



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD Minutes

Tuesday, December 27, 2022, 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, Vice-Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Rocket, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Joe Major; Russ North; Brigid Armbrust; Kelly Armbrust; Molly Armbrust; Daniel Solomita; Cori Santagate; Jeff Mayo; Avery Hodgdon; Eric Clifford; Mitchel Cable; Duncan MacDonald; Randy St. Peter; Martha Morse; Kelsi Nanatovich; Dan Bennett; Jay Moody; William Furnari.

Zoom: Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lori Hirshfield; Joyce Perkins; Tim Fariel

Absent: Michael Hoyt, Chair

JAM Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4uIJCFfi2k&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLFaNFkZbq-g&index=1>

- I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting** by Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser at 6:00PM.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited and led by Rocket.
- III. **Local Liquor Control Board:** None
- IV. **Local Cannabis Control Board:** None
- V. **Order of Agenda:** there were no changes to the order of Agenda.
- VI. **Selectboard**
 1. **Public Comment:** Daniel Solomita from the Police Department read a statement that supported the appointment of Connie Kelley, Acting Chief, to the position of Chief of Police for the Town of Hartford. Mr. Solomita, along with 12 other employees from the Police Department, spoke highly of the work she has been doing in this position already. Mr. Solomita, representing the Police Union, urged the Acting Town Manager to hire Connie Kelley. Eric Clifford, PD, also read a statement of support for the outstanding job Connie Kelley has been doing and how she has held the department together during difficult times.

Russ North from WRJ spoke to the Selectboard about process. He believes a Town Manager should be hired first and then the appointment of a Police Chief. This making a smooth transition for both positions.

Joyce Perkins called in from Zoom and she too is concerned about process.

Tim Fariel calling in from Zoom would like the Selectboard to consider creating the position around community policing and to gather new ideas that the voters could support.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Rocket thanked the Police Department along with DPW and the Fire Department for all their hard work and service to the town during the recent storms. Dan Fraser, along with the rest of the Board, also thanked all the departments for their commitment to the Town and the hard work keeping everyone safe during the past weather events.

3. Appointments

a. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to Appoint Laura Simon to the Hartford Energy Commission for a three-year term beginning December 27, 2022 and ending December 26, 2025. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to appoint Molly Armbrust to the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion to a two-year term beginning December 27, 2022 and ending December 26, 2024. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Michaela Lavelle applicant to the Committee on Housing and Homelessness withdrew her application.

4. Town Manager Report and Significant Activity Report

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Total%20Sig%20Acts%2012.27.2022.pdf>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. TIF District Debt Period & Increment Collection Extension
Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to authorize the Acting Town Manager to take the necessary steps to pursue with the 2023 Vermont Legislature 2-year extensions on Hartford's TIF District deadlines for incurring debt and for retaining TIF Increment. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 not in favor (Collins), the motion passed.

b. Change membership guidelines of the staff liaison on the Housing and Homelessness Committee.

New Charge Link:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Hartford%20Committee%20on%20Housing%20and%20Homelessness%20Charge%20Revised%2012%2027%202022.pdf>

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion that the Selectboard revise the constitution of the Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness to the following: This Committee will be constituted by no more than seven Hartford residents, including one Selectboard Member. Each of these members shall have equal weight in discussion and voting. The Committee shall also include up to one nonvoting member of town staff at the discretion of the Town Manager, for a total of eight members. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Budget Cycle Schedule Reminder provided by Gail Ostrout.
 - January 3rd – training workshop
 - January 5th – Budget (TM, Debt, Appropriations, recap #1)
 - January 10th – regular meeting
 - January 17th – CI, Debt vs Savings, ARPA, recap #2
 - January 19th – Petitions Due, Final Budget Session

- d. Physical Locations for Meetings by Gail Ostrout & Ally Tufenkjian.

You may remember Act No.78, which has allowed public bodies to hold meetings entirely remotely (without a designated physical location) and to post their meeting minutes 10 days past the meeting date in the event of a staffing shortage due to COVID-19.

This act shall expire on January 15th, 2023. It may be helpful for all of us to remind our Committees, Boards and Commissions that as of January 15th, they'll need to make sure they have a physical location for their meetings to stay in accordance with Open Meeting Law, though hybrid meetings will still be allowed.

- e. Department Updates by Gail Ostrout.
 - Updates presented on: Hartford Ave; Timber Harvest; 87 Maple Street; PD testing schedule for promotions; Gates Street; VA Cutoff Bridge (G. Ostrout will provide Bridge Designs to the Selectboard); Web Site; DPW Director position is posted; Assessor position is posted; Town Hall parking lot lights - coming soon; Security in Town Hall; Wilder Park and Ride; Town Emergency Operation Plan – going out soon.

VII. Commission Reports

Kim Souza

The Hartford Planning Commission met on December 19th to review 3 applications. One application for a lot line adjustment and two site development plans including expansion of a storage facility and a garden center. All applications were approved unanimously by the commission members.

Rocket

Sister City Committee

The committee continue conversations about the new logo, including identifying places around town where it could be displayed. A couple members intend to come into a future Selectboard meeting to present on their experience this fall in Cenon.

TSMC

There is ongoing conversation about whether or not Info Night, currently scheduled for 1/9, should be canceled as a result of not having any material topics to discuss or present.

VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the consent agenda without minutes for 12/20/2022. Selectboard Mary Erdie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk Kim Souza made the motion to approve the 12/20/2022 minutes. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 5 were in favor and 1 (Collins) abstained. The motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 12/24/2022

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/13/2022, 12/15/2022 and 12/20/2022

Approve A/P Manifest of: 12/23/2022 and 12/27/2022

Note: Already Approved Selectboard Meetings: 1/3/2023 (now a workshop); 1/5/2023; 1/10/2023; 1/17/2023; 1/19/2023 & 1/24/2023

IX. Executive Session:

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion That in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law 1 V.S.A. § 313, I move that the Selectboard enter into Executive Session: To discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to close the Executive Session at 8:05PM. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded. The motion passed.

- X. **Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06PM. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**



Kim Souza, Clerk
12/27/2022