TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 5, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Michael G. Denault, John Dunn, Kurt Gamari and Jedidiah Gramlin.
Visitors: Laura Champagne, Lisa Gramlin, Mary Lou McKay, Thomas Nazzewski, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, Diane Saldo, Nate Tatro, Trevor Tatro.
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. Part of the executive session for a personnel matter was moved to the beginning of the agenda. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION by Jed Gramlin to find that premature general public knowledge of a pending or probable legal matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
MOTION by Jed Gramlin to enter executive session for a pending or probable legal matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F). SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 6:01 p.m. Jean Kurpiel and Lori Shepard were invited to participate, then Dave Saldo and Diane Saldo were invited to participate.
MOTION by John Dunn to exit executive session. SECONDED by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:05 p.m.
Action: The board will recommend to the Zoning Board of Adjustment that they schedule a meeting and a letter will be written to the appellant.

HEARING OF VISITORS
1. Lisa Gramlin spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission. The Commission is interested in pursuing a grant to revise the Zoning By-laws once they have completed the Town Plan update. The grant has a town match of approximately $2,800.00 which will be included in the budget. Lisa Gramlin presented the anticipated costs of the Bennington County Regional Commission who will assist with the grant. The Planning Commission requested Nancy Bushika and Kurt Gamari to be the signees for the online grant portal.
MOTION by Jed Gramlin to approve the pursuit of the grant and to sign the resolution form. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. Cyndi Candiloro was unable to make it but sent a letter stating that the Heartwellville Service Station would like to donate the Christmas tree again this year through PopCares. The PTG would like to organize the tree lighting ceremony with a potential date of December 6, 2026.

MINUTES
MOTION by Mike Denault to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

WARRANT #43 $ 10,878.79 payroll

WARRANT #44 $157,268.80 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The manhole cover in the school parking lot needs repair. The school custodian contacted Dave Tatro. He assessed the situation and determined that it needs to be dug out and rebuilt. Our highway department does not have a jack hammer or the appropriate tools for such a job. The Select Board recommended that the school contact A-1 Septic to fix the problem.
2. A resident has blown a great deal of leaves from their yard into the road. Blowing leaves or debris, plowing snow, etc. across a town or state road is illegal in Vermont. The owner will be contacted as they may not be aware.
3. The highway crew will finish the grading and get the equipment ready for winter.
4. The new gas heater was installed in the highway garage.
5. The treasurer relayed the difficulties she is experiencing with the new truck loan. Although Adams Community Bank submitted a bid for the truck loan in May which was acceptable to the Select Board, they are now unable to fund the loan. The treasurer has contacted the dealer to pursue financing there. The town may need to consider other financial and banking options going forward.

RECYCLING UPDATE

1. Dave Tatro has looked into Hill Town Recycling for the transfer station's trash removal needs but they are about 30% more expensive than Casella.
2. The new transfer station access cards for the November 1, 2026 recycling year have not come in. The town office ordered them in early September. The transfer station attendants are aware of the problem and will continue to accept trash and recycling until the new cards are received and can be sold.

TOWN FINANCIALS

The treasurer submitted third quarter financial reports for the Select Board's review. She is available to answer questions the board may have.

UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to approve the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application from HB Logging LLC and HB Trucking LLC. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The appropriate fee and insurance information was received from the applicant.

TOWN WEBSITE

1. The town received notice from our website developer that in October 2026 two critical flaws in the website platform were discovered and made public. Although our website has not been hacked, the exposure of these flaws could compromise the security of our website. Our website designer said the town could either pay an additional cost estimated to be $600.00 to have the designer rebuild our website on a new more secure platform, the town could move its site to another website provider, or close the website entirely.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to contact the website developer and pay to have the website rebuilt. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. The town clerk has lost her entire list of email contacts. The web designer thinks he can retrieve email addresses from the last few months but does not think he can recreate the full list.

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT
The Select Board thanked the fire department for being out with their trucks and flashing lights. There was a great turnout.

DELINQUENT DOGS
The list remains at seven dogs and four dog owners. The Dog Officer has sent out the first notices assessing a $50.00 fine per dog and is sending out the next round of notices increasing the fine to $100.00 per dog. The next step will be to issue civil tickets in the Bennington Judicial Bureau court system to bring about compliance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MOTION by Nancy Bushika to find that premature general public knowledge of a pending or probable legal matter and a personnel matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter executive session for a pending or probable legal matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) and for a personnel matter, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B). SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. Lori Shepard was invited to participate.
MOTION by Jed Gramlin to exit executive session. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 8:15 p.m.
Action: 1. The pay for a temporary part-time assistant town clerk was established.
2. The board finalized plans for the upcoming delinquent tax sale.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

/las

REMINDERS

1. Tax bills have been issued and are due in hand by 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2026. By town vote, postmarks will not be accepted. Any unpaid tax will be subject to a one-time 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% interest per month thereafter until paid.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Anyone interested in serving on the Finance Committee should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.

5. Anyone interested in serving as Delinquent Tax Collector until the March 2027 election should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board by November 19, 2026.

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.