

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 20, 2021
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Carol A. Fachini, Brandon Field and Michael G. Denault.
Daniel J. Potvin was not present.

Visitors: Martina Barnes (Green Mountain National Forest, District Ranger), Carolyn Brooks, Theresa Denault, Helen Fields, Peter Grudin, Beth Phelps, Pat Sullivan, and Clay Zeller-Townson.
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. The agenda was amended to add new discussion and an executive session for personnel reasons. There were no changes to the order.

OPENING OF LAWN MOWING BIDS

The Selectboard sent six bid invitations and received one bid from Yard Work by Dan for mowing at the Stamford School, to include mowing, trimming and cleaning off clippings at the rate of \$145.00 each time. The school secretary advised the town that she found ticks on a couple of the children and the school is concerned about the grass being so long. Mike Denault apologized for being late this year in hiring a contractor. Yard Work by Dan will be contacted immediately.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the mowing bid submitted by Yard Work by Dan for \$145.00 for each mowing. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Mike Denault abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #19 \$ 5,777.36 payroll

WARRANT #20 \$28,177.24 accounts payable

NATIONAL FOREST DISTRICT RANGER

Martina Barnes introduced herself as the new District Ranger for our area. She described two projects the National Forest is planning for our area. One is the rehabilitation and re-alignment of the Sucker Pond Trail. Recreational and ATV use has damaged sections and they want to rehabilitate those sections and re-route the trail to a new area. She wanted to confirm that the town allows ATV use on County Road, Risky Ranch Road and Klondike Road. There was confusion as to what section of County Road was allowed and Nancy Bushika recalled a forest representative attending a meeting previously with an erroneous map showing ATV use down the Class 3 section of County Road to the Stamford Pond Road. A map will be sent showing that only the triangle of those three roads has been designated by the town for ATV use. Mike Denault said he had been informed that ATV use was not allowed on National Forest property and she will look into that. Mike Denault said he would support ATV use, but did not agree with ATV clubs that require a membership in order to ride. Carol Fachini suggested a parking area could be created and Martina Barnes agreed to look into that as well. The second project they will be starting is timber sales off Broad Brook Road and Maltese Road.

HARVESTAMFORD COMMUNITY SUPPER

Pat Sullivan advised that the HarveStamford Community Supper is tentatively scheduled for August 28,

2021. She also informed the board that she continues to search for grants and will pursue the sign lettering project with McCann's students this fall.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the special meeting minutes of May 3, 2021 as written. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the dog hearing minutes of May 6, 2021 as written. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 6, 2021 as written. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ROAD CONDITIONS

The treasurer obtained a quote from Berkshire Bank for the paving loan for a 5 year term note with a rate of 1.75% with a one annual principal and interest payment per year.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to approve the five year promissory note with Berkshire Bank in the amount of \$224,285.00 at 1.75% interest annually. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The guidelines were reviewed and a few minor revisions were made.

MOTION by Carol Fachini to accept the Community Projects Committee Guidelines as revised. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMEGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Fire Department responded to a brush fire yesterday. Bill Levine emphasized that people need to obtain a burning permit. If it is a red flag day, you cannot get a burning permit.

QUITCLAIM DEEDS

The Selectboard signed the deeds completing the sales to John Flynn and Aundrez Joaquim of the Alpenwald lots.

MOTION by Mike Denault to not release the deed to Aundrez Joacquim until payment in full is received. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the permit application from United Natural Foods, Inc. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The proper fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

NOTICE OF OVERSHADOWING

The town received a notice from Trinity Engineering. The proposed septic system for Lot 404 in Alpenwald overshadows a portion of Lots 400 and 401. Lot 401 is currently owned by the town. The board discussed the effects. The new purchaser of Lot 404 may be interested in purchasing the adjoining lot.

STAMFORD VALLEY GOLF COURSE, THIRD CLASS RESTAURANT/BAR LICENSE

The Selectboard approved the Third Class Restaurant/Bar License application to sell spirituous liquors at its March 4, 2021 Liquor Board meeting, but the application was not signed by the board, and therefore

returned to the town by the state. The board signed the application and it will be sent to the Division of Liquor Control for approval.

TOWN MEETING EXPENSES

A notice itemizing the costs incurred in renting the tent and purchasing the sound system was forwarded to the School Directors who had agreed to pay for a portion of the costs. There has been no response to date.

OFFERS TO PURCHASE TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES

The board previously accepted an offer from William Fortini, Jr. to purchase Lot 279 for the sum of \$500.00 and an offer from Kari Fortini to purchase the Stamford portions of Lots 218 and 220 for the total sum of \$250.00. Kari Fortini has withdrawn her offer. William Fortini, Jr. advised that he is not sure he would like to proceed and will get back to the town in the next couple weeks.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Laurie Rowell, the town's former attorney, has several files created when she represented the town. She requests that the Selectboard either pick up the files or give her permission to shred the documents. The town should already have copies of the documents.

MOTION by Brandon Field to allow Attorney Laurie Rowell to shred all files related to the Town of Stamford. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TOWN WEBSITE/TOWN OFFICER EMAIL

1. The Secretary of State's office is offering new .gov domain registrations to towns at no cost. The town clerk contacted Chris Warren for his input and he agreed that it would be worth looking into. When the town created its website, the cost to obtain a .gov domain was too costly. The board agreed and the town clerk will move forward.
2. The Vermont State Archives Specialist recommends that towns issue email addresses to board members and committees. All town business is subject to the public records law and towns should be able to control and manage these records and ensure that official town business stays in official town email boxes. The town clerk will see if this option is available with the new domain registration.

BUILDING PERMITS

1. Mike Denault continues to receive complaints about the new lot owner on Andrea Drive. He has placed two sheds on the property. One shed is allowed with notice to the town, but the second shed should have a building permit.
2. This week Mike Denault drove the assessor, Lisa Wright, to visit the camps on Risky Ranch Road. It was noted that several outbuildings have been constructed without permits.

COMPLAINTS

Mike Denault asked that any residents who have concerns or complaints to come to a Selectboard meeting, either in person or remotely, or write the Selectboard a letter. They should not be complaining to the town office staff or highway department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of employee matters 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 to discuss employee matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:15 p.m. Sally Bohl and Lori Shepard were invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:38 p.m. Attorney Fisher will be consulted for his opinion.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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. Upcoming HHW Days are scheduled as follows: May 8, 2021 in Bennington and September 11, 2021 in Dorset and a smaller event on July 24, 2021 for Searsburg, Stamford and Readsboro which will be held at the AOT highway garage on Main Road in Heartwellville.
3. The transfer station has started its summer hours and is open every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
4. Please visit the town's official website: townofstamfordvermont.org for town information and updates.