

**TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 7, 2020
(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Christopher Warren, Daniel J. Potvin, and Michael G. Denault.

Carol A. Fachini was not present.

Visitors: Erika Bailey, Robert Briggs, Laura Champagne, Theresa Denault, Helen Fields, Stephen Greene,

Pat Sullivan, Trevor Tatro, and Pamela Tworig.

William Levine, Emergency Management Director.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The meeting was held in the gym with some visitors present and some participating remotely by conference call. Nancy Bushika led with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone. She acknowledged and thanked the townspeople and fire department who have come together to help during this pandemic, those who shopped for residents, made food for their neighbors, and those who have made masks during these trying times. She read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. The agenda was revised to add composting under Hearing of Visitors. Scheduling the meeting with the School Directors was moved closer to the beginning of the agenda. It was very difficult to understand those calling in with the gym acoustics and those on the call struggled to hear the discussion of those present.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

BUILDING COMMUNITY GROUP

Pat Sullivan announced that there are bins in the school parking lot near the library to collect softball to volleyball sized rocks to fill the gabions for the benches.

GREEN UP DAY

Pat Sullivan stated that Green Up Day will be held on May 30, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. She will provide safety guidelines from the state for everyone's protection and hopes for a great turnout.

SEED SAVERS GROUP

1. Helen Fields thanked Mike Denault for his financial contribution to help send the recent letter to the community explaining the Community Building Group activities, the phone tree list and the community resource list. The letter offered help from the Seed Savers Group to help plant gardens. She felt the feedback was very successful and eleven townspeople have already requested pre-built and delivered raised garden beds.

2. Helen Fields thanked Pam Tworig for donating the land, and Dave Tatro and Jon Bohl for their assistance as well.

3. Helen Fields asked if the Seed Savers Group could provide compost to residents at the transfer station until the end of June. The brush area has not been used in several years. Residents could bring five gallon buckets to fill with compost. The Seed Savers will not charge for the compost but will accept donations. Pam Tworig affirmed that the compost is very high quality. The Selectboard approved the request. They hope to receive delivery and start next week.

4. There were fifteen people who helped in the community gardens this past Saturday.

STAMFORDVT.ORG WEBSITE

CJ Vadnais asked Helen Fields if she would like to take over and manage the unofficial website. It is up for renewal. Anyone interested in assisting/running the website should contact Helen Fields.

SCHOOL/TOWN OWNERSHIP OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Erika Bailey asked if the joint meet with the School Directors could be postponed until everyone could meet face to face. Pam Tworig asked that the town and school attorney letters be made available to the public. Although initially reluctant, the board agreed to send both letters out through the Selectboard email list and post the letters on the town website. Pam Tworig felt the taxpayers of the town are the ones who really own the building and grounds and they should be fully informed. It is a big decision. Mike Denault agreed that the townspeople own the building and should have the information. The two boards should listen to the town's opinion and then they can make an educated decision. Nancy Bushika offered to work with Erika Bailey to schedule a meeting in a month on a non-meeting night for both boards. She and Dan Potvin will work on a simple form for school use.

MINUTES

MOTION by Chris Warren to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 16, 2020 as written.

SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #17 \$ 7,179.85 payroll

WARRANT #18 \$ 8,857.08 accounts payable

WARRANT #19 \$ 7,846.74 payroll

WARRANT #20 \$11,854.54 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of February.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The road sweeper was supposed to be here two weeks ago. Dave Tatro will contact him to set a new date.
2. Dave Tatro does not have a use for the backhoe attachment for the Kubota and suggested the town sell it.

MOTION by Mike Denault to advertise the backhoe attachment on craigslist and accept the best offer received by August 1st. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. Dave Tatro will bring some old tires over to TAM in Pownal.
4. Dave Tatro has taken the mandatory training on health and safety requirements provided by VOSHA and has turned in his certificate. Michael Brothers and Allen Desautels will complete the training next.
5. The Clarksburg highway department will be closing Klondike Road to do some road work on May 12, 2020. They have sent letters to the residents who will be affected.

AGREEMENT TO PLOW CLASS 4 ROAD

The Selectboard wanted a simple agreement to allow the property owner to plow snow in the winter and protect the town from damage caused by the plowing. The attorney's proposal included summer maintenance and other unneeded terms. The board revised their original draft and finalized the agreement.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to approve the agreement with the revisions discussed. SECONDED by Chris Warren. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The final draft will be emailed to the board and sent to Brian Jowett.

RECYCLING

The board agreed that the recycling attendants will not punch cards at the transfer station and maintain the 6' social distancing.

TREASURER

The first quarter financial report was provided by the treasurer who offered to sit down and review any questions with board members.

GRAND LIST

The Vermont Property and Valuation Review Board decided against inside inspections this spring. Values should be determined by working with the property owner and by outside review. Letters will be sent to all property owners who have assessment changes.

CUD HIGH SPEED INTERNET INFORMATION AND SURVEY

1. Bill Levine stated that the Dover Selectboard has agreed to join the Deerfield Valley Communication Union District (CUD). Bill Levine was contacted by someone in Bennington asking if Stamford was interested in joining the Bennington County CUD they are forming. Bill Levine feels the Deerfield Valley CUD is already formed and ahead of Bennington, and physically, it makes more sense to join with Deerfield. Their first priority is to reach the unserved and underserved in the region. Bob Briggs felt joining the Deerfield CUD would be good for our community.
2. Bob Briggs has received 40 responses from the surveys that were mailed to residents. He was very happy with the results so far which indicated that many residents are interested in a faster, reliable internet.
3. Mike Denault was contacted by a resident saying the survey questions were too personal.
4. The board discussed appointing Bob Briggs, Bill Levine and Chris Warren as town representatives for the CUD.

MOTION by Mike Denault to join the Deerfield Valley Communication Union District. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

GOVERNOR'S ADDENDUM AND VOSHA TRAINING

Mike Denault noted that we can't open up the town office without being in compliance. Laura Champagne said keeping track of the paperwork is very important. Dave Tatro was designated as Health Officer for the highway department and Nancy Bushika was designated as Health Officer for the town office. Nancy Bushika offered to help with the Plexiglas sheet for the front window.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Levine asked that anyone in need of food or who might know of someone in need should contact Helen Fields or the town office for help. People have volunteered to go grocery shopping, pick up prescriptions and make meals to help neighbors.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Chris Warren to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

DOGS/DOG CLINIC

The veterinarians in Massachusetts are beginning to open. The board recommends that dog owners with dogs in need of rabies vaccinations should contact their vet. Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, will attempt to reschedule the town rabies clinic in June. The Selectboard waived all penalties for unlicensed dogs through July 1, 2020.

DUMPING ON BACK ROADS

There was some dumping on the Class 4 roads this spring. The license plate was caught on camera and they are giving the person the opportunity to pick up the trash before calling the police.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini
Clerk

CAF/las

REMINDERS

1. Anyone interested in serving on a high speed internet research committee should contact the town office or Chris Warren directly.
2. Anyone interested in serving on the Compost Committee should contact the town office or Helen Fields directly.
3. Anyone interested in serving on the Fire Department roster committee should contact the town office, a Selectboard member or Paul Dupuis.
4. Anyone interested in serving on the Conservation Commission, please contact a Selectboard member or the town clerk.
5. Please visit the town's new official website: townofstamfordvermont.org.