ballot election the next day for candidates running for elected positions. The board confirmed that Town Meeting will be held outside on Monday, April 19, 2021 and the election of officers will be held on Tuesday April 20, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. by Australian ballot in the community room. Mike Denault felt holding town meeting outside is a good compromise and the best way to allow everyone their right to vote. Nancy Bushika felt being able to discuss budget items and ask questions is the best option, which is not available with Australian ballot voting. Helen Fields confirmed that the school supports those dates as well. Mike Denault asked if the school might be willing to split the cost of renting the tent, lighting and sound system with the town. The board asks anyone who is able to park across the street to do so in order to leave room for the elderly and disabled at the school. The Selectboard will prepare the communication to give the Community Project Committee to help spread the word.

2. The Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District election will still take place on

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Stamford. Absentee SVRTSD ballots maybe requested until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021.

RABIES CLINIC

Luke McKay is willing to organize a Rabies Clinic for the town. It will be held at the highway garage. The date and time will be forthcoming. Nancy Bushika suggested an incentive to encourage people to license their dogs on time. Dan Potvin and Mike Denault disagreed. The State of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed by April 1st of each year. The Town Clerk will be at the Rabies Clinic to license dogs.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 4, 2021 as written. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #5 \$ 6,966.87 payroll

WARRANT #6 \$30,039.56 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

Mr. Wolters has not yet returned the Road Agreement to plow the beginning of the Class 4 section of County Road. The town clerk will follow up with him.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nothing to report.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the permit applications from Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., VELCO, Renaud Bros., Inc., Valley Crane Services, Inc. and West Oil Co. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The proper fees and insurance information were received from each applicant.

ZOOM CHAT

Mike Denault asked about the chat features and how it works.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. The town office continues to be closed in accordance with the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Safe Order to slow the spread of covid-19. The town clerk is scheduling appointments and is willing to assist residents by email, regular mail, telephone or fax.
2. Voting on the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District ballot only will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. here in Stamford. Absentee ballots maybe requested until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
3. Town Meeting will be held outside on Monday, April 19, 2021 and the election of officers will be held on Tuesday April 20, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. by Australian ballot in the community room. Absentee ballots maybe requested until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
4. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.

PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

(REVISED)

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, March 4, 2021. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 35 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The requirement to submit Nominating Petitions to run for an elected office is waived due to Act 162 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, March 15, 2021 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 (*Nancy L. Bushika*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Christopher Warren*)
School Director - 2 year term (*Erika Bailey*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Kelly Holland*)
Auditor - 1 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 2 year term (*vacancy*)
Auditor - 3 year term (*vacancy*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*David McKay*)
Library Trustee - 5 year term (*Barbara Goldstein*)

Voting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room or outside, weather permitting. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021. 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.