

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
July 1, 2021  
(UNAPPROVED)**

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

Visitors: Megan Bouchard, Robert Bouchard, Carolyn Brooks, Laura Champagne, Michael Milazzo, Marta Miller, David Orton, Beth Phelps, Morgan Prevey, Wojciech Rum, Pat Sullivan, E-Jay Tatro, Trevor Tatro, and Allen Whitney, Jr.  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
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 additional correspondence, a letter of resignation, and discussion to resume meetings with the School Board. The executive session was moved to the end of the agenda.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

**HARVESTSTAMFORD COMMUNITY SUPPER**

Pat Sullivan gave an update on the HarveStamford Community Supper which will be held on August 28, 2021 at 6 p.m.

**ATV TRAILS**

Mike Milazzo spoke about his road-legal all-terrain vehicle. Mike Denault had many questions about the laws and requirements. Many visitors present would like to see connector trails allowed. Carol Fachini asked if the town would receive the same liability coverage that is given to property owners who allow trails across their property. The Selectboard will speak with the school about the availability of the gym to hold a public meeting.

**SELECTBOARD ORDERS**

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #25 \$ 6,141.75 payroll

WARRANT #26 \$142,167.04 accounts payable

**MINUTES**

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 17, 2021 as written.

SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**ROAD CONDITIONS**

1. The highway crew has been mowing. Dave Tatro purchased a used mower attachment for the Kubota and said it is much more efficient to have two people mowing.
2. Dave Tatro plans to work on the County Road project this summer with grant funds through the Clean Water Act.
3. Blais Whitney has picked up the Freightliner and completed the purchase.
4. Nancy Bushika noted that the Selectboard did not budget for the new truck payments. Dave Tatro said the proceeds of the sale of the Freightliner will cover the new truck payments for this year.

5. The town received a Structures Grant through the Agency of Transportation in the amount of \$200,000.00 towards the Lincoln Road culvert project which is estimated to cost a little under \$350,000.00.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept and sign the grant agreement. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### RECYCLING

1. The next free Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on July 24, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the AOT highway garage in Heartwellville.

2. Dave Tatro brought some small appliances to the Readsboro Transfer Station. Nancy Bushika stated that we have an agreement with a company in Wilmington that will pick up our small appliances when we have collected a truckload.

#### TOWN WEBSITE

Mike Denault contacted Jason Morin who is willing to design a website and provide town email addresses for the Selectboard. He handles the website for the Town of Clarksburg and many other companies. If the board is interested, he can provide a detailed quote. He will be invited to come to the next meeting.

#### INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORTS

The board was given reports through June 30, 2021. The treasurer is available to answer any questions.

#### PAVING LOAN

The bank should have the promissory note ready to sign at the next meeting.

#### PROPERTY LINE DISPUTE

The town received a legal letter concerning a dispute on Lesure Road. There was discussion concerning the assignment of a 911 number and the updated Zoning Bylaws allowing more than one house on a lot without the need to subdivide as long as certain conditions are met.

#### JOINT MEETING CONCERNING TOWN/SCHOOL BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Selectboard would like to resume meetings with the School Directors to discuss the ownership and authority of the town/school building and grounds. Nancy Bushika will request a meeting.

#### COVID-19 SHOT

Dave Orton stated that he heard some very troubling news which he confirmed with the New England Journal of Medicine that 12% of pregnant women receiving the COVID-19 shot during pregnancy are having miscarriages. That's one out of every eight pregnancies, and he finds the statistics alarming.

#### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING COSTS

The School Directors at their last meeting agreed to contribute an additional \$892.00 toward the cost of the tent rental and sound system. With this payment, the town and school will contribute equally.

#### TOWN ASSESSMENTS

Mike Denault has received complaints that some camp owners are being taxed for their campers for the first time and he asked if that was legal. It seems unfair that some property owners were taxed but not all of them. The main reason the state is mandating the town-wide reappraisal is because our properties

are not assessed equally. He was frustrated that the assessor gets paid to set the values, and then she gets paid to attend grievance hearings, and again to fix mistakes.

#### TOWN ASSESSOR

Lisa Wright was hired to be the town assessor in 2021 as well as perform the town-wide reappraisal in 2022. The Selectboard received her letter of resignation from both positions. Her letter indicated that she would be willing to stay on until December 31, 2021 if the board desired or through the end of grievance hearings and would work with the new assessor for a smooth transition. Mike Denault felt we should find a replacement right away. Nancy Bushika asked for permission to contact the District Advisor for assistance.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the resignation of Lisa Wright as of December 30, 2021 or upon completion of the grievance hearings for the 2021 grand list. SECONDED by Carol Fachini. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SUMMER CAMP

1. Helen Fields has invited members to attend the short camp program on Friday at 6 p.m. There will also be presentations at the end of other camp weeks.
2. Nancy Bushika has signed the camp contracts and noted the amount of stipends being paid out for a one week period.

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

The National Forest submitted a list of work they are doing in Bennington County. Dan Potvin reviewed the document and didn't see where it affected Stamford.

#### TOWN OWNED PROPERTY

Nancy Bushika asked if Daniel Rainey has responded to our letter asking that he complete the purchase within thirty days. There has been no response to date.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Nancy Bushika reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Plan and would like to contact the Bennington County Regional Commission for assistance in updating the plan. There may be a grant available to cover the cost. Michael Batcher will be contacted.
2. Bill Levine indicated that Allison Strohl is soliciting interest from towns who need to take the ICS 400 course. This is a management course that Selectboard members should take. Bill Levine will look into it.

#### VETERAN'S DINNER AND PARADE

Dan Potvin would like to plan a Veteran's Dinner and also have a parade this year starting at the driving range on the state line and going past the school. The board was supportive.

#### BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

The board changed the first meeting to review the checklist on July 15, 2021 to begin at 5:30 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mike Denault to find that premature public discussion of employee matters would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to enter executive session to discuss employee matters pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:46 p.m. Lori Shepard was 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 7:55 p.m. No action was taken.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Brandon Field. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Carol A. Fachini  
Clerk

CAF/las

#### REMINDERS

1. The town office is open with the following hours: Monday – Closed; Tuesday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday – 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
2. Upcoming HHW Days are scheduled as follows: July 24, 2021 at the AOT highway garage on Main Road in Heartwellville and the usual fall event on September 11, 2021 in Dorset.
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](http://townofstamfordvermont.org) for town information and updates.