

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 18, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)
6:00 p.m.

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

Kurt Gamari was not present.

Visitors: Carol Ethier-Kipp, Peter Greenbush, William Levine, Debra Righi, James 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. Additional correspondence and a dog update were added to the agenda. Peter Greenbush recorded the meeting for the YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

John Dunn encouraged people, especially the younger generation, to join our volunteer Fire Department. It is down to 16 active members, most of whom are over 50 years old. Mike Denault noted that our insurance rates are directly proportional to our fire response time and if we no longer have a fire department, it will be hard to get insurance. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter should contact Paul Ethier or go to the Fire Department any Monday evening at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

MOTION by John Dunn to accept the meeting minutes of September 4, 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 #37 \$ 7,799.31 payroll

WARRANT #38 \$33,842.83 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The board reviewed financials for the month of August.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The East Road sweeping will be done next week.
2. Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission has viewed and completed the approval for the 2025 and 2026 road projects on Sportsmen Road. He will also come back to inspect the hydrologically connected road segments which must be done every five years.
3. The new highway laborer will start work on Monday.
4. The highway crew will be removing some trees along the roadside to make room for pushing back snow back this winter.

5. Dave Tatro will move equipment to Klondike Road to do some ditch work next.
6. Peter Greenbush contacted the state about the removal of the old sidewalk in front of his home. They said years ago they relinquished responsibility for the sidewalk and turned it over to the property owners. They said he can remove it but should have a flagger. Peter Greenbush asked for a letter from the town stating that the town will not assume liability for the sidewalk removal. John Dunn suggested bringing in top soil and covering it instead of digging it up.

RECYCLING

Dave Tatro thought that instead of paying Casella, it might be cheaper to haul our own trash and recycling now that we have a third laborer. The board will have to look into where the material goes, and if it will save money. Dave Tatro will also contact Delmolino for a hauling quote.

SURVEY FOR SOLUTIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR NORTHERN BERKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE

Paul Ethier answered most of the Select Board's questions at the All Boards meeting. Answering the survey will not lock the town into anything, it will only help the ambulance gather information. The board agreed to respond to the survey, which can be done anonymously.

ALL BOARDS MEETING

The All Boards meeting went very well and the Select Board learned what other boards in town are doing. They will schedule another meeting in six months.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Select Board received a letter of interest from Natalie O'Neil asking to be appointed to the Planning Commission. Jim Stimpson said the Planning Commission would like her appointed as an alternate since there is no vacancy. He said she can participate in their meetings and can vote if a quorum is needed. He would like the Select Board to consider re-appointment recommendations from the various boards in March.

MOTION by John Dunn to appoint Natalie O'Neil as an alternate to the Planning Commission. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK

The board signed the Employee Policy Handbook which was approved at the last meeting.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

1. There is no update on the 911 numbering list.
2. The town received a building permit for a camp on a private road off of Tatro Road. For 911 purposes, the road should be named so that a 911 number can be assigned. Letters were sent to the property owners on the road asking for suggestions and Hawthorne Lane was the only suggestion received.

MOTION by Mike Denault to name the private road Hawthorne Lane. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

TOWN SIGN

The Select Board received two designs for the new sign out front. One was rectangular and the second was arched at the top.

MOTION by John Dunn to move forward with the arched design. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Jim Stimpson will contact the sign contractor and will also work with Pam Tworig on the flowers.

DELINQUENT DOG UPDATE

There is one dog owner who has not licensed his dog. Luke McKay has been in touch with him. The board discussed the rabies clinics that the fire department and town used to have. There are many options available for dog vaccinations, including mobile clinics and traveling veterinarians.

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 Doug Wright. 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 Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 7:05 p.m. Lori Shepard was 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 7:55 p.m.

Action: MOTION to amend the Employee Policy Handbook to follow state law. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:56 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika
Clerk pro tempore

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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 serving as a lister should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
4. 911 House numbers must be affixed to your home or the entrance of your driveway to be compliant with state law.
5. 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.
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.