

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**April 3, 2025**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**  
6:00 p.m.

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

Visitors: Michael Cole, Tammy Elias, Lisa Gardner, Cindy Gonska, Jedidiah Gramlin, Lisa Gramlin, Peter Greenbush, William Levine, Marta Miller, Michael Murphy, Sheila, Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, James Stimpson, and Walter Winship.  
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 Vtrans paperwork and a municipal excess weight permit were added to correspondence. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube.

#### **MOWING BIDS**

The Selectboard received two bids:

1. Yard Work by Dan for \$200.00 per mowing, which includes mowing, trimming and cleaning off clippings. He also included a bid of \$750.00 for spring cleanup prior to mowing.
2. Big Paw Firewood & Landscaping, LLC for \$200.00 per mowing, with an additional bid of \$500.00 to replace the plow-damaged lawn, add topsoil, seed and straw.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the bid received from Big Paw Firewood & Landscaping, LLC. SECONDED by Doug Wright. 3 in favor, (Mike Denault and John Dunn abstained). Motion APPROVED. A certificate of insurance will be requested.

#### **GREEN UP DAY**

This year's Green Up Day will be on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gloves and green trash bags will be provided. Marta Miller invited everyone to participate in this community event. Mike Denault offered to assist if needed.

#### **SECOND ANNUAL RESILIENCY FAIR**

The Second Annual Resiliency Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will be expanded this year to include a community meal, vendors selling locally made products, and a band with live music.

#### **SPORTSMEN ROAD/SUZANNE DRIVE**

1. Mike Cole from Alpenwald Village discussed the recent water damage on Suzanne Drive. Dave Tatro received the hydraulic study and spoke with the state engineer. The original design is the most expensive and requires involvement with the Army Corps of Engineers and Act 250. The second alternative would still be complicated, the third is more simple but may be the least effective. Dave Tatro needs more information from

the state. Mike Cole stated that Alpenwald wants to work with the town and is willing to contribute toward the project cost.

2. Tammy Elias stated that she received a quote of \$3,000.00 to clean up and repair her driveway. The Select Board was sympathetic but is not responsible for the damage to her yard and driveway and were unsure whether she could get some help from Alpenwald.

#### CLASS 4 PLOWING REQUEST

Walter Winship owns a camp on the corner of Klondike Road and Schenk Road and would like permission to plow to his camp. Nancy Bushika responded that the town has been letting people plow. They need to sign an agreement each year with the town and provide a certificate of insurance naming the town as an insured. Dave Tatro inspects the road each spring and the property owner would be responsible for any damages incurred.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 20, 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 #13 \$ 8,880.82 payroll

WARRANT #14 \$46,277.87 accounts payable

#### ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Dave Tatro has been covering some of the stone areas with gravel. He is hoping to begin grading the drier areas next week.
2. The road sweeper will be coming near the end of April.
3. The highway crew will be working on some ditches on East Road in preparation for this summer's paving project. Next year Dave Tatro will prepare for the next round of paving. He will ask for quotes to pave other town roads.
4. The Ram truck is in the shop for repairs. Next year Dave Tatro would like to replace it.

#### RECYCLING

Nothing to report.

#### PROPOSED BYLAW REVISION

The Planning Commission presented their changes to the Bylaws. The Select Board will review the Bylaws and propose any changes at the next meeting and set a public hearing date. John Dunn thanked Lisa Gramlin and the Planning Commission for their hard work. Mike Denault asked the board to read the emails they received from Planning Commission members that refer to laws in place because they provide insight and understanding.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST and ETHICAL CONDUCT POLICY

Nancy Bushika noticed that the Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct Policy does not address employees. The board agreed to revise the policy to add employees and anyone else representing the town in an official capacity.

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept and sign the Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct Policy with the proposed revisions. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Mike Denault noted that the Select Board has resignations on the agenda. If appointed officials are acting in a way that is disrupting the harmony of a board, using foul language, etc. and other board members complain, the Select Board should be able to reprimand that individual. If board members are violating the Open Meeting Laws, the Select Board should be able to have an executive session and talk to them and address this behavior. Kurt Gamari agreed. Doug Wright suggested board chairs should develop language to read at the beginning of each meeting establishing the expected conduct. Bill Levine suggested the Select Board provide a copy of the Open Meeting Laws every time they make an appointment. There is an Open Meeting Law webinar on April 16, 2025 for anyone interested in attending.

