



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Dan Fraser, Chair; Joseph Major, Vice-Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Dennis Brown, Member; Lannie Collins, Member; Michael Hoyt, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Tracy Yarlott-Davis, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Simon Dennis; Hannah Tyler; Lori Hirshfield; Vassiki Chauhan; Mike Morris; Keisha Desnoyers; Heidi Duto; David Briggs; Karen Richardson; Brian Horan.

Zoom Participants: Jesse Pollard; Nikki Boyle; Becky Chollet

CATV LINK: <https://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/18618?channel=1>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting** by Dan Fraser at 6:00PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Joe Major.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None**
- IV. Order of Agenda:** There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- V. Selectboard**

- 1. Public Comment:**

Simon Dennis from Hartford addressed the Selectboard. He spoke to the current municipal process and the caring of issues relating to Hartford at this point in time. For Mr. Dennis' full statement please go to the CATV Link above.

Bryan Horan from Hartford addressed the Selectboard and sent kudos for the Board voting down the mask mandate at the last meeting. He hopes the solution tonight is not worse than the problem. He does not support a mask mandate in Hartford.

Heidi Duto addressed the Board about:

- Why an individual on staff is doing their job and what entitles them to a 20K raise and an assistant.
- When preparing the budget – did anyone give any thought to:
 - a. How the tax increase will affect the delinquent tax line?
 - b. How will the increase affect the homeless population?
 - c. This rise in taxes during a pandemic and the economy not being good right now, the Town needs to prioritize what we can afford and move forth with what is most important.
 - d. Are there any updates on the RV sill in the South Main Street parking lot?

Ms. Duto expressed her concern that her questions do not get answered.

Vassiki Chauhan from Hartford addressed the Board about the Emergency Shelter. She is concerned about the Homeless population. The concerns should be of the tax payers and all the people that are here using the services.

Emily S. living in WRJ on Fairview Terrace wants everyone to know that since the road has closed it is a much safer place for her family.

Mike Morris from Hartford addressed the issue of public comments and questions that are not being answered in a timely manner. There needs to be a clear process.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Dennis Brown attended the discussion on Cannabis. He heard many pro comments. He would like to hear more from other stakeholders.

Mike Hoyt also attended the presentation and found it informational.

3. Appointments

- a. Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown made the motion to appoint Jesse Pollard to the Hartford Energy Commission for a three-year term beginning December 14, 2021 and ending December 13, 2024. Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- b. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to appoint Nikki Boyle to the Town and School District Committee for a two-year term beginning December 14, 2021 and ending December 13, 2023. Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager's Report

Significant Activity Report

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/225>

Town Manager Report:

On this last meeting of 2021 (and one with a packed agenda of motions), I want to take this time to highlight the activities of my staff. I'll be sharing some of what they've accomplished in the past two weeks. Much of the day-to-day work that keeps a town the size of Hartford going could be considered boring. Processing invoices, making decisions small, and large, and planning for the future. This agenda typifies this with small and large decisions that impact the coming calendar and fiscal year. For each one of you reading this, thank you for your commitment to the Town by opening a Selectboard agenda and reading through it. I wish you all a bright and merry new year. We will see you on January 11, 2022.

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Final Budget

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard approve the fiscal year 2023 general fund (10)

budget totaling \$19,054,743.67 to be funded with \$2,698,633 in non-tax revenue, \$1,421,694 from the unassigned fund balance, and \$14,934,416.67 to be raised by taxes. Selectboard Member, Michael Hoyt seconded the motion. Five were in favor, 2 not in favor (Brown & Collins) and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard approve the fiscal year 2023 solid waste fund (30) budget totaling \$930,398.07 to be funded with \$623,100 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard approve the fiscal year 2023 White River Water Fund (50) budget totaling \$1,169,821.30 to be funded with \$1,169,821.30 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2023 Quechee Water Fund (55) budget totaling \$470,288.51 to be funded with \$471,907.85 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard approve the fiscal year 2023 White River Wastewater Fund (60) budget totaling \$1,786,126.21 to be funded with \$1,835,279.05 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Michael Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2023 Quechee Wastewater Fund (65) budget totaling \$1,160,499.50 to be funded with \$988,499.50 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Gates Street Decision

Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown made the motion to direct the Public Works Director to proceed with development of a constructible design and construction documents for one-way traffic downhill with a walk way. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. Five voted yes and two voted no (Hoyt and Collins). The motion passed.

Many residents spoke to this issue. They supported all the different options.

c. Tree Warden

These requests are in the FY23 budget. This motion is for current FY22 budget.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major made the motion to approve:
The current job description,
The Request that the Town Manager appropriate the funding to
increase the Tree Warden's annual budget from \$5,000 to
\$10,000,
The Request that the Town Manager appropriate the funding to
increase the Tree Warden's honorarium to \$2,500 to better reflect
the work performed by this position. Selectboard Member, Ally
Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion
passed.

d. VCDP Policies

The Board voted to accept the required municipal policies and codes for a Vermont Community Development Planning Grant.

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to Adopt
and sign the attached Municipal Policies and Codes - Form MP-1.
Selectboard member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All
were in favor and the motion passed.

e. Mask Mandate

Selectboard Member, Michael Hoyt made the motion to adopt the
Rule Requiring Wearing Face Coverings indoors in Public
Spaces without the enforcement clause and with the amendment
"Additional exceptions: Children under 2 years; A person with a
disability who cannot wear a face covering or cannot safely wear
a face covering for reasons related to the disability; A person for
whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to workplace
health, safety, or job duty as determined by the workplace risk
assessment; Any person while eating or drinking inside any
establishment that serves food or beverage." Selectboard
Member Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. 6 were in favor
and 1 (Collins) not in favor. The motion passed.

VI. Commission Reports

Kim Souza announced that she has rearranged her schedule so she can stay on the Design Review Committee.

Joe Major reported from the Parks and Rec Commission. The pool is expected to open on time in early June 2022.

Ally Tufenkjian reported from the Emergency Shelter committee. They are meeting with the Planning Commission concerning the RV policy. HCOREI is looking to include students as liaisons and have them become part of the committee.

Dennis Brown reported from the Conservation Commission. They are addressing timber harvest concerns. They have new signs and

still investigating if leaf blowing trails is good or bad. They are working on the CAP grant and will no longer pursue the water filter station. They would like 2022 the "Year of the Tree."

Mike Hoyt reported from the School Board. They are addressing the stresses and concerns of the staff. The Climate Action Committee did not meet.

VII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major made the motion to accept The consent agenda. Selectboard Member, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 12/11/2021

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 11/30/2021 & 12/7/2021

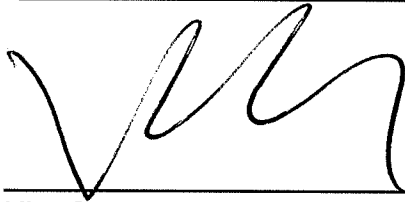
Approve A/P Manifest of: 12/10/2021 & 12/14/2021

Selectboard Meeting Dates of: Already Approved: 1/11/2022

****Needs Approval: 1/25/2022; 2/8/2022 & 2/22/2022**

VIII. Executive Session: NONE

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 PM. Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KS' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Kim Souza, Clerk