

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 3, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, and Jedidiah Gramlin.

Kurt Gamari and John Dunn were not present.

Visitors: Sally Bohl, Debra Burchard, Lisa Gramlin, Marta Miller, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, and Diane Saldo.

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 items and correspondence were added to the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Lisa Gramlin stated that the Planning Commission invited Laura Ranker, the Water Resource Protection Specialist from the Vermont Agency of National Resources, to their last meeting. The Planning Commission is interested in preserving water resources in town while looking into a municipal water and/or septic system for the center of town. Dave Saldo said the estimated cost of a small town water system would be around \$800,000.00 and the cost of a small septic system would run between \$11-\$20 million. He feels the state has programs to help finance the cost to install and maintain it. Mike Denault wanted to know how long the state would pay to maintain the system. Dave Tatro worked at Readsboro's water and waste water treatment systems. He feels the best solution might be to avoid a municipal system. The water is treated with chemicals and most people will not drink the water. Mike Denault wondered what the cost would be to tap into Clarksburg's sewer system. The topic was discussed at length.

MINUTES

MOTION by Jed Gramlin to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 20, 2026 as written.

SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #35 \$10,982.87 payroll

WARRANT #36 \$70,961.92 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The sweeper is scheduled for next Wednesday to sweep the chip seal coat.
2. Clarksburg is repairing the culvert on the West Road culvert on the state line. They will begin next spring and the road will be closed for most of the summer. Our residents will have to drive around.
3. The highway crew finished the stone-lined ditches and shoulders on Lesure Road.

RECYCLING

Marta Miller was at the transfer station Wednesday and someone had dropped off several 5 gallon containers of used fuel oil in the trash compactor. No one should be dumping illegally when the transfer station closed. Dave Tatro stated that there have also been kids in the dumpsters picking through the trash. The board discussed cameras, notifying parents and setting fines for illegal dumping.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was suggested that the town have a Finance Committee this year. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.

DELINQUENT TAX SALE

The town's delinquent tax sale is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 1 p.m. The state has revised its tax sale laws and a notice of the sale must be posted on the front of any building that is going up for tax sale. The Select Board agreed this is not something the Delinquent Tax Collector should do. The board discussed contacting a state trooper for assistance. The attorney will be contacted to see if the green cards have been returned and what the posting deadline is.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Representative Jonathan Cooper would like to attend the September 17, 2026 Select Board meeting to provide an update on legislative matters at the state house.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Anyone interested in organizing the Christmas tree lighting ceremony this year should contact a member of the Select Board. Mike Denault offered to get the tree and set it up.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL AND LIBRARY

The board discussed dates and scheduled the meeting for Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6 p.m.

TENNIS COURT INSPECTION

The state inspected the tennis courts. The inspector agreed that the tennis courts have become obsolete, and had no problem with the Seed Savers Group turning them into community gardens. Unfortunately, the gardens have been abandoned and have fallen into disrepair. He said the area needs to be cleaned up within the next six months. Dave Tatro will need to rent a dumpster and will try to work on it this fall. Nancy Bushika will check to see when school vacations are scheduled.

BUILDING PERMITS

1. Deb Burchard stated that the town has a \$15.00 notice of building permit for farm buildings and accessory structures less than 300 square feet. She has decided that projects such as a porch, deck, etc. that are less than 300 square feet will be considered an addition to your home, not an accessory structure. Mike Denault asked if there was a minimum size building that does not require a permit, such as a dog house. Discussion ensued and Dave Tatro felt that if the structure is small enough that it is not assessed and taxed, it should not require a permit. Deb Burchard noted that she spends a lot of time dealing with these small structures and receives no compensation for it. She also feels that if people construct these small accessory buildings without a permit, there should be a penalty.

2. When the permit fee structure was created, a Conditional Use fee was never determined. The board discussed the fees.

MOTION by Mike Denault to set the fee for a Conditional Use permit application at \$315.00. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

REAPPRAISAL

Nancy Bushika consulted with the assessor concerning the utilities. The state sets utility values.

MOTION by Jed Gramlin to authorize Nancy Bushika to sign the request for proposal for reappraisal services. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DELINQUENT DOG LIST

There are 6 dog owners and 11 delinquent dogs: Stacy Abuisi, Rachelle Bleau, Robert Briggs, Jaime Koosa, Morgan Lemire and Karen Moran. A \$50.00 penalty per dog has been assessed. One dog owner did not want to pay the fine. A letter will be sent requiring payment. The next step will be to bring the delinquent dog owners to court.

PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Tax bills are being mailed and will be due in hand on November 19, 2026 by 8 p.m. Nancy Bushika reminded anyone mailing their payment to plan ahead since payments received after the due date will be charged an 8% penalty. Payments can also be dropped off in the mail slot in the back wall of the town office.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

A resident expressed an interest in being appointed to the vacant Justice of the Peace position. The Select Board wrote to the Governor to recommend this resident for appointment. The Governor would also like a recommendation from the Democratic and Republican Committees in town before making the appointment. Our town does not have active political committees and no one else took out Justice of the Peace nomination papers to run in the November election. The town clerk will let the Governor know that no one else has come forward.

MOTION by Jed Gramlin to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:00 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 and 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. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
4. Anyone interested in organizing the Christmas tree lighting ceremony this year should contact a member of the Select Board.
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.