

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

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

Visitors: William Levine.
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. The opening of East Road culvert bids and additional correspondence were added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

OPENING OF BIDS

The town received two bids: one from Capital West Construction LLC in the amount of \$183,000.00 and the second from Neil H. Daniels, Inc. with two options. Option A was \$255,000.00 and Option B was \$375,000.00. The Select Board and the Road Commissioner reviewed the bids and weighed the different specifications and options. The town was awarded a grant of \$200,000.00 with a 10% town match.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the bid from Capital West Construction LLC. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

MINUTES

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 2, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #27 \$11,545.19 payroll

WARRANT #28 \$29,705.29 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. Dave Tatro reported that they have been mowing and repairing equipment. He hasn't been able to work on the shoulders of the newly blacktopped roads. It's been so hot, he didn't want to put the heavy excavator on them. The steering box in the 2019 Freightliner had to be fixed.
2. Nancy Bushika provided a spreadsheet of the current town equipment and loans for the board's review. She asked if the town should sell the 2019 Freightliner. Dave Tatro would like to keep it as a backup.

RECYCLING

No discussion.

PAVING LOAN

The treasurer received one quote for 7.45% from Adams Community Bank for the 5 year paving loan in the amount of \$469,000.00. The Bank of Bennington, TD Bank and MountainOne Bank all declined providing a quote since the town does not have a banking relationship with them. Beacon Bank (formerly Berkshire Bank) was also unable to provide a bid.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept the bid from Adams Community Bank for the paving loan.

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

LEO ETHIER MEMORIAL GARDEN

Kurt Gamari has not talked to the School Board yet; their meeting is near the end of the month.

EDUCATION TAX RATES

The Selectboard received notice that the Agency of Education has set the school tax rates. The homestead rate is 0.9915. Last year's rate was 0.9666. The non-homestead rate is 1.1323. Last year's rate was 1.1761. Once the grand list is set, the treasurer will work on the tax rate and will plan to send out tax bills in August.

NATIONAL FOREST

The National Forest is issuing e-permits to allow people to cut firewood on National Forest land. The permits can be obtained at <https://epermits.fs2c.usda.gov/forest/0920>.

TOWN OFFICE FILE CABINETS

The town office received a gracious donation of fireproof, locking file cabinets and is getting rid of the used file cabinets. If anyone is interested in the older file cabinets, please call or stop by the town office. They are free for the taking.

LIBRARY SIGN

The library asked about temporarily hanging a banner they received, on the sign posts of the new sign in front of the building. Since the banner is one-sided, the Select Board felt it might be more visible on two stakes that were set up facing the road. Another suggestion was to hang it on the playground fence on the right side of the building.

FUEL PRICES

West Oil Company submitted a letter with their 2027 fuel purchasing options. Dave Tatro will contact West Oil.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Jed Gramlin spoke with the MOOver bus company who indicated that it wouldn't be in their budget to set up routes to Stamford. Green Mountain Express has not responded. Jed Gramlin said the Green Mountain Express follows Route 7 and the MOOver bus goes to Brattleboro. Neither company wants to come here since Stamford is out of the way. Kurt Gamari asked if Elder Services of Massachusetts might come up from North Adams. Jed Gramlin will look into it.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

Nancy Bushika will contact Luke McKay for an update on the delinquent dogs.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to adjourn. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. The state primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 in the Stamford Community Room from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
2. Applications to register to vote will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day. Forms can be obtained at the town office or you can register to vote through Vermont's online voter registration system at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2026. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
4. Statement of Nomination papers and the Consent of Candidate forms to run for Justice of the Peace are available at the Town Office and are due back by Monday, July 20, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. V.S.A. 17:2681(a) (b).
5. 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 and what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.
6. Anyone interested in serving as Lister, Energy Coordinator, Tree Warden, or BCRC Representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
7. 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.