

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**March 19, 2026**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, Kurt Gamari, John Dunn, and Jedidiah Gramlin.

Visitors: Irene Bergman, Debra Burchard, Lisa Gramlin, Sheila Lawrence, Stanley Lawrence, Jr., William Levine, Thomas Nazzewski, Daniel Potvin, Bruce Richardson, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, Diane Saldo, James Stimpson, and Trevor Tatro.

Justin Jennett, All States Construction, Inc.

Martina Barnes, Stacy Stratton, Marybeth Hanley, and Steve Pytlik, Green Mountain National Forest.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

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. The agenda was changed to allow the All States Construction representative to speak first. A possible executive session was added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Justin Jennett from All States Construction, Inc. spoke to the Select Board about the town's paving project. He is willing to do the job for the same price he quoted last fall.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept and sign the paving agreement with All States Construction, Inc.

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

2. Martina Barnes, the National Forest District Ranger, spoke about the upcoming projects in Stamford. They have had staff changes that have slowed progress in some areas. The timber sales are done for this year but will start up again next year. They are planning a new timber sale at The Dome which is north of County Road. They reviewed their recreation plans and answered many questions. They thanked the local clubs who help a lot with trail maintenance and water bars.

3. Dan Potvin spoke about the global problems and said the town office has copies of the various preparation and survival letters he has sent out in prior years. He is concerned that the country may experience food shortages and a collapsing economy. He feels another pandemic is coming that will be much worse than Covid-19. He expects there will be civil unrest in many areas and hopes it will not come to Stamford, but a strong Select Board will help. Dan Potvin started the Resiliency Fair to help people learn skills in gardening and self-sufficiency, but also to bridge the gap in town and bring people together.

4. Sheila Lawrence addressed the complaint she submitted to the Select Board and Irene Bergman read a letter on Sheila Lawrence's behalf. She believes there are conflicts of interest and ethics violations and her letter gave several options for resolution. Nancy Bushika noted that the complaint she provided was not signed and contained missing information. The topic was discussed at length. The board felt the ethics and conflicts of interest violations should be discussed during executive session. Mike Denault felt the board should discuss the Ethics Liaison position and the appointment of an alternate.

5. Dave Saldo addressed his previous complaint of an Open Meeting Law violation. He feels the board should have read his letter and adjudicated it in open meeting. The letter he received was well past the deadline and does not acknowledge how the board addressed his complaint. The matter was discussed at length. Nancy Bushika read his complaint aloud. Mike Denault apologized on behalf of the board if a violation occurred and noted that they are all volunteers trying to do their best. Dave Saldo seemed to accept the acknowledgement.

## MINUTES

Nancy Bushika noted that the minutes erroneously appointed Deb Burchard to the Zoning Administrator position for a one year term. The term is three years and should be reflected as such.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 5, 2026 as revised. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #7 \$13,296.29 payroll
- WARRANT #8 \$48,550.49 accounts payable
- WARRANT #9 \$13,892.92 payroll
- WARRANT #10 \$37,771.49 accounts payable
- WARRANT #11 \$14,426.05 payroll
- WARRANT #12 \$41,890.01 accounts payable

## FINANCIALS

The board reviewed and approved financial statements for the month of February.

## HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. Dave Tatro advised that the highway department has been dealing with spring road conditions. He has posted the roads.
2. The regular spring road grading will take place when conditions allow.
3. The Fire Department leases the shed at the north end of town from the state. The town stores its Kubota tractor in it and some highway equipment. A tree fell and crushed the roof. Both the Fire Department and Dave Tatro have spoken with the state. Dave Tatro needs to hire a log truck to raise the roof in order to remove the tractor. He believes there is minimal damage to the tractor. He wants to acknowledge the perceived conflict of interest. The board gave permission to hire a local log truck company to lift the roof.
4. Dave Tatro has been in constant conversation with the National Forest loggers. They have been very respectful for the most part. They did a small amount of damage to the road removing their equipment but Dave Tatro doesn't feel it is any worse than oil company trucks or delivery trucks that are up and down the road every day. The Select Board will request a list from National Forest of all logging contractors and their insurance information before the next round of logging begins.
5. The new highway truck has been ordered.
6. Dave Tatro asked residents to have patience with the muddy spots and potholes during this transition. People just need to drive more slowly.

## LISTER UPDATE

Deb Burchard will need 53 hours of training to become Lister I certified. The cost will be about \$1,000.00. It was agreed that she can't perform Lister duties individually and she has exhausted all efforts to find another person. The board debated whether paying for the training made sense and ultimately agreed to allow the training and to advertise for the vacant positions.

## TOWN OFFICE MAINTENANCE

There is an occasional damp area in the town office floor that needs to be addressed in the near future. The current rug was installed in 1998. The board discussed carpet squares which could be replaced individually if needed or tiles that would be easier to clean and maintain. The puddle in front of the school entrance was discussed. Nancy Bushika asked if a deeper swale would fix the problem but Dave Tatro felt there is a frost heave that comes every year that prevents the puddle from draining. The school did some sort of pressure testing and determined there was no leak in the well. Kurt Gamari believes they should scope the well. The board authorized him to speak to the school about having that done.

MERP GRANT AGREEMENT

Additional electrical work was added near the end of the grant term to take advantage of unused funds. This work was not included in the original agreement. The board signed the revised grant agreement.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

The Select Board approved the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from r.k. Miles and AmeriGas. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

VILLAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

Mike Denault asked about the village center district. He would like to see the area expanded to the state line. Jim Stimpson agreed. Callie Fishburn from the Bennington County Regional Commission will be attending the Planning Commission’s April meeting and Jim Stimpson suggested Mike Denault attend the meeting and talk to her about it.

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 Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for a personnel matter to discuss the letter regarding the ethics violation, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B). SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 8:26 p.m. Jim Stimpson asked if he could participate briefly. After he left the board continued in executive session.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 9:06 p.m.

Action: A letter will be sent to Sheila Lawrence addressing her concerns.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 9:07 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](http://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, 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.