#### ETHICS INVESTIGATORS POOL

The Select Board received letters from Peter Greenbush and Jim Stimpson expressing interest in an appointment to the pool of ethics investigators. John Dunn would like to see someone who is not on a town board. Jed Gramlin was interested and provided a letter of interest during the meeting and Doug Wright also expressed an interest. The Select Board will keep their names in the pool in the event a complaint is received.

#### DOG RESERVE FUND GUIDELINES

MOTION by John Dunn to adopt the Dog Reserve Fund Guidelines as written. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

John Dunn asked if the town provides care for a dog and then later finds out the owner. A fee will need to be paid by the dog owner before the dog is released. Inability to pay should be considered on a case by case basis.

MOTION by John Dunn to sign the Dog Reserve Fund Guidelines. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The Guidelines were signed. The license due date was April 1, 2025. There are a little over 100 dogs registered with the town and around 160 that are delinquent.

#### JOB DESCRIPTIONS

1. The Transfer Station Monitor job description was approved by the board and will be signed at the next meeting.

2. The Road Commissioner job description was reviewed. The sidewalk will be added to the areas the Road Commissioner is responsible for. John Dunn asked if the road crew could be responsible for fixing the plowing damage to the front lawn. Mike Denault felt it should be done by the school janitor. The board will discuss the job with the School Directors at the joint meeting. The work was bid out this year so there is time. Dave Tatro said in the springtime the amount of work he has is overwhelming. This could be another reason to support hiring a third laborer. Dave Tatro felt a third person would increase his budget by \$100,000 and he would rather see that money put into paving our dirt roads. Paving would cut down on the amount of maintenance and a third guy wouldn't be needed. Mike Denault feels it is important for the town to plan for its future and would like to advertise and get the word out that the town is interested in hiring another highway laborer.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Road Commissioner job description as written. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the Highway Laborer job description as written.  
SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.  
Both job descriptions will be signed at the next meeting.

#### MERP REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Select Board reviewed the invitation to bid. Bids will be due on May 1, 2025.

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. MOTION by Nancy Bushika to accept the resignations from Peter Greenbush and Lisa Gramlin from the Conservation Commission with regret. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The Select Board received letters from Lisa Gardner and Nancy LeSage expressing interest in an appointment to the Conservation Commission.

MOTION by Doug Wright to appoint Lisa Gardner to the three years remaining on a four year term previously vacated by Marta Miller and Nancy LeSage to the four year term vacated by Peter Greenbush. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### WARNING FOR ELECTION

MOTION by Mike Denault to sign the warning to hold an election for the three lister positions on May 14, 2025. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.  
The Select Board will send out notices of the election with the school's mailing.

#### AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION DOCUMENTS

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to sign the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways, the Certificate of Compliance, and the Town Road and Bridge Standards. SECONDED by Doug Wright. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### TOWN SIGN

John Dunn has been working on bids for the town sign. When he began, the Bylaws restricted the size to 12 square feet. He asked if he should wait until the new Bylaws are approved in order to pursue a larger sign. A larger sign will be more costly. The previous signs were discussed. Mike Denault feels they should not install either of the old signs and would like to see a new sign. He suggested the board move forward with obtaining bids and is willing to make a donation.

#### UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by John Dunn to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from Casella Construction, Barrett Trucking Co., Inc. & AmeriGas. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

#### FORGETTE ROAD COMPLAINT

Nancy Bushika received a call from a resident concerning excess water on their property. Last year the Select Board sent a letter explaining that a driveway culvert was necessary and it was the responsibility of the property owner to install. The board agreed that the culvert installation is still the solution and agreed that no town action was necessary. Nancy Bushika confirmed that the town does not plow Allen Hill Drive which is a private road.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

There is an ICS-402 course offered in Manchester on April 28, 2025. Bill Levine expressed the importance of Select Board members attending. Mike Denault asked if someone could come to the town instead of everyone driving to Manchester. The clerk will look into it.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature public discussion of a pending or probable civil litigation would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by John Dunn. 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 John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 8:05 p.m. Lori Shepard was 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: 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 8:27 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. Anyone interested in serving as an ethics investigator should submit a letter of interest to the town office or Select Board.
4. Anyone interested in joining the town highway crew should fill out an application or get in touch with a Select Board member.
5. The dog license due date was April 1, 2025. Please come in as soon as possible to license your dog. The new dog license fees for 2025 are \$16.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$20.00 for real/intact dogs.
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.