

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Kurt Gamari, Jedidiah Gramlin, and Michael G. Denault.
John Dunn was not present.

Visitors: Lisa Gramlin, Jenifer Hughs, Sheila Lawrence, Debra Righi, James Righi, Diane Saldo, and James Stimpson.

David R. Tatro, Road Commissioner.

Lori Shepard, Select Board Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Excess weight permits and discussion on the tax anticipation note were added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to find that premature general public knowledge of a personnel matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to enter executive session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 5:33 p.m. Sheila Lawrence along with Diane Saldo were invited to participate. When they left Jenifer Hughs was invited to participate.

MOTION by Mike Denault to exit executive session. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 6:00 p.m. No action was taken.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Jean Kurpiel stated that the principal had talked with her earlier and asked if anyone could move the flag down to half-staff at sunrise on Monday morning for Memorial Day and put it back up at noon.
2. Kurt Gamari had invited Rodney Holland to attend a Select Board meeting after talking to him about the water/well testing. He has not responded and may not want to attend a meeting.

MINUTES

MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the special meeting minutes of May 5, 2026 and the regular meeting minutes of May 7, 2026, both as written. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #19 \$12,031.70 payroll

WARRANT #20 \$45,803.45 accounts payable

FINANCIALS

The Selectboard reviewed and confirmed financial statements for the month of April.

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. Dave Tatro stated that he has been grading and a little more left.
2. The paving projects will start on June 17, 2026 and will end on June 19, 2026. The blacktop company will come back later to complete the chip sealing.
3. Dave Tatro has been working with Will Peacock to come up with a bid package for the East Road Class 2 culvert grant. The details have been approved by the Agency of Transportation.

4. The highway crew got the tractor out of the old state garage without any damage and will send a bill to the state for the town's time and costs. Nancy Bushika asked if the state would consider selling the property to the town. Dave Tatro will talk to Paul Ethier about it.
5. The new truck was delivered to Fairfield this week for the dump body installation and hydraulics.
6. The town just paid the last loan payment on the Dodge.
7. Dave Tatro has ordered new 911 signs for the garage.
8. The street sweeper is short-handed and is not sure when he can come to Stamford. Dave Tatro will coordinate the spring sweeping as well as the sweeping after the chip seal coat.
9. The board signed the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory.

RECYCLING

Dave Tatro said that he was on hold for 45 minutes the last time he called Casella to have the dumpster emptied. It is very frustrating.

GUIDELINES FOR APPOINTMENTS

1. Nancy Bushika felt the revision reflected their discussion from the last meeting. Mike Denault suggested the guidelines should be given to each board so members are aware of the changes. It will be up to all interested parties to deliver a letter of interest, for appointment or re-appointment to an expiring position, two weeks prior to the first Select Board meeting in March.
2. The Health Officer, Fire Wardens and Justice of the Peace vacancies are appointed by state officials with a recommendation from the Select Board. The terms were reviewed. Lori Shepard will look into the Health Officer appointment and others that will renew this summer.

DONATION

Luke McKay donated the two flower baskets and Jim Stimpson put the brackets on each side of the sign. The board thanked them for their donation and time.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The board received a letter of interest for the vacant Justice of the Peace position.

MOTION by Mike Denault, SECONDED by Jed Gramlin, to recommend Natalie Yorke to the Governor to fill the Justice of the Peace vacancy. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The board interviewed two candidates tonight to fill the Planning Commission vacancy but one could not make it. The board scheduled a special meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5 p.m. to conduct the last interview.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

MOTION by Mike Denault to approve and sign the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit applications from McElwain Contracting, LLC and Structural Wood Corp. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fees and insurance information were received from the applicants.

JOINT MEETINGS

1. Mike Denault would like to have more joint meetings. Kurt Gamari suggested joint meetings with the school twice/year and the all boards meeting once/year. The board will plan to hold a joint meeting with the School Directors in October.
2. Nancy Bushika acknowledged a letter received from the Superintendent regarding the library closure for school testing.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

Nancy Bushika provided the board with the final list and the letters that will be sent out to all property owners who do not have compliant 911 numbers.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

The treasurer will need to borrow money in anticipation of taxes. The board discussed whether a line of credit would be better than a short term loan. The treasurer will look into it.

DOG UPDATE

Dog owners are still coming in to license their dogs. At the end of the month the list will be turned over to the Select Board.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 6:45 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 Lister, Energy Coordinator, Tree Warden, or BCRC Representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
3. 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.