

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 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: Jon Bohl, Debra Burchard, Tammy Elias, Thomas Elias, Carol Ethier-Kipp, Peter Greenbush, William Levine, Michael Murphy, Debra Righi, and James Righi.
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. The dog reserve guidelines were added to the agenda. Peter Greenbush recorded the meeting for Jed Gramlin's YouTube.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Tammy Elias stated that the heavy rains flooded her yard and driveway. They are concerned about their well water and their cleanup costs and they want something done. Dave Tatro asked the state for a hydraulic study after the flooding last July. The project the state designed involves Act 250 and a realignment of the brook and will be a large, costly project. Dave Tatro will follow up with the state engineer.
2. The state is conducting a review of Jon Bohl's gravel pit and he asked for a letter of support from the town. Dave Tatro purchases the town gravel from John Bohl's pit and it would create a hardship for the town if it was no longer available. The Select Board will prepare a letter.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 6, 2025 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECT BOARD ORDERS

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #11 \$7,316.56 payroll
- WARRANT #12 \$53,767.29 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Select Board reviewed and approved bank statements for the months of January and February.

ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Mud season is here. Dave Tatro contacted the sweeper for the spring road sweeping.
2. It's time to prepare the bid package for the East Road paving project. The board discussed getting a loan and paving other town roads.

RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika attended the recent Alliance meeting. Each town is required to have a SWIP plan. It is time to renew the Alliance SWIP plan and once it is completed each town will need to approve it.
2. Nancy Bushika announced that she will be stepping down as the Alliance representative. Another board member will have to take her place.

ETHICS COMMISSION UPDATE

Doug Wright has been doing a lot of work. He prepared a great outline on how to do the investigation and enforcement. The board will also have to adopt an ordinance. The board discussed the matter at length. A designated complaint recipient will need to be appointed as well as a pool of potential investigators the board can pick from if a complaint is received. Anyone interested in serving as an ethics investigator should submit a letter of interest to the town office or Select Board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The town's Conflict of Interest Policy was updated with VLCT's new policy recommendations and the board reviewed the changes.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept and sign the Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct Policy with the proposed revisions. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The policy will be finalized and signed at the next meeting.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Last week Nancy Bushika reviewed the Transfer Station Monitor job description with Dave Tatro and Lori Shepard. The revised description was reviewed.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to approve the Transfer Station Monitor job description as revised. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The description will be finalized and signed at the next meeting and copies will be given to the Recycling Monitors and hung up in the shed at the transfer station.

FEMA UPDATE

The town has received the remaining \$64,000.00 in FEMA reimbursement funds from the July 2023 flooding damage. There is still an outstanding \$4,800.00 that FEMA needs to pay in Category Z administrative costs.

MOWING BIDS

The board reviewed the bid proposal for the school lawn. Kurt Gamari will attend the site visit on March 27, 2025 and bids will be due by 4 p.m. on April 3, 2025. Six contractors will be sent the bid package.

TENNIS COURTS

The Seed Savers Group abandoned the tennis court area and it has become overgrown and someone could get hurt. Last year the board asked the highway crew to clean it up. Dave Tatro started the work last year and will work on it again this summer.

DOG RESERVE FUND GUIDELINES

The Select Board discussed the terms for releasing the funds.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept and sign the Dog Reserve Fund Guidelines with the proposed revisions. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The guidelines will be finalized and signed at the next meeting.

HIGHWAY ORDINANCE

The Highway Ordinance is now effective as the 60 days have passed and no petition was received.

MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCY PROGRAM (MERP) GRANT

The town was approved for an energy grant to replace the highway garage doors. The first step was to submit the project specifications to the state and national historic preservation divisions as well submit it for an archeological review. Once the project clears those three steps, we can prepare a request for proposal.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from West Oil Company and Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

2024 MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANT IN AID

The town has received reimbursement for the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) payment for work outside of the grant timeframe. The final reimbursement request has been sent in.

WITHHOLDING TAXES

The town clerk recently received a letter from the IRS asking for more time to review their files.

PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAW REVISION PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 24, 2025 at 7 p.m. to receive comments and questions concerning its changes to the Bylaws.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed. The town will request an update on the matter.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:02 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 applying for the transfer station substitute position should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
3. Anyone interested in serving as an ethics investigator should submit a letter of interest to the town office or Select Board.
4. The new dog license fees for 2025 are \$16.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$20.00 for real/intact dogs.
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.