

**Town of Stratford
Board of Selectboard Meeting
Stratford Grange @ 6:00 PM
September 21, 2026**

Call to Order: 6:00PM by Harry R. Juergens

Selectmen present: Harry R. Juergens, Ron Scott, Jr, Charlie Goulet

Others present: Suzanne Goulet, Vanessa Toner

Suzanne: *Veterans Monument:* The Board discussed the ongoing repairs to the Veterans Monument. Weirs Brothers advised that they could not provide a firm estimate until the existing stone and cement are opened and evaluated. The Board authorized the work to proceed. The Board also discussed repairs to the cemetery stone wall and the possibility of replacing or stabilizing the existing stones rather than undertaking a complete reconstruction. Concrete stain was discussed as a possible option for matching the existing appearance. *Road Warrant Article – Bordeau Road:* The Board discussed the road warrant article for the upcoming year. Bordeau Road was identified as the next road to be considered for improvements. The Board discussed drainage, culverts, road width, and conditions around the curves. Motion: To place Bordeau Road on the warrant for the upcoming year. Vote: Unanimous. *AI/Data Center Warrant Article:* The Board reviewed a request from Tim Brooks concerning a warrant article addressing AI/data centers. The Board agreed that an article should be drafted for consideration on the warrant. The Board discussed potential impacts associated with data centers, including water use, noise, and site requirements. *School Crosswalk:* The Board reviewed the completed crosswalk at the school. The project cost approximately \$1,500, including traffic control. The Board agreed that the contractor may be useful for future crosswalk maintenance. *Hollow Fire Station Property:* The Board discussed concerns regarding a possible property-line issue near the Hollow Fire Station. After reviewing the area, the Board determined that a survey was not necessary at this time. The board does not feel that there is an encroachment issue. The Board discussed whether any survey expense would be appropriate for the Fire Department budget. Action: No further action at this time. *Halloween Hours:* The Board was advised that Halloween hours will be October 31 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. *Assessing Contract:* The assessing contract has been submitted to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) for review. The contract will return to the Town for signatures following DRA review. *Cell Tower Assessments:* The Board discussed the current assessments of the Town's cell towers and whether the assessments are consistent with comparable towers in surrounding towns. The Town Administrator will contact a utility appraiser to obtain information regarding the cost of an independent assessment and determine the potential tax impact of higher assessments. *Animal Control Equipment:* The Board discussed equipment requested for animal control/health officer duties, including a dog-catching snare and a microchip reader. The Board indicated support for the snare. Additional information will be reviewed regarding the appropriate microchip reader and its intended use. *Tax-Deeded Properties:* The Board discussed two properties recently acquired by the Town through tax deed: one located at 197 Christie Road and one at 394 Bog Road. The Town Administrator will send the required certified 30-day notices to the former owners regarding their opportunity to repurchase the properties. If receipt cannot be confirmed, the Sheriff's Office may be contacted for service. The Board discussed placing signs on the properties after the required notice process is completed.

Select Board:

Harry R. Juergens: *Diamond Road / ATV Trail:* The Board reviewed information regarding the ownership and right-of-way associated with Diamond Road. Deed research indicates that the Town owns certain parcels that are not currently reflected correctly on the Town's mapping. The Board also discussed a request concerning the possible extension of an ATV trail onto Diamond Road. The Board agreed that the existing ATV trail should remain in its current location and that the Town roads should not be opened further to ATV traffic in this area. Motion: To leave the existing ATV trail in its current location and not extend the trail onto Diamond Road. Second: Motion seconded. Vote: Approved. The Town Administrator will contact the affected property owner and the inquiring party to clarify the property and trail information. The board also discussed at this time they do not intend to allow ATVs on town roads but they cannot guarantee any changes to this with any future selectboard members.

Charles V. Goulet: Discussed the status of work planned for Christie Road and the cemetery area. The work is expected to be addressed by the Road Agent.

Ron A. Scott, Jr: The board members that were present noted that although we had signage in public places in the town and on the towns website that no residents had attended the meeting. Going forward, the meetings will remain at the normal scheduled time and place at the town hall, unless otherwise noted. The board has put in the effort to hold later meetings so that residents could attend and the board had posted that 2 meetings would be held at the Stratford Grange at 6pm. The board had hoped that more residents would be in attendance yet sadly there were no residents in attendance tonight.

Manifest: C. Goulet / R. Scott, Jr. approved 3/0 to sign for 9/14/2026, 9/8/2026, 8/24/2026 and 8/31/2026.

Signed between meetings: Reservation for Community Builders Hub Pumpkin carving, Intent to cut/Meservey, Email from J. Lee, Personnel Policy/professional behavior-approved will update policy, Tax Collector's Deed-Hazel & Marcy.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Signed Documents: Minutes, SM 8/24

Reminders: Hazard Mitigation Meeting September 23, 30 @5PM.

Non- Public: N/A

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30PM

Minutes prepared by: V. Toner