

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

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

Visitors: Irene Bergman, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Sheila Lawrence, William Levine, Marta Miller, Thomas Nazzewski, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, James Stimpson, and Evan Tatro.  
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. There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting.

**REORGANIZATION OF BOARD**

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to nominate Nancy Bushika as Selectboard Chair. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Doug Wright to nominate Mike Denault as Vice Chair. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to nominate Kurt Gamari as Clerk. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Mike Denault felt it was in the best interests of the town to discuss whether the board should appoint citizens to multiple boards. Kurt Gamari felt multiple appointments should not be made if the boards carry voting weight. He feels it is a conflict to serve on the Planning Commission where you make the laws and the Zoning Board of Adjustment where you enforce those laws. Mike Denault stated that the ethics laws are new and the board has received complaints. He asked if the board should consider changing things to remove the perception of an ethics violation, or just make appointments and see where things go. He acknowledged the great commitment many citizens have made who have served on boards for thirty years. Sheila Lawrence explained that she has recused herself when conflicting matters arose in the past. Doug Wright felt strongly that board members were overthinking it and the town should follow the process that has been set up by the state. Nancy Bushika felt that the vacancies should be advertised before being filled, but other board members felt the expiring terms are in the town report and reminders have been listed at the end of the minutes. After some additional discussion, the board reviewed the responses from its letter asking if people wanted to continue to serve.

1. Zoning Board of Adjustment. Jean Kurpiel was willing to serve again but said she would step down if someone else wanted the position.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Jean Kurpiel to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for another 3 year term. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Zoning Board of Adjustment. Sheila Lawrence would like her appointment to be renewed.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Sheila Lawrence to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for another 3 year term. SECONDED by Doug Wright. 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Kurt Gamari). Motion APPROVED.

3. Emergency Management Director. Bob Briggs would like to continue to serve. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to appoint Bob Briggs as Emergency Management Director for another 1 year term. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

4. Emergency Management Coordinators. Sheila Lawrence and Stewart Johnson both expressed a desire to stay on. MOTION by John Dunn to appoint Stewart Johnson and Sheila Lawrence as Emergency Management Co-Coordiators for 1 year terms. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

5. Bob Briggs would like to expand his team and asked the board to appoint Stephanie Shelburne as an Emergency Management Co-Coordinator. The board considered the request. Bill Levine supported the appointment.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Stephanie Shelburne as Emergency Management Co-Coordinator for a 1 year term. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

6. Dog Officer. Luke McKay responded to the Selectboard's letter with a willingness to continue as Dog Officer.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Luke McKay as Dog Officer for another 1 year term. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

7. Energy Coordinator. The position is vacant. Anyone interested in serving as Energy Coordinator should contact a Select Board member or the town office.

8. Septic Officer. Maura Hawkins responded to the Selectboard's letter with an interest to continue to serve.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Maura Hawkins as Septic Officer for another 1 year term. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

9. Planning Commission. Lisa Gramlin, David Saldo and Marta Miller each expressed an interest to stay on the board. John Dunn confirmed that attendance and reaching a quorum was no longer a problem.

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Lisa Gramlin to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

10. MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Dave Saldo to the Planning Commission for another 4 year term. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Kurt Gamari). Motion APPROVED.

11. MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Marta Miller to the Planning Commission for another 4 year term. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

12. Peter Greenbush and Irene Bergman both expressed an interest in joining the Conservation Commission. Martin Cristofolini and Sheila Pecor responded that they no longer wish to serve. Marta Miller resigned from her 4 year term ending in 2028 creating a vacancy on the board.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the resignation of Marta Miller with a sincere thank you. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

13. MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Peter Greenbush to the Conservation Commission for the 4 year term vacated by Martin Cristofolini. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

14. MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Irene Bergman to the Conservation Commission for the 4 year term vacated by Sheila Pecor. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Anyone interested in serving on the Conservation Commission should contact a Selectboard member or the town office.

15. Road Commissioner. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to appoint Dave Tatro as Road Commissioner for another 1 year term. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

16. Tree Warden. The position is vacant. Anyone interested in serving as the Tree Warden should contact a Select Board member or the town office.

17. Bennington County Regional Commission Representative. Deb Burchard would accept the reappointment but encouraged the board to appoint Lisa Gramlin in her stead if there was no vacancy.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Lisa Gramlin to serve as the Bennington County Regional Commission Representative for a 1 year term. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

18. MOTION by Doug Wright to appoint Deb Burchard to continue to serve as the Bennington County Regional Commission Representative for a 1 year term. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

19. Green Up Day Coordinator. The town did not receive any response from Brian Rower. MOTION by John Dunn to appoint Marta Miller as the Green Up Day Coordinator for a 1 year term. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

20. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to appoint Bob Briggs as DVFiber representative and Bill Levine as DVFiber alternate. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

21. Community Project Committee. The board did not receive any response from Carolyn Brooks. Anyone interested in serving on the Community Projects Committee should contact a Select Board member or the town office.

