

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

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

John Dunn was not present.

Visitors: Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Thomas Nazzewski, Debra Righi, James Righi, and Trevor Tatro.

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. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda and the Errors and Omissions form was moved up for earlier discussion. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Deb Burchard said she has spent a lot of time recently following up on small sheds and decks that have been built without a permit. These are permits that she is not compensated for. There is a penalty fee with the regular building permits and she would like to see a penalty imposed on these agricultural/small building permits as well. Mike Denault asked about dog and chicken coops and if there was a minimal building size that doesn't need a permit. Deb Burchard said they are considered accessory buildings and all of them need to meet the zoning setbacks. She should be notified of them and they should be permitted for assessment and taxation purposes.
2. Deb Burchard asked if the town was pursuing a municipal water supply grant. The Select Board is not aware of any grant or project.
3. Deb Burchard was contacted by Green Mountain Power who will be using a Stamford location as a laydown area for an upcoming project. She will require a permit since this is a commercial use of the property for temporary storage and an office trailer. She said Green Mountain Power always includes money in their budget for road repair and she would like the Select Board to have a discussion with them since their trucks and equipment are up and down Mill Road frequently.
4. Deb Burchard complained about dogs that she can hear barking constantly near her home. She understands that they are registered farm dogs which allows them to bark when they're actively controlling livestock. She said these dogs are kenneled all the time. She presented a copy of the Vermont laws concerning dogs. The Select Board will look into it.
5. Deb Burchard stated that there has been a lot of ATV traffic on County Road and Service Road #264. The board recommended that she contact the Environmental Police.
6. Mike Denault said he received complaints that someone is renovating a home in Alpenwald and was burying the debris. Deb Burchard will look into it if he provides the address and the property is in Stamford.

MINUTES

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 6, 2026 as written.

SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #33 \$ 9,847.85 payroll

WARRANT #34 \$30,801.53 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

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

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The chip seal coat was completed this past week and Dave Tatro has called to schedule the sweeper.
2. Both the 2019 Freightliner and the Ram were down for repairs but the highway crew was able to fix them in house.
3. The East Road culvert project will probably be put off until next year.
4. Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission will meet with Dave Tatro to choose the next Grants-in-Aid project and work on the road erosion inventory.
5. In 1974 the town received a grant to construct the tennis courts. A representative from the state came this week to inspect the tennis courts. He said he would consider it obsolete and would send the town a copy of the report. Dave Tatro felt the easiest way to remove the seed savers beds and mess was to rent a dumpster, remove the fence and debris and cover the area with top soil. The Select Board will wait for the report before taking any action.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro contacted Casella to inquire about the extra charges on the town bill which he feels are erroneous. He has not received a response.
2. The town received a letter changing the town's reporting period from quarterly to annually. The state will amend our transfer station certification to reflect this change.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS FORM

There was a typo on an entry which misrepresented the value of a property on the grand list. The assessor has made the correction.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept and sign the Errors and Omissions statement. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SETTING THE TAX RATE

The treasurer reviewed the tax calculations. The 2026 residential rate will be 1.6518 (0.2308 town rate, 0.4295 highway rate and 0.9915 school residential rate). The non-residential rate will be 1.7926 (0.2308 town rate, 0.4295 highway rate and 1.1323 school non-residential rate). The town and rate also includes the cemetery, library, fire department and other items voted in at town meeting.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the tax rates as calculated. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the warrant to authorize the treasurer to collect taxes. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SHRUB REMOVAL ESTIMATE

The Select Board received an estimate to remove the unsightly shrubs along the town office wall on the north side of the building. Nancy Bushika would like to wait to see if the school removes them when they are trimming and/or removing the other shrubs.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

There are 9 dog owners and 16 delinquent dogs. Luke McKay continues to work to bring the dog owners into compliance.

REAPPRAISAL

The Select Board reviewed the request for proposal for reappraisal services. The state will require another reappraisal to be completed by 2030 which is four years away. NEMRC has suggested that we submit a request now so that we are on their calendar. Nancy Bushika will check with the assessor concerning the reappraisal of utilities and if that is ok, the request for proposal can be sent out.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Kurt Gamari invited the Select Board to attend the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026 as Laura Ranker, the state water resource protection specialist will be giving a presentation.

TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER

Nancy Bushika stated that the house near the school is for sale and wondered if the board should consider it for a town building. The board agreed it was not affordable.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:15 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 and 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, or BCRC Representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
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.