

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**January 2, 2025**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**  
6:00 p.m.

Present: Select Board: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, John Dunn, and Douglas Wright.  
Michael G. Denault and Kurt Gamari were not present.

Visitors: Laura Champagne, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Peter Greenbush, Kimberly Kvaracein, Sheila Pecor, and James Stimpson.  
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 was added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting.

Nancy Bushika expressed condolences on behalf of the board to the Moulton/Denault family. She thanked John Dunn for donating the Christmas tree and setting it up with Mike Denault, and thanked Lori Shepard for decorating it.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

Peter Greenbush asked for the status of the conflict of interest matter he brought forward. Nancy Bushika said she has been reading the new ethics law and its requirements. There is nothing in state law that says they are incompatible. The town cannot create a policy that would prevent the same person from holding two positions because they are elected. Peter Greenbush expressed his frustration. Doug Wright said the law just took effect yesterday and he is still learning but they intend to do what the law requires the town to do.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Doug Wright to accept the regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2024 as written. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### SELECT BOARD ORDERS

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #51 \$12,476.65 payroll

WARRANT #52 \$51,513.04 accounts payable

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

Nancy Bushika noted that the budget work session scheduled for December 12, 2024 did not place because there was no quorum.

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. The Select Board signed the Highway Ordinance that was approved at the last meeting.
2. The Select Board accepted and signed the Road Erosion Grant Agreement to allow the Bennington County Regional Commission to assist Dave Tatro in performing the road inventory required by the state. The grant amount is \$3,232.00 with a 20% match of \$808.00.

## RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

## APPOINTMENT OF ETHICS LIASION OFFICER

The board would like to wait to discuss this appointment with a full board.

## ASSISTANT ASSESSOR CLERK POSITION

The town received a request asking for the job description for the Assistant Assessor Clerk position. Nancy Bushika noted that there was a lot of work to be done in connection with the reappraisal, but now that the reappraisal is over, work has slowed right down. The state is trying to make towns reassess every four or six years. The board agreed to hold off on searching for an Assistant Assessor Clerk until they see what the state decides.

## CORRESPONDENCE

The Select Board received a letter from John Tiffany at NEMRC, the town's assessor. John Dunn summarized the letter which explained how he determined the fair market value of properties in town. He provided his years of experience and the fact that the reappraisal passed the state's test. He also stated that he works in several other small Vermont towns where the Assessor Clerk holds several other positions.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session for pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution was not needed.

## BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Select Board began to review the budget for 2025.

MOTION by Doug Wright to adjourn. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika  
Clerk pro tempore

/las

## 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 applying for the transfer station substitute position 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.

#### 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 16, 2025. 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 27, 2025 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 (*Paul Dupuis*)  
School Moderator - 1 year term (*Paul Dupuis*)  
Select Board member - 2 year term (*Nancy Bushika*)  
Select Board member - 3 year term (*Michael Denault*)  
School Director - 2 year term (*Erika Bailey*)  
School Director - 3 year term (*Gary Bellows*)  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term (*Sally A. Bohl*)  
Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term (*Sheila G. Lawrence*)  
Library Trustee - 2 year term (*Danielle Smith*)

Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with the school portion first, followed by the town.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 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 3, 2025. 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.