

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 16, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Kurt Gamari, John Dunn, and Jedidiah Gramlin.
Michael G. Denault was not present.

Visitors: Lisa Gramlin, Sheila Lawrence, William Levine, Marta Miller, Debra Righi, James Righi, Diane Saldo,
and James Stimpson.
Lori Shepard, Select Board Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Rodney Holland was unable to attend. He would like to bring the School Directors and Superintendent up to speed first and will come to a Select Board meeting in May. Kurt Gamari had talked to him about the well pressure and the water that had been pooling in front of the school.
2. The town clerk received an anonymous complaint about the restructuring of the Planning Commission membership.

MINUTES

1. The special meeting minutes of March 30, 2026 could not be approved due to attendance.
2. MOTION by John Dunn to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 2, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #15 \$ 11,800.80 payroll
- WARRANT #16 \$337,671.07 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of March.

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. Nancy Bushika received a report from Dave Tatro that the highway crew has been grading the roads.
2. The town clerk presented a Letter of Intent for the FY27 Grants-in-Aid program for the board to sign. Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) will meet with Dave Tatro to choose the next project.
MOTION by John Dunn to sign the Grants-in-Aid Letter of Intent. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. The town submitted a Better Back Roads grant application for the Sportsmen Road culvert replacement project but the funding for the Better Back Roads program has stalled. The town does not know when the funding will be released and whether the town would be chosen for the grant. Dara Zink from the BCRC contacted the town with a FEMA mitigation grant opportunity. It is a 25% town match instead of the Better Back Roads 20% match, but the same project would fit the criteria. The board was willing to begin the FEMA grant process in the event the Better Back Roads grant falls through.
4. The Grants-in-Aid equipment grant is also available this summer and it will allow the town to buy road equipment at a greatly reduced cost. Dave Tatro purchased a plate compactor previously.

RECYCLING

The transfer station will begin its summer hours on the last Wednesday in April and will be open each Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. until fall. The Household Hazardous Waste facility in Bennington will open in May.

LAWN MOWING

The Select Board reviewed the lawn mowing quote from Big Paw Firewood and Landscaping LLC. The spring cleanup will be \$800.00 to remove the sod clumps and add topsoil and seed where needed and dispose of debris. The lawn mowing and trimming will be \$250.00 per cut as needed. The board asked a few questions and John Dunn explained what was involved in the spring cleanup cost. Sheila Lawrence asked why a set amount of mowings wasn't listed. The Select Board felt the amount of mowings can change depending on the weather and no longer specifies a certain amount of cuttings.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the quote submitted by Big Paw Firewood and Landscaping LLC.

SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. 3 in favor (John Dunn abstained). Motion APPROVED.

LISTER POSITION

The Select Board advertised for the vacant lister positions and no one has come forward. Deb Burchard sent the Select Board a letter acknowledging that she cannot act alone, but has talked with Nancy Bushika and Property Valuation & Review and would like to explore working with Nemrc to assist with evaluations. The board was agreeable and Nancy Bushika will talk with Nemrc to see if they are willing to hire Deb Burchard and support her valuations. John Dunn stated that if anyone is interested in being a town lister, they should contact the town office or a Select Board member.

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS ADVENTURE RACE

The town was contacted by an organization planning a 350-mile course over a period of five days. They will be passing through town mostly on National Forest land and will travel on County Road and Klondike Road as part of the course. The board thought it was a good idea.

RESIGNATION

The board received a letter from Dr. Stephanie Shelburne resigning as Planning Commission member and as Emergency Management Coordinator.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the resignation. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The board received a letter of interest from Sheila Lawrence requesting to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Jim Stimpson stated that Aaron Malachuk had previously sent in a letter of interest and the Planning Commission had recommended that he should be appointed to the next vacancy. The board went back and forth and Kurt Gamari felt the board should interview each candidate. He suggested developing a policy as to how appointments are made.

MOTION by John Dunn to table discussion. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Commission should send a letter of interest to the town office.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Select Board received a letter of interest from Victoria Jefferies requesting to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Library Board. The former trustee did not run for re-election so the vacancy has existed since March. Any appointment would only be until the next March election.

MOTION by John Dunn to table discussion. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Anyone interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees should send a letter of interest to the town office.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

Nancy Bushika provided a list to the Select Board of names and addresses for homes without a visible 911 house number. Nancy Bushika sent a copy of the prior letter to encourage compliance to Bob Briggs for review and is waiting to hear back. Letters should be 4" tall and displayed on a reflective background. They should be affixed to your house or placed at the end of your driveway if not visible from the road.

USE OF LIBRARY

Kurt Gamari will set up a meeting between the Select Board, School Directors and Library Trustees.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

There is a Board of Civil Authority webinar scheduled for June 17, 2026. Nancy Bushika encouraged all Select Board and Justices of the Peace to attend. If there is a cost, the webinar can be set up at the town office.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by John Dunn to approve and sign the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from Casella Construction, Inc. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

ACT 181

The Select Board received some emails regarding Act 181. It is a revamping of Act 250 but would create a tiered permitting system for land use that could become very costly for the landowner. Marta Miller thinks that the legislation will not go through for now. The Town of Whitingham wrote a letter against it. The Planning Commission will be discussing Act 181 at their next meeting on April 27, 2026.

LOCAL OPTION TAX

The board discussed whether the 1% local option tax would be worth it. Kurt Gamari feels the town has no other way to generate income except through taxation. Kurt Gamari said it would have to be approved by town vote.

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 John Dunn. 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 John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION by John Dunn to exit executive session. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:08 p.m. No action was taken.

MOTION by John Dunn to adjourn. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:09 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 serving as Lister, Energy Coordinator, Tree Warden, BCRC Representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, Library Trustee, Planning Commission member, or Green Up Day Coordinator, should contact a Select Board member or the town office.

3. 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.