

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 29, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)
6:00 p.m.

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, John Dunn, and Kurt Gamari.

Michael Denault was not present.

Visitors: Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, and Nancy LeSage.

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 an executive session for a personnel matter were added to the agenda. Finalizing the budget and review of the Town Warrant were moved to the end of the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube.

Nancy Bushika expressed her heartfelt condolences on behalf of the board to Kurt Gamari for the passing of his father, to the Wright family for the passing of Doug, and to Mike Denault on the passing of his mother.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Nancy LeSage expressed concerns regarding plowing, and the sanding and salting of roads. She questioned the quality of her well water and will have it and the nearby vernal pool tested this spring. The board will discuss the plowing complaint during executive session.
2. Lisa Gramlin has been attending the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) meetings and reported that they will be removing any language in their county-wide plan regarding wind turbines on the Hoosac Ridge.
3. The Select Board will need to sign something regarding the Planning Commission grant. The BCRC representative will come to a future meeting.

MINUTES

MOTION by John Dunn to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 8, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECT BOARD ORDERS

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #3 \$14,930.64 payroll

WARRANT #4 \$90,420.96 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The board reviewed and approved financials for the month of December.

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The 2019 Freightliner needed repairs again this week.
2. The highway crew has been plowing a lot of snow. They used the loader to clear the ends of driveways to make room for more snow. The state's loader was also pushing back snow along the Main Road.
3. Dave Tatro has been maintaining the walkways at the school since the school janitor left.

RECYCLING

Casella continues to drop off a different dumpster each time, but there has not been any problems.

2024 GRAND LIST

The Select Board signed the 2024 Grand List indicating there were no suits pending.

GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER

Green Mountain Power will be working on a project this summer to upgrade their poles and wires. They will be adding and replacing several poles and affixing heavier, more durable wires.

MOTION by John Dunn to sign the agreement with Green Mountain Power granting permission to complete the work. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

FEMA FUNDS

The state provided paperwork to release the remaining state ERAF payment to the town in the amount of \$10,800.00 regarding the July 2023 flooding event.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to sign the ERAF grant payment request form. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

The board reviewed the certificate. The mileage amounts are accurate and there are no changes since last year.

MOTION by John Dunn to sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Select Board reviewed a letter they received from Barbara Dolle. They will send a written response.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

Bob Briggs is working on the list.

TOWN SIGN

It looks like the posts are finished and the contractor has been paid in full. John Dunn thought it would be nice to illuminate the sign at night.

TOWN WARRANT

The Select Board reviewed and finalized the town warrant.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to approve and sign the warrant. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECT BOARD REPORT

The board reviewed and made several changes to the report for inclusion in the annual town report.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept the budget as presented and the Select Board report as revised.

SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECT BOARD VACANCY

Since there are only two meetings until the election, the board did not feel it was necessary to fill the vacancy at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. 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)(3). SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Selectboard entered executive session at 7:25 p.m. Dave Tatro was invited to participate.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The board exited executive session at 7:50 p.m. The board discussed the complaint about plowing and the concerns will be addressed with the employee.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:51 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

/las

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. 911 House numbers must be affixed to your home or the entrance of your driveway to be compliant with state law.
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.

PETITIONS FOR WARRANT ARTICLES & ELECTED POSITIONS

The deadline for filing petitions with the town clerk for warrant articles to be included in the town meeting warning is Thursday, January 15, 2026. These petitions must be signed by 5% of the registered voters or at least 38 signatures. V.S.A. 17:2642(a)

The required signatures on a petition to run for an elected office are 1% of the registered voters or at least 8 signatures. The deadline for filing these petitions with the Town Clerk is Monday, January 26, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. Nominating papers and the Consent of Candidate form may be picked up at the Town Office. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).

Elected positions to be filled this year are:

Town Moderator - 1 year term (*John Paul Potvin*)
School Moderator - 1 year term (*John Paul Potvin*)
Town Clerk - 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Treasurer - 3 year term (*Lori A. Shepard*)
Selectboard member - 2 year term (*Douglas Wright*)
Selectboard member - 3 year term (*Kurt Gamari*)
School Director - 2 year term (*Beth Thomas*)
School Director - 3 year term (*Danielle Smith*)
Lister -3 year term (*vacant*)
Lister - 1 year remaining on a 3 year term (*vacant*)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Luke McKay*)
Library Trustee - 3 year term (*Cyndi Candiloro*)

Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. with the town portion first, followed by the school.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Stamford Community Room. Applications for addition to the checklist will be accepted at the town office up to and throughout election day.

Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026. Please call the town office at 694-1361.

Anyone interested in serving as an appointed board member, please review the expiring appointed positions in the town report and contact a member of that board or the Select Board.