

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**February 20, 2025**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**  
6:00 p.m.

Present: Select Board: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Douglas Wright, Michael G. Denault, John Dunn, and Kurt Gamari.  
Visitors: Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Peter Greenbush, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, Diane Saldo, and Beth Thomas.  
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. An executive session for personnel matters was added to the agenda along with some correspondence. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION LETTER**

Lisa Gramlin asked if the Select Board would support the Conservation Commission in its position to oppose the proposed use of the Hoosac Mountain Range for future wind energy development in town.

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the letter on town letterhead in opposition.

SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**MINUTES**

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 6, 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 #7 \$ 10,237.81 payroll

WARRANT #8 \$846,571.20 accounts payable

**ROAD CONDITIONS**

1. The board acknowledged how busy the highway department has been with snowstorms and equipment repairs.
2. Peter Greenbush asked who pushed the snowbanks back along Main Road. The work was done by the state. He will contact them.

**2024 MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANT IN AID**

Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) will provide a revised bill covering the work done within the grant period and the BCRC may waive the portion of their services that are not covered by the grant. Mike Denault noted that Jim Henderson really went to bat for the town.

#### REVIEW MOWING BID REQUESTS

1. John Dunn would like to see the shrubs in front of the classroom on the right side of the school either trimmed or removed. Nancy Bushika also questioned the shrubs on the north side of the town office. Nancy Bushika will talk to the school.
2. John Dunn bid on the job last year and would like to submit a bid this year. The Select Board discussed the conflict of interest and John Dunn acknowledged that he would recuse himself to avoid any conflict of interest.
3. The bid proposal was revised and will be sent out in mid-March. Josh Field will be added to the list of contractors who will receive the mowing bid request.

#### TOWN MEETING PREPARATION

1. The school informational meeting will be held first. The board felt prepared.
2. Lisa Gramlin asked if the Planning Commission could announce its proposed Bylaw changes at town meeting and have copies of the proposed new Bylaw for townspeople. She will need to talk to the moderator who is in charge of the meeting.

#### ETHICS COMMISSION UPDATE

1. Doug Wright discussed the proposed Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance that the town will need to adopt. They reviewed what documents have to be posted on the town website. Nancy Bushika will meet with Doug Wright to work on the proposed documents for review by the board at the next meeting.
2. Mike Denault asked if a conflict is brought to the Select Board if they can handle it locally so that a complaint does not have to be filed with the state. Doug Wright advised against that and recommended that the town follow the process set up by the state. Mike Denault felt the board could create a policy saying, for example, a Select Board member cannot also serve on the Planning Commission, to proactively prevent conflicts. A lengthy discussion ensued.

#### EMPLOYEE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Select Board revised the recycling center monitor job description which was very outdated. Nancy Bushika will review the job description with Dave Tatro before the board finalizes it. Nancy Bushika would like Dave Tatro's input on the road commissioner and highway laborer job descriptions also.

#### LETTER FROM VT PVR REGARDING 2024 REAPPRAISAL

The town received a letter from the Vermont Property Valuation and Review Board (PVR) saying that the reappraisal did not pass one of the state's tests. The board has forwarded the letter to the assessor who has been back and forth with the state. The board will see if their response is sufficient.

#### FEMA FUNDING

The town clerk has been working with FEMA to release the rest of the grant funds for the July 2023 flood damage.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the reimbursement requests for the initial 75% payment for the five damaged roads as well as the 15% payment on all three of the projects. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### KLONDIKE ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT

Mike Denault asked if the closing papers were ever finalized on the grant from years ago. There has been no activity in years, but they have never officially closed the file.

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Martina Barnes, the Forest Ranger for our area, would like to come to a meeting this spring to update the board on projects going on in Stamford.

#### FIRE ALARM AT SCHOOL

Beth Thomas informed the board that the fire alarms went off at school last week. The children walked to the Stamford Community Church which is the current protocol. They had difficulty because the sidewalks were not plowed and the kids did not have time to put boots on. Having the crosswalk at the southern entrance to the school caused problems as the children crossing interfered with the fire trucks. Beth Thomas wondered if the crosswalk could be moved to the north entrance. Nancy Bushika noted that the roads are the highway department's first priority, not the sidewalks. The school may have to contact the state to move the crosswalk and a sidewalk ramp may need to be installed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a personnel matter and 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 personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) and for 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 7:15 p.m. Sally Bohl and Lori Shepard were invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Action: A letter will be written to the state regarding the reappraisal results. The town will hold off on returning the assessor's contract.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:28 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](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 new dog license fees for 2025 are \$16.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$20.00 for real/intact dogs.
4. Wilmington will hold a rabies clinic on March 8, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Wilmington Fire House, 40 Beaver Street, Wilmington, VT. Pownal will host a rabies clinic on March 22, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the old town office, 467 Center Street, Pownal, VT.
5. Town meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with the school informational meeting first, followed by the town.
6. 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.
7. Absentee ballots will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2025. Please call the town office at 694-1361.
8. 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.
9. 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.