

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 7, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)
6:00 p.m.

Present: Select Board: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Douglas Wright, and Kurt Gamari.
Michael G. Denault and John Dunn were not present.
Visitors: Alden Finney, Jedidiah Gramlin, William Levine, James Righi, Debra Righi, 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. New correspondence was added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

MINUTES

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the meeting minutes of July 17, 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 #29 \$10,033.50 payroll
WARRANT #30 \$51,024.41 accounts payable
WARRANT #31 \$ 7,836.12 payroll
WARRANT #32 \$ 6,163.17 accounts payable

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Last December the Select Board wanted to designate all of the remaining ARPA funds to pay the town match for the East Road culvert project but the ARPA guidelines wouldn't allow it. To cover the difference, the Select Board needs to move \$43,728.15 in general funds on the town side to the highway side.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to move \$43,728.15 in unassigned general funds to the highway fund to pay the town's portion of the East Road resurfacing project. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The highway crew has replaced several culverts on Risky Ranch Road and will be moving to Sportsmen Road to begin the Grant-in-Aid project. Dave Tatro plans to do this year's grant project and next year's grant project, back to back, on Sportsmen Road.

3. Dave Tatro will apply for the Better Back Roads grant in December for the Sportsmen Road/Suzanne Drive culvert project.

4. The contractor has begun the overhead door replacement work at the highway garage.

RECYCLING

1. There are a few refrigerators at the transfer station. Dave Tatro will contact Dream Green Recycling to see if they will accept them. Belval Refrigeration in Wilmington will pick

them up when we have a truckload, but we don't have the room to store the appliances to wait for a truckload.

2. The Select Board is actively seeking a back-up worker for the transfer station to cover the shift if a recycling monitor cannot work. The position will be posted at Bilmonts.

ORDINANCE REGARDING STREET NAMING AND STREET ADDRESSING

Bill Levine would like the ordinance revised to include greater fines for non-compliance. Jim Stimpson suggested installing house numbers on stakes on people's lawns that do not have their 911 numbers displayed and then sending them a bill for the work. Bill Levine asked if a lien could be placed on their property to ensure payment. Nancy Bushika preferred to send out a letter asking people to install their 911 numbers and become compliant on their own. Kurt Gamari felt the homeowners should be responsible for putting up their house number. Nancy Bushika noted that the town has not appointed a new 911 Coordinator. Bill Levine has stepped back and is only willing to assign new numbers for new construction. He feels it should be part of the Emergency Management Director's duties. The Select Board will send a letter asking Bob Briggs to have his Emergency Management group determine what homes are not in compliance and provide a list to the Select Board so that letters can be written requesting compliance with the town ordinance and state law.

SETTING THE TAX RATE/WARRANT

1. The Select Board reviewed the tax calculation sheet. The proposed homestead rate will be 1.5224 (town rate: 0.2094, highway rate: 0.3464 and homestead education rate: 0.9666). Last year's homestead rate was 1.4403. The proposed non-homestead rate will be 1.7319 (town rate: 0.2094, highway rate: 0.3464 and non-homestead education rate: 1.1761). Last year's non-homestead rate was 1.7111.

Nancy Bushika compared the town and highway rates, without the school amount and this year the rate is 0.5558; last year the town and highway rate was 0.5817 which is a very small increase. The board accepted the tax bill insert.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to approve the tax rates as presented. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. MOTION by Doug Wright to sign the warrant authorizing the treasurer to collect taxes. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT INFORMATION

The State of Vermont has joined with several other states in a class action suit against several pharmaceutical companies. The more towns that sign up will increase the amount of funding the state receives, so the state is encouraging towns to sign up. There will be no cost to the town, but any funds received will need to be used for treatment or prevention services. The funds could be given to the Stamford Fire Department for training and support of its first responders.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to participate in the national opioid settlement process. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The town clerk received a request from a resident wanting the town prettied up because Channel 3 News is doing a story on every Vermont town. She would like to see a new Vermont flag in front of the school since the current flag is very faded. Anyone who wants to plant more flowers in their yard or around their home is encouraged to do so. Nancy

Bushika noted that a cleanup day for the Leo Ethier Memorial is planned for Saturday, August 16, 2025 for anyone who is interested. The Select Board will speak to the school to see if they have any plans for a new flag with school starting this September.

2. Dave Saldo submitted a response to the Select Board stating that he has decided to leave the Planning Commission but would like to remain on the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the resignation of Dave Saldo from the Planning Commission. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION to appoint Stephanie Shelburne to the Planning Commission to fill the balance of the term ending in 2029.

3. Carol Saldo was recently appointed as alternate to the Conservation Commission it was discovered that a vacancy already exists on the board.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Carol Saldo to fill the remainder of the four year term ending in 2028. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

4. The North Adams Ambulance is working with a university to conduct a study of all towns covered by its service area. Nancy Bushika reviewed several of the survey questions with the board. It seemed like a survey to determine whether municipalities would be receptive to pay an assessment fee for its services. Kurt Gamari was not interested in participating and Doug Wright was also skeptical so the board will not move forward with the survey.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The board reviewed the first draft of the Employee Policy Handbook resulting from a recent work session. Nancy Bushika would like to review the policies and benefits of nearby towns and another work session will be scheduled.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

An updated delinquent dog list was presented to the board. Aaron Malachuk and Robert Bouchard both have scheduled veterinary appointments in August and will come in to license their dogs once they have the rabies shots. Brian Connor is moving out of town soon. The remaining delinquent dog owners: Sarah Bardo, Robert Briggs, David Kelly-Whitney, Beverly Kirby, Jaime Koosa, Philip Rondeau, and Anthony Waters, have been sent \$50.00 fines and Luke McKay has contacted them to bring their dogs into compliance.

SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

The Superintendent will be scheduling a meeting to review safety matters within the building and the walking routes to school.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

The Select Board set an All Boards Meeting for Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. Notices will be sent to all board chairs to attend for a round table discussion of what they have been working on.

MOTION by Doug Wright to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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. Anyone interested in the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer position should contract the town office.
6. 911 House numbers must be affixed to your home or the entrance of your driveway to be compliant with state law.
7. 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.
8. 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.