

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 4, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)
6:15 p.m.

Present: Select Board: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, and Douglas Wright.
Kurt Gamari and John Dunn were not present.

Visitors: William Levine, Thomas Nazzewski, Debra Righi, James Righi, James Stimpson and Joseph Tracy.
David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.
Lori Shepard, Select Board Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Joseph Tracy is having difficulty with a neighbor and asked if there was anything the town could do. The board felt it was a civil matter and there was not much they could do.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 20, 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 #47 \$12,233.81 payroll

WARRANT #48 \$27,475.74 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. Both the propane furnace and wood furnace at the highway garage are broken and beyond repair. H.A. George worked to get the propane heater running a few more days until a new heater could be installed. Dave Tatro was able to purchase the wood furnace at a great price due to Black Friday sales and it should be delivered tomorrow.
2. The new highway laborer has been plowing and is doing well.

RECYCLING

1. Casella continues to drop off dumpsters in poor condition despite phone calls from Nancy Bushika and Dave Tatro. He feels the only way to resolve the problem is to purchase our own dumpster and then pay them to pull and return it.
2. The Alliance has sent out the hauler renewals and one hauler has submitted his registration renewal.

FUTURE BUDGET MEETINGS

The board will hold a meeting next Thursday, December 11, 2025 for employee reviews.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

A Board of Abatement meeting is being scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 5 p.m.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Nancy Bushika thanked Cyndi Candiloro for taking the time to organize the Christmas tree lighting ceremony and making the cookies. She thanked Lori Shepard and Jean Kurpiel for stringing the lights and Jean Kurpiel for bringing the hot chocolate, hot cider and coffee. She thanked Mike Denault for putting up the tree. The town has been doing this for seven years and it was very cold but also very nice.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The town received the attorney's invoice and it was much lower than anticipated. The board is waiting to receive the bill for the assessor's fees.
2. The Rural Fire Protection Task Force has increased its appropriation amount and according to town policy, it will need to provide a petition signed by 5% of the voters in order to be on the warrant. Bill Levine may bring it up at the next Fire Department meeting.
3. The Vermont League of Cities & Towns is offering a free webinar on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the Open Meeting Laws. She encouraged all board chairs and members to sign up and attend.
4. The Governor will be in Bennington tomorrow from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and will be meeting with fire chiefs, police chiefs and Select Board members regarding public safety in our communities. Mike Denault felt the town has more police coverage now from the state police than when the town paid for the Bennington Sheriff, and there is no cost to the town.
5. Mike Denault acknowledged two emails the board received, one questioned that the appointment of the Zoning Administrator to the Planning Commission was a conflict of interest, and the other questioned if it was a conflict to have a Select Board member work as the Assessor Clerk. Mike Denault has done some research and neither positions are incompatible and they can be held by the same person, but he wanted to acknowledge the emails and resolve the complaints.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Jim Stimpson stated that the Planning Commission work sessions have been going well at The Center. The meetings are warned and are open to the public. Nancy Bushika asked if he felt the location or time of day affected attendance. Jim Stimpson said that members of the public have attended their meetings.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

No update.

TOWN SIGN

Jim Stimpson advised that the braces have been removed and the new sign should be up soon.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nancy Bushika asked if the Select Board was interested in placing an offer on the house for sale on Mill Road or asking the realtor to consider a donation. Dave Tatro did not feel it was worth it and thought the demolition would be costly to the town. Mike Denault agreed.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 6: 50 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika
Clerk pro tempore

/las

REMINDERS

1. Townspeople should sign up with the state's free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at 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 serving as a lister should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
3. 911 House numbers must be affixed to your home or the entrance of your driveway to be compliant with state law.
4. 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.

PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 15, 2026. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 38 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The required signatures on a petition to run for an elected office are 1% of the registered voters or at least 8 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 26, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers and the 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 (*John Paul Potvin*)
School Moderator - 1 year term (*John Paul Potvin*)
Town Clerk - 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Treasurer - 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Douglas Wright*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Kurt Gamari*)
School Director - 2 year term (*Beth Thomas*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Danielle Smith*)
Lister - 3 year term (*vacant*)
Lister - 1 year remaining on a 3 year term (*vacant*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Luke McKay*)
Library Trustee - 3 year term (*Cyndi Candiloro*)

Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. with the town portion first, followed by the school.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office up to and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026. 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 Select Board.