

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 15, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Theresa Denault, Debra Righi, James Righi, William Rivard, and 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 and an executive session for a personnel matter was added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Bill Rivard is looking for clarification on the vote regarding Proposal 3 and 4 in the November election. The contents already appear in law so he wants to understand what the vote will achieve. He contacted our legislators and Representative Jonathan Cooper responded. Bill Rivard would like to have him come to Stamford so he can explain the background on these bills. Nancy Bushika was cautious about the Select Board appearing to advocate for one candidate over another. Mike Denault felt if he is only providing an explanation it would be acceptable. The Select Board does not have another meeting before the election to invite him to a Select Board meeting. The library and the school were suggested as possible locations for the meeting. Bill Rivard will get in touch with Representative Cooper.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 1, 2026 as written.

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

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #41 \$11,419.42 payroll

WARRANT #42 \$44,853.82 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The highway crew has been finishing the grading. Dave Tatro has ordered sand and salt in preparation for winter.
2. Dave Tatro spoke with Al Whitney who is willing to hold his rate for another year, but indicated that if fuel prices rise dramatically, he may need to add a fuel surcharge. Dave Tatro feels his service has been excellent.
3. Dave Tatro said the tennis court project will have to wait until next year.
4. Nancy Bushika asked whether there are people living on Class 4 roads that plow and do not have a road maintenance agreement with the town. Last year Dave Tatro could see that roads were plowed but didn't know who was plowing them. The board discussed changing the classification to either a private road or a Class 3 road. Dave Tatro said there are sections of Risky Ranch Road that are too narrow to pass with a plow truck. Jim Stimpson felt if the camp owners knew what was needed to bring the road up to standards, they may want to pitch in as a group and that would take the liability away from the town. The Select Board decided to send a letter to property owners on all Class 4 roads enclosing a proposed road maintenance agreement, insurance, and road improvement information.

RECYCLING

The Select Board reviewed the transfer station prices and made several revisions.

MOTION by Jed Gramlin to accept the Recycling Update with the changes made. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

VLCT INSURANCE RENEWALS

The Select Board reviewed the property and equipment schedules provided. The Fire Department has reviewed their portion and found it acceptable.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the property schedule and equipment schedule as presented in the Vermont League of Cities & Towns renewal sheets. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

JULY 2023 FLOODING EVENT

The town received a letter from FEMA closing out the file. The town has received reimbursement for all damages sustained.

NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT

The town was encouraged to join in the national settlement a few years ago and a settlement has been reached. The town is scheduled to receive \$64.07. There is a new litigation started against a different drug manufacturer and the state is encouraging all towns to sign up as it will bring more money into the state. The paperwork will be forthcoming.

DELINQUENT DOGS

The list is down to seven dogs and four dog owners. Luke McKay will be sending out the next round of notices, increasing the fine to \$100.00 per dog. If the dogs are still not licensed, the dog owners will be taken to court to bring about compliance. A second notice was sent to the dog owner who licensed his dogs but did not pay the fines.

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

At the last meeting the board accepted the Delinquent Tax Collector's resignation, effective November 24, 2026. The board is seeking letters of interest from residents who would like this position and asks that all letters be submitted by November 19, 2026.

ETHICS COMMISSION

Nancy Bushika noted that the state has finally staffed the position. Jed Gramlin was appointed Ethics Liaison for the town in March 2026.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND SCHOOL BOARD

The joint meeting with the School Directors and Library Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.

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 Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B). SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 6:55 p.m. Lori Shepard was invited to participate.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to exit executive session. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:30 p.m. No action was taken.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:31 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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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. There is a mail slot in the back wall of the town office where you can drop off your completed ballot at any time, day or night, safely and securely.
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. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
8. Anyone interested in organizing the Christmas tree lighting ceremony this year should contact a member of the Select Board.
9. Anyone interested in serving as Delinquent Tax Collector until the March 2027 election should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board by November 19, 2026.
10. 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.