

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**October 2, 2025**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**  
6:00 p.m.

Present: Select Board: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Douglas Wright, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari and John Dunn.

Visitors: Carol Ethier-Kipp, Callie Fishburn, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Charles Neathawk, Debra Righi, James Righi, Stephanie Shelburne, and James Stimpson.  
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.  
Lori Shepard, Select Board Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Additional correspondence and a few new items were added to the agenda. The meeting was recorded for the YouTube video.

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

1. Callie Fishburn from the Bennington County Regional Commission spoke to the board about the Planning Commission's intention to apply for a grant to update the Town Plan. Callie Fishburn is assisting with the application and will work with the Planning Commission to complete the Town Plan if the grant is awarded. Awards can be up to \$30,000.00 with a 10% match. The Town Plan goals are accomplished through and supported by the Zoning Bylaws. Part of the Town Plan update will be to seek community input.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the Municipal Resolution Form. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to designate Nancy Bushika as the authorized officer to sign the necessary documentation. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to designate Kurt Gamari as the second authorized officer to sign if the first officer is unavailable. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Charles Neathawk expressed concerns about the excess water runoff in the basement of his 61 Boulger Road property. Dave Tatro felt the road was in compliance with state standards. He said it is an old house very near the road with a stone foundation. Board members and Dave Tatro will meet at the property to view the water problem and consider what remedies are available.

**MINUTES**

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the All Boards meeting minutes of September 11, 2025 as written. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 18, 2025 as written. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**SELECT BOARD ORDERS**

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #39 \$ 9,754.71 payroll

WARRANT #40 \$22,909.24 accounts payable

## ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The highway crew has continued work on Sportsmen Road and has graded some areas. They have cut a few trees in the town's right-of-way. If the property owner doesn't want the trees, Dave Tatro can bring the wood down to the highway garage for firewood. He has been buying cut and split firewood, but if the Select Board prefers, the highway crew can go back to cutting and splitting its own firewood for heat. Mike Denault suggested he use his own judgment. Dave Tatro will be applying for a Better Backroads grant to resolve the water problem on Sportsmen Road and Suzanne Drive.
2. The 2019 Freightliner is back at the garage with computer problems. John Dunn asked about the truck's maintenance schedule and thought the trucks could be washed more frequently now that there is a third laborer.
3. Mike Denault said at some point the town will have to relocate the highway garage since it is right on the river.
4. The board discussed small and steady growth and encouraging development in town. The Planning Commission will be discussing the village center district boundaries at their next meeting.

## RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika asked about the dumpster. When Casella picks up, they drop off a different dumpster and the town cannot pick which one we get. Dave Tatro has contacted Delmolino who cannot match Casella's prices.
2. Nancy Bushika suggested the board pull the substitute recycling monitor position since the third laborer could cover if needed. Mike Denault felt leaving the position open could be a benefit for the town as it has been hard to find people in the past.

## ERRORS AND OMISSIONS CERTIFICATE

A property owner bought the property adjacent to him and the properties should have been combined. The assessor has combined the properties into one account which resulted in a small change in value.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the Errors and Omissions Certificate. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

An error was noticed and corrected.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the Employee Policy Handbook. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## 911 NUMBERING UPDATE

The Emergency Management group was tasked with compiling a list of houses without their 911 numbers displayed. They continue to work on it.

## TOWN SIGN

Pam Tworig has removed the flowers. The Select Board will wait until spring to decide if flowers will be planted again or if it will return to grass. The contractor is working on the new sign.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bob Briggs and his team are participating in the state's tabletop emergency exercise on October 22, 2025. Nancy Bushika encouraged Select Board members to participate.

#### HALLOWEEN HOURS

MOTION by John Dunn to set Halloween trick or treat hours the same as last year, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on October 31st. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Bill Levine will request the presence of the Fire Department with their trucks and flashing lights.

#### DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

There is one dog owner who has not licensed his dog. The owner said he would register the dog tomorrow.

#### SIDEWALK UPDATE

At the last meeting Peter Greenbush asked questions about the old sidewalk in front of his house. The state Agency of Transportation said they turned it over to the town and gave up their rights to it many years ago. It's been so long, there is no paperwork to know what happened at the time and the sidewalk has not been touched or maintained in probably 50 years. Nancy Bushika liked the previous suggestion to just cover it up with soil.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION ALTERNATE

The Planning Commission asked the Select Board to clarify the role and responsibilities of the alternate. Nancy Bushika contacted the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Attorney Garrett Baxter stated that the alternate is not used during any regular Planning Commission meetings; the alternate is only used if a quorum is needed when the Planning Commission is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. Dave Tatro offered to step down and be the alternate so that Natalie O'Neil could serve. Nancy Bushika asked him to submit a resignation in writing. MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the resignation of Dave Tatro and to appoint Natalie O'Neil to the open seat, and to appoint Dave Tatro as the alternate. SECONDED by Mike Denault. 3 in favor, 2 abstained (John Dunn and Doug Wright). Motion APPROVED.

#### OPEN MEETING LAW

Jim Stimpson said the Planning Commission want to form a small group to work on the Town Plan changes and he asked for clarification on the Open Meeting Laws. The board discussed the matter and felt as long as the work sessions are open to the public, they should be fine.

#### BUILDING PERMITS

Nancy Bushika noted that if a project doesn't need a building permit, there should be something in writing in the town's files, but it is not happening. Bill Levine felt this should be the Zoning Administrator's responsibility. Mike Denault stated that it is confusing to know when a permit is needed and when it is not. Stephanie Shelburne suggested having short educational sessions on the agenda so that people can learn about the zoning regulations and other things that people should know.

## RESIGNATION

Nancy Bushika read the resignation letter from Sally Bohl as Assessor Clerk.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept the resignation of Sally Bohl as Assessor Clerk, with much regret and gratitude. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Anyone interested in serving as Assessor Clerk should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature general public knowledge of a personnel matter and pending or probable civil litigation would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) and for a pending or probable civil litigation pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 8:04 p.m. Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard were each invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Action: Select Board members will attend the meeting scheduled by the attorney.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:32 p.m.

Kurt Gamari  
Clerk

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## REMINDERS

1. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at [vtalert.gov](http://vtalert.gov) to receive notifications. You can choose how you would like to be alerted (phone call, text or email) and can choose what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.
2. Anyone interested in applying for the transfer station substitute position should contact the town office or a member of the Select Board.
3. Anyone interested in serving as a lister should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
4. Anyone interested in serving as Assessor Clerk should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
5. 911 House numbers must be affixed to your home or the entrance of your driveway to be compliant with state law.
6. The town office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.; closed Mondays.