

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 1, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: William Levine, Mary Lou McKay, Debra Righi, James Righi, James Stimpson.
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. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Jim Stimpson has done some research on the municipal constable position. He contacted the Law Enforcement Training Facility in Vermont who advised that towns can have a non-law enforcement constable that would assist with the enforcement of town ordinances, assist the tax collector with posting requirements and other administrative duties. The constable could not pull over drivers or respond to police matters. Mike Denault asked if he would carry a firearm as that could be a liability for the town. Jim Stimpson felt that would fall under Vermont's constitutional right to bear arms. Jim Stimpson said the Select Board could add the question to elect a Constable position to the warrant for a vote at town meeting, or could chose to fill the position by appointment. Nancy Bushika asked him to drop off his research for the Select Board's review.
2. The Select Board followed up with a letter to Representative Jonathan Cooper asking him to work toward rescinding the posting requirement in the new tax sale legislation.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2026 as written.

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

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #39 \$ 11,842.35 payroll

WARRANT #38 \$602,740.46 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The sweeper came last week. It was different company but the sweeper the town usually uses had too many breakdowns.
2. The highway crew will be doing some ditching next week and then will begin blowing leaves and starting to get the equipment ready for winter.
3. All of the town trucks are back in good working order.
4. Dave Tatro said the new truck will be ready some time in November. The treasurer will begin the vehicle loan process.

RECYCLING

1. The itemized charges on the prior Casella bill were discussed. Dave Tatro feels it is a Casella billing error not that demo is being put in the bin by mistake. Joe and Carol Fachini stay on top of things at the recycling center and wouldn't let items be tossed in the wrong bins.
2. The Select Board reviewed the Recycling Update as the current punch cards will end on October 31, 2026. Mike Denault reviewed the disposal prices in North Adams but it is hard to compare since they charge by the ton. The board discussed whether to raise fees for the purchase of punch cards and/or demolition fees. Kurt Gamari feels it is a practice the town offers for the common good. Other board members feel the prices should be higher so the loss to the town isn't so great. The board will review the price list and discuss in depth at the next meeting.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND SCHOOL BOARD

1. The Select Board did not have a quorum so the joint meeting could not take place officially, but those present provided some updates. Cindy Lamore spoke about how hard she and the rest of the School Directors have worked to prevent Stamford from being merged with the proposed Bennington or Windham County school districts because we would lose school choice for our high school students. The state is trying to keep all the education funds within the state.
2. The joint meeting with the School Directors and Library Trustees was rescheduled to Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.

DELINQUENT TAX SALE

Mike Denault attended the recent delinquent tax sale. There was one property that was sold for \$31,000.00. The next tax sale is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 11 a.m. Both Mike Denault and Nancy Bushika are available to attend on behalf of the town.

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

The Select Board received Sally Bohl's resignation as Delinquent Tax Collector and acknowledged her more than thirty years of service to the town. The Board thanked her for a job well done. Nancy Bushika noted that the Delinquent Tax Collector is paid 5% of the taxes brought in and she thinks this is a good pay structure. It provides incentive since if you don't work to bring in the tax funds, you don't get paid.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the resignation of Sally Bohl as Delinquent Tax Collector, effective November 24, 2026, with regret. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Anyone interested in serving as Delinquent Tax Collector should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS (VLCT) CHANGES

The town clerk received an email from VLCT indicating that they have not been able to secure agreements with PACIF and VERB, two organizations that support the risk pools that help VLCT keep costs down. Without a funding agreement with PACIF and VERB, VLCT may need to reduce the services they provide to towns. VLCT will continue to negotiate, but wanted to let towns know.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

The town clerk licensed another dog this week. There are still five delinquent dog owners and eight dogs. The Select Board will follow up with Luke McKay, the Dog Officer, to ensure he is taking the next step toward compliance and send another letter imposing fines to the one owner who licensed dogs but did not pay the fines.

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Nancy Bushika brought up the November 3, 2026 general election. If you intend to vote in person, please bring with you the ballot that was mailed to you by the state. Voters who do not bring their ballots with them will need to sign an affidavit stating that they have not already voted.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.

Nancy L. Bushika, pro tempore
Chair

/las

REMINDERS

1. Tax bills have been issued and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2026. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.
2. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at the Stamford Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
3. Applications to the checklist will be accepted through Election Day. Application forms can be requested by calling the town office at 802-694-1361 or you can register to vote online through Vermont's My Voter Page at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>.
4. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2026. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
5. There is a mail slot in the back wall of the town clerk's office where you can drop off your completed ballot at any time, day or night, safely and securely.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
9. Anyone interested in organizing the Christmas tree lighting ceremony this year should contact a member of the Select Board.
10. Anyone interested in serving as Delinquent Tax Collector until the March 2027 election should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
11. 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.