

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 6, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

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

Visitors: Laura Champagne, Cynthia Lamore, Thomas Nazzewski, David R. Tatro, Debra Righi, and James Righi.
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. Additional correspondence was added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Cindy Lamore said there will be school on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 during the General Election. She wondered if the town could hire the Bennington Sheriff. The board considered holding the election in the town office.
2. Nancy Bushika mentioned scheduling a joint meeting with the Select Board, the School Board and the Library Trustees.
3. Kurt Gamari attended the recent School Board meeting to discuss the Leo Ethier Memorial Garden and the slide that is close to the garden. Pam Tworig feels it would be easier to maintain the garden without the slide. Cindy Lamore will talk to the School Directors about removing the slide. The principal had the eighth graders clean up the garden as a community service project. Cindy Lamore is available to work on the garden also.
4. Nancy Bushika noticed that the bushes on the right side of the school had been trimmed. It would be nice to have the overgrown bushes along the north wall of the town office removed.
5. Dave Tatro did a lot of snow shoveling last year when the last school custodian left. He is hoping that the new custodian will be able to take over the snow duties this year.

MINUTES

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 16, 2026 as written.

SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #29 \$10,055.06 payroll
- WARRANT #30 \$20,267.66 accounts payable
- WARRANT #31 \$11,594.25 payroll
- WARRANT #32 \$12,251.79 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The Grants-in-Aid agreement was reviewed. The grant is for \$8,000.00 with a \$2,000.00 town match. Dave Tatro has a project in mind and will work with Jim Henderson from the Bennington County Regional Commission.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept and sign the grant agreement. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The Better Backroads grant agreement for the culvert replacement on Sportsmen Road was reviewed. The grant is for \$16,200.00 with a \$4,050.00 match.

MOTION by John Dunn to accept and sign the grant agreement. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

3. Dave Tatro stated that the chip sealing should be done on August 14, 2026.

4. Someone has been stealing the road signs in town.

5. The road crew has been working on the Jepson Road shoulders this week and will do Lesure Road next. The board discussed speeding in town, but it doesn't seem any worse than before.

6. Dave Tatro was asked if he would be grading Mill Road. He has done it a few times and plans on grading it again when the weather is right. Dave Tatro would like to see Mill Road added to the next set of town roads to be paved.

7. The roadside mowing is finished for the season.

8. Laura Champagne asked if Dave Tatro could look at the water run off near Old County Road. Dave Tatro will take a look and may need to add some gravel to the area to divert the water.

RECYCLING

1. Dave Tatro noticed that Casella was charging the town for tires and shingles. Tires are kept separate and should not be in the dumpster. He will call Casella to dispute the charges.

2. Nancy Bushika noted that the recycling center is looking better.

TAX BILL INSERT

The board reviewed the tax bill insert which will be mailed along with the 2026 property tax bills.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the tax bill insert. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS FORM

There was an error made in the Grand List. The Select Board planned to sign the Errors and Omissions statement but the Assessor did not submit the form. It should be ready by the next meeting.

PAVING LOAN

MOTION by Jed Gramlin to sign the initial papers required by Adams Community Bank. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Jed Gramlin, to authorize Nancy Bushika to sign the loan agreement and other necessary paperwork to complete the loan process. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION

The town clerk asked the Select Board to count ballots after the election.

REAPPRAISAL

Nancy Bushika said the state is leaning toward requiring a reappraisal every four to six years, which will be 2030 for Stamford. The NEMRC Assessor suggested that Stamford send a Request for Proposal to NEMRC so that we get on their calendar and lock in the reappraisal rate now. Nancy Bushika suggested sending a letter requesting their Assessor contract renewal fee for next year.

2025 AUDIT

The Select Board is reviewing the audit report.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

Luke McKay has sent out penalty letters. The list is down to 12 dog owners and 19 delinquent dogs.

MOTION by Jed Gramlin to adjourn. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
The meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. The state primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 in the Stamford Community Room from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
2. Applications to register to vote will be accepted during regular town office hours and throughout election day. Forms can be obtained at the town office or you can register to vote through Vermont's online voter registration system at.
3. Absentee ballots will be available until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2026. Please call the town office at 802-694-1361.
4. 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 and what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.
5. 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.
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.