

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

Present: Select Board: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault and John Dunn.

Kurt Gamari and Douglas Wright were not present.

Visitors: Alden Finney, Jedidiah Gramlin, William Levine, Debra Righi, James Righi, and James Stimpson.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

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. The meeting was recorded for the YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 16, 2025 as written.

SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECT BOARD ORDERS

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #43 \$10,733.72 payroll

WARRANT #44 \$86,728.68 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

1. The board reviewed financials for the month of September.

2. The board reviewed the income and expense reports for the third quarter. The treasurer is willing to answer any questions they have.

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The highway crew has been doing its normal fall maintenance, blowing leaves, and getting the equipment ready for winter weather.

2. The new highway laborer is working out well.

3. Dave Tatro will be getting a chip seal quote for the next set of roads as part of the town's resurfacing plan.

4. The board discussed the pros and cons of purchasing a new truck in light of the recent repair bills for the 2019 Freightliner truck.

5. Dave Tatro applied for a Better Back Roads grant to replace the culvert at the intersection of Sportsmen Road and Suzanne Drive. Using the AOT engineer's proposal, which included concrete headwalls and wing walls, the cost of the project was \$60,000.00. The grant supervisor suggested he use stone instead of cement which would reduce the project cost by more than \$35,000.00, since this would put the project in a better position for funding. Nancy Bushika was frustrated that the town was given

one design by the state and then was encouraged to pick a cheaper route in order to obtain funding. The board agreed that even the cheaper solution would be better than the current culvert situation. Nancy Bushika signed the grant application.

6. The door projects at the highway garage are completed and the money has been received from the MERP program. There were additional unused funds and the MERP representative is working with Dave Tatro to use the funds to install a new electrical panel so the emergency generator can be used.

RECYCLING

1. When Casella picks up the dumpster, they drop off a different dumpster which is often in poor shape. Nancy Bushika contacted Casella asking them to switch out the dumpster with a better one. Dave Tatro said her phone call didn't help as the latest drop off was also in poor shape.

2. The town has received an application for the backup transfer station monitor position from Steve Senecal. He used to work at the transfer station years ago. The Select Board will offer him the position.

ASSESSOR CLERK

The Select Board received two applications for the part time Assessor Clerk position. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

The insurance renewal figures from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns were reviewed. Nancy Bushika would like the purchase price of the Freightliner corrected. The board accepted the figures with the revision. Once the fire department has responded with approval of their figures, the town clerk will complete the renewal process.

TOWN OFFICE HEATING UNIT

The heat and air conditioning unit in the Select Board room is not working. The town clerk obtained a quote to replace the unit. The board discussed at length the cost of installing a split unit in the back wall as well as in the town clerk's area. It would be more efficient but might extend the time frame and cold weather is setting in.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the bid from Joe Vareschi Plumbing and Heating to replace the current unit. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. No vote was taken and discussion continued.

MOTION by John Dunn to amend the previous motion to allow an additional \$1,000.00 for a mini-split heater if the work could be done in the same time frame as the original bid to replace the current unit. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

No update.

TOWN SIGN

Jim Stimpson reported that several rocks have been removed and the area is being prepared for the sign installation.

HALLOWEEN

Nancy Bushika thanked the Fire Department for coming out on Halloween night in order to keep the children safe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature general public knowledge of a pending or probable civil litigation would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for a pending or probable civil litigation pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 7:12 p.m. Lori Shepard was invited to participate.

MOTION by John Dunn 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 John Dunn to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:31 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 (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 serving as a lister should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
3. Anyone interested in serving as Assessor Clerk should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
4. 911 House numbers must be affixed to your home or the entrance of your driveway to be compliant with state law.
5. 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.