

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Michael Hoyt, Chair; Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Rocket, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Paula Nulty; Joe Major; Judy Howey; Max Overstrom-Coleman; Patti Holmes; Sandi Mariotti; Jennifer Kravitz; Heidi Duto; Geri Williams; Mary Lou Scelza; Nancy Russell

Zoom Participants: Kim Souza, Clerk; Mike Morris; Cathy Melocik; Doris Villandra

JAM LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZl3sb04O0w&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLFaNFKZbq-g&index=2>

- I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00PM.**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Lannie Collins.**
- III. **Local Liquor Control Board: Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board.**

New :

- a. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve a 2nd Class Liquor License for Fontinalis, LLC d/b/a Fontinalis. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 recused (Souza) and 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.

Renewals:

- a. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to approve the 1st Class and Outside Consumption Permit renewals for Quechee Pizza Chef. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 recused (Souza) and 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.
- b. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to approve Global Montello Group Corp dba Jiffy Mart #439 for a 2nd Class, Tobacco and Tobacco Substitute Endorsement. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 recused (Souza) and 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.
- c. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to approve Vivali Oltay, Inc. dba Tucker Box for a 1st Class, 3rd Class and Outdoor Consumption Permit for the sidewalk area only. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 4 were in

favor, 1 (Collins) not in favor, 1 recused (Souza) and 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.

- d. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to approve Jake's Quechee Market, Inc., d/b/a Jake's Quechee Market for a 2nd Class, Tobacco and Tobacco Substitute Endorsement. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion.5 were in favor, 1 recused (Souza) and 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Local liquor Control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting at 6:22pm.

- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: No Changes
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Patti Holmes, from WRJ, addressed the Selectboard on her opinion about the past meetings and how the Selectboard has acted. They must be held accountable for their actions.

Mary Lou Scelza, from Hartford, commented on the Outside Consumption request that was brought to the Board in the Local Liquor Control Board session. She would recommend approving the extended area. She also commented on the Board's actions in the past meetings. Hoping the Board can go forward with talking about issues and do what is best for the Town, not the individual Board members.

Geri Williams, from Wilder, reminded the board that she had voted for the current Selectboard members and they represent her and all the people in the town. They must not forget that. She urged the Board to have basic understandings of the Robert's Rules of Order. She asked the Board to please conduct the business of the Town in a business way. She urges the Board to get out and hear the voices of the community.

Heidi Duto, from WRJ, commented about the last 2 meeting and the Chair's lack of control. She noted the lack of dignity and respect. She asked the Chair to do better. She wants all the board members to know Robert's Rules and the Town Charter. She also asked about the Wilder Park & Ride lights. Gail Ostrout said that they are working on a grant for the lights.

Doris Villandra, from Wilder (zoom). Appalled how Rocket was interrupted by Mary in last week's meeting. Moving forward she hopes that board members don't interrupt other board members. She also was upset that the Chair didn't take control to quiet things down at that meeting when Rocket left.

Cathy Melocik, from Wilder (zoom) hoping as we moved forward with training for the Selectboard that the 5-minute limit that is for citizens will be the same for Selectboard members. We need to go forward to get the business done.

Mike Morris, from Hartford (zoom). He noted that Hartford Selectboard has been in the paper lately. We need to work on more positive news. Everyone should work together to calm things down. On another topic, he said that Kim Souza made a promise to step down from the Town

Manager Search Committee if Lannie got elected. Now she has rescinded her decision to do that based on other reasons. He would like to know why she did this. Kim Souza responded that she did make that offer before the elections. She had every intension to abide by that agreement. After the organizational meeting on March 9th she felt that she had given up enough and she would stay on the TMSC.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Lannie Collins presented a document from California that has more simplified rules of procedure than Robert's Rules of Order.

Mary Erdei suggested that the Selectboard members keep their comments to a maximum of 2 minutes. Dan Fraser agreed and Rocket and Lannie Collins objected. Mike Hoyt agreed that they should be able to limit comments to at least 5 minutes.

Kim Souza had shared her plans and ideas for training at the last Selectboard meeting which includes a code of conduct for Selectboard meetings. She invited Lannie to work with her on a code of conduct for the Selectboard. Kim has asked about the status of litigations within the town. She would like an update at the next meeting in Executive Session.

Rocket would like to see history that any board member has gone more than 5 minutes addressing the Board. Rocket explained more about his actions of the last meeting. He left as an act of civil protest and he did listen in on Zoom after leaving the meeting. He does care about his commitment to the Town. He also, after much thought, will not be leaving his commitment to the Town. He would like th Town to move forward peacefully.

Ally Tufenkjian expressed gratitude to everyone that is taking the time to share their perspectives.

Mike Hoyt reminded the Board that they will need to take up the Charter again. Also, to discuss the proposed ordinance that will limit discharge of firearms in heavy populated areas.

3. Appointments:

a. Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to appoint Jennifer Kravitz to the Committee on Housing and Homelessness for a two-year term beginning April 4, 2023. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to appoint Sandra Mariold to the Committee on Housing and Homelessness for a two-year term beginning April 4, 2023. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to reappoint Sara Campbell to the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion for a two-year term beginning April 4, 2023. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager and Significant Activity Report

Sig acts:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Significant%20Activity%20Report%20Total.pdf>

Staffing levels: Noted on the Sig Acts. The Board requested to also have the total number of employees/openings per department.
Gates Street: Updated by Gail Ostrout. Timeline was presented.
Paving: Schedule was provided; EV Chargers: the ones in the downtown parking lot are not working. Updated by Dana Clawson.

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Acceptance of revised TIF District FY 2022 Annual Report and Certification

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to Accept the modifications to the Fiscal Year 2022 TIF Annual Report in Section III regarding debt information, and in Section IV regarding TIF expenditures as presented and shown on the attached Revised TIF FY 2022 Annual Report, and have the Selectboard Chair or other Authorizing Official sign the Certification form. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Kubota Skid Steer Award to Vendor

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion To authorize the Town Manager to sign for and purchase the Kubota Skid Steer through the Sourcewell Contract as identified in the attached documents and invoice for \$73,173.18 and include an additional 1yr extension of the Orange Protection Plan for \$1,250.00 for a total of \$74,423.18. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports

Ally Tufenkjian

Resilient Hartford:

-This year, the Committee intends to slow down on planting; work on building healthy soil; improve their watering system; and work on building community and finding educational opportunities that go along with their work. The Food Forest Subcommittee has therefore decided to form five teams: Water Team, Growing Team, Outreach Team, Infrastructure Team, and Fundraising Team. Interested community members can reach out to Matt Osborn (mosborn@hartford-vt.org) if they'd like to volunteer.

- The Quechee Abenaki Garden and Wilder School food forest project are both progressing nicely.