

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 21, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)
6:00 p.m.

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

Visitors: Alden Finney, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, William Levine, Thomas Nazzewski,
James Righi, Debra Righi, James Stimpson, and Pamela Tworig.
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. There was no correspondence or changes to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Lisa Gramlin stated that there is a grant available to allow the Planning Commission to either update the Zoning Bylaws or the Town Plan. The Bennington County Regional Commission is willing to assist with the grant application and either update.

MOTION by Mike Denault to authorize the Planning Commission to pursue the grant and move forward with the help of the Bennington County Regional Commission. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Jim Stimpson obtained a quote from Witco to install the former sign on the side of the school building and to fabricate and install a new 4' x 6' sign in the circle in front of the building for \$3,510.00. The balance in the Community PROJECTS Committee account is \$741.55, \$350.00 of which is from donations made for the new sign. Pam Tworig objected to the grant funds that were used for a sign that was later taken down and tax money being used to now pay for another sign. The sign and funding was discussed at length. Nancy Bushika does not feel an AOT right-of-way permit is needed as the final AOT plans do not include the easement in front of the school. Dave Tatro will consult with AOT and will mark the sign placement. The Select Board agreed that a sign is needed in front of the building. The contractor will need to provide the appropriate proof of insurance before beginning any work. Jim Stimpson said he would donate some top soil. Pam Tworig will try to save as many flowers in the landscaping as possible. Mike Denault thanked Pam Tworig for volunteering to work on the garden.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to move forward with the project, deplete the Community Projects Committee funds and close the account and the rest will come out of the Select Board expenses line item. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. Tom Nazzewski said there have been a lot of kids partying and burning pallets on County Road. He has talked to the Fish and Game Department and the National Forest. Mike Denault said he would contact the State Police.

MINUTES

The approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

SELECT BOARD ORDERS

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #33 \$9,443.41 payroll

WARRANT #34 \$32,345.63 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The chip seal coat on East Road will be done on September 4, 2025.
2. The highway crew has been working on the 2025 Grant-in-Aid project on Sportsmen Road. They have replaced four culverts and need to complete the stone-lined ditches. They will replace three more culverts and ditch work on Sportsmen Road for the 2026 Grant-in-Aid project.
3. Dave Tatro has been smoothing washboards as the weather allows.
4. The overhead garage doors have been installed. Once the small side door replacement is complete, the town can request the grant reimbursement funds.
5. The town clerk received a call from a Risky Ranch Road property owner complimenting the highway department on how great the road was.
6. Nancy Bushika would like to discuss the laborer position during executive session and then contact the applicants to schedule interviews.

RECYCLING

The current transfer station rates will expire on October 31, 2025. The transfer station information sheet was given to board members to review and discuss new rates for 2026. Nancy Bushika reminds residents that the Stamford transfer station does not accept electronic waste. Electronics can be dropped off for free in Readsboro or Bennington.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

The work session is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6 p.m.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

Bob Briggs, Jamie Koosa and Anthony Waters still have not licensed their dogs with the town. The due date was April 1, 2025. Luke McKay will be instructed to issue tickets through the Judicial Bureau Court to bring the dog owners into compliance.

SCHOOL FLAGS

Nancy Bushika spoke to the school principal. She has a new US flag for the start of school and a new Vermont state flag has been ordered.

SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

Nancy Bushika announced that the Superintendent scheduled a walk around the school grounds for Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss concerns that have been raised. The Select Board members will try to attend.

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK/TREASURER

The town clerk has appointed Jean Kurpiel as the new Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. It is working out very well. The Select Board will confirm the hourly wage during executive session.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The board reviewed the revised draft of the Employee Policy Handbook. Mike Denault said he was in agreement with the changes. Nancy Bushika would like the full board to review it before making a decision.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature general public knowledge of a personnel matter 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 for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard were invited individually 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 8:21 p.m. Action:

MOTION by Mike Denault to compensate the Road Commissioner one hour per day during the on-call Snow Season Status time. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Doug Wright to call both highway laborer applicants for interviews. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:25 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 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 joining the town highway crew should fill out an application or get in touch with a Select Board member.
4. Anyone interested in serving as a lister 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 dog license due date was April 1, 2025. Please come in as soon as possible to license your dog. The new dog license fees for 2025 are \$18.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$24.00 for real/intact dogs. A \$50.00 fine has also been assessed.
7. 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.