

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**EMERGENCY SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**July 17, 2023**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Pamela Tworig, Kurt Gamari, Michael G. Denault, and Marie Kelly-Whitney.

Visitors: Carolyn Brooks, Debra Burchard, John Engel, Victoria Jefferies, and Marta Miller.  
William Levine, Emergency Management Director.  
Sheila G. Lawrence, Emergency Management Coordinator.  
Lori Shepard, Selectboard Secretary.

Nancy Bushika called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. The hearing of visitors was added to the agenda along with an update concerning the sheriff under old business.

Nancy Bushika provided information from Dave Tatro, the Road Commissioner, since he was not present. She advised that Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard worked with FEMA after Hurricane Irene and they know what documentation is required. It is too soon for Dave Tatro to provide any damage totals. He will have information for Thursday night's regular Selectboard meeting. Some roads are open to local traffic only and there was concern as to whether log trucks were using Mill Road.

Bill Levine does not know if the town will meet the damage threshold for FEMA. He wasn't sure if it was \$1 million, or perhaps \$8-\$9 million per county. Several counties in Vermont have qualified for FEMA but Bennington County has not. Individuals who sustained damages during the July flooding event should report their damage to [vermont211.org](http://vermont211.org) or call Vermont 2-1-1 at 866-652-4636 or 802-652-4636. Pam Tworig feels all damages should be documented because Bennington County is trying to reach the threshold to qualify for FEMA money.

The board discussed various ways to communicate with residents. There was a group trying to create a communications network in town but it failed. Bill Levine said the state has a communications network already called VT-Alert. He suggested townspeople should sign up at [vtalert.gov](http://vtalert.gov). 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. People can also dial 2-1-1 to receive Vermont information. The Selectboard has been building an email list for several years now where they send out the agendas and minutes of meetings and other important town notices. Mike Denault suggested a local radio announcement could be used during an emergency. Sheila Lawrence suggested putting a notice on the school's telephone equipment box message area. The board discussed using the Selectboard email list, posting information on the town website, and the Facebook group All Informed Stamford. Depending on the emergency, the Selectboard may need to rely on the expertise of the Fire Chief, the Emergency Management Director or the Road Commissioner. Kurt Gamari felt this was an opportunity to learn and to be proactive before the next storm. Bill Levine will draft the beginnings of an emergency procedure policy for the next Selectboard meeting. Mike Denault will invite our local State Representative, Nelson Brownell, to an upcoming Selectboard meeting. Nancy Bushika will contact the VT-Alert system. Pam Tworig will prepare a notice for the transfer station. Marie Kelly-Whitney will post the reporting information on the town website. An email will be sent through the Selectboard email list to encourage residents to document and report their losses. There is a sixty-day window to report claims.

**BENNINGTON SHERIFF**

Mike Denault received an email from the Bennington Sheriff's office. He did not respond to the town's request for random patrols, but said they are working with Readsboro and would like to come to a Stamford Selectboard meeting to discuss patrols in town. Mike Denault will contact him.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Pam Tworig. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 6:10 p.m.

Marie Kelly-Whitney  
Clerk

/las

**REMINDERS**

1. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed by April 1st of each year. State law requires a valid rabies vaccination certificate to be filed with the Town Clerk's office. Licensing your dog is very easy. Rabies certificates can be faxed to the town office at 802-694-1636 or emailed to the town office at townclerk@stamfordvt.net. Once the current rabies certificate is on file, license renewals can be handled in person, by mailing a check, by utilizing the mail slot in the back wall of the town office or by telephone with a credit card. License fees are \$9.00 for each spayed/neutered dog or \$13.00 for each intact dog. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Stamford.
2. 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.