#### ALL BOARDS MEETING

Mike Denault suggested inviting the chairs of each board to an All Boards Meeting.

#### JUDICIAL BUREAU APPOINTMENTS

Since the Select Board members remain the same, there is no need to make any changes. The board will confirm that Deb Burchard, as Zoning Administrator, is listed as an Issuing and Appearing Official.

#### DESIGNATION OF MEETING DATES

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. Meeting dates are subject to review and may be changed.

#### DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPER FOR PUBLICATIONS

More people receive the Berkshire Eagle than the Bennington Banner.

MOTION by Mike Denault to designate the Berkshire Eagle as the newspaper for publications. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF SELECTBOARD MEMBER TO REVIEW WARRANTS

MOTION by Mike Denault to designate Nancy Bushika to review bills and have the authority to approve payments prior to Selectboard meetings. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF HIGHWAY LIAISON

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint John Dunn as liaison to the highway department. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF SHERIFF/STATE POLICE LIAISON

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Mike Denault as liaison to the sheriff's department/state police. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL LIAISON

MOTION by Mike Denault to appoint Kurt Gamari as liaison to the school. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### ETHICS LIAISON

The board noted that Doug Wright was recently appointed as Ethics Liaison.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 20, 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 # 9 \$14,431.15 payroll

WARRANT #10 \$34,693.67 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro advised that they have been doing normal winter road maintenance. There was a small amount of mud on Lesure Road and Jepson Road.
2. Salt availability continues to be slow but the town has been getting by.
3. There was water flowing across Lincoln Road because the state has not maintained its culvert.
4. There are a lot of frost heaves this year.

#### 2024 MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANT IN AID

Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) submitted a revised bill. BCRC agreed to waive the unpaid portion of their services. The financial reimbursement request was signed and will be sent in.

#### FEMA GRANT

The reimbursement forms for the FEMA grant have been sent in and payment should be coming soon. The funds are in reimbursement for the July 2023 flooding the town experienced.

#### RECYCLING

Dave Tatro stated that the compactor had a controller problem that was repaired.

#### RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING

1. The elected lister position was approved by the voters. The board will wait at least 30 days which is required after town meeting.

2. The reserve fund for unexpected dog costs was also approved. Nancy Bushika suggested they set guidelines for its use. A request was made to use the funds for any animal control care. The town is only required to take care of dogs. Wildlife is the responsibility of the state.

#### ETHICS COMMISSION UPDATE

Last week Doug Wright, Nancy Bushika and Lori Shepard worked on the paperwork. It will be presented to the board for discussion when completed.

#### EMPLOYEE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Nancy Bushika will meet with Dave Tatro next week to review the job descriptions.

#### UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from r.k. Miles, Inc. and VELCO. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

#### LETTER FROM VT PVR REGARDING 2024 REAPPRAISAL

The town has not yet received a response from the Vermont Property Valuation and Review Board (PVR). The grand list year begins on April 1st. Since the elected listers won't be able to get started that quickly, the NEMRC contract will be sent in. When the listers are appointed, the board will ask NEMRC to work with them.

#### MOWING BID/SCHOOL SHRUBS

Nancy Bushika spoke with the Principal about the overgrown shrubs on the right side of the front of the school. The Principal will look into it and get back to her about trimming or removing them.

#### JOINT SCHOOL DIRECTOR MEETING

The Select Board would like to meet with the School Directors and Principal. Jim Stimpson believes the boards and commissions should receive more guidance from the Select Board and they should have standard rules for their meetings. The Select Board will meet with the School Board first and then schedule an All Boards meeting. Kurt Gamari will contact the School Directors to set up a joint meeting.

#### 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.

#### CEMETERY FUNDS

Mike Denault was approached by a resident after town meeting asking if the cemetery funds could be spent by the Cemetery Commissioners or if more authority was needed. Most of the cemetery money is reserved for perpetual care of the cemetery. The board felt they are elected officials who could, as a board, make decisions as to how to spend the money. The library is the same way; their governing body is elected by the people.

#### REGISTERED VOTERS AT TOWN MEETING

The question was raised at town meeting about registered voters having to sign in and having paddles to vote. It has been discussed in the past. Bill Levine will try to put together some basic rules and regulations for the operation of town meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:43 p.m.

Kurt Gamari  
Clerk

/las

#### 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. 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. Anyone interested in one of the vacant appointed positions should contact a member of that board or the Select Board.
6. 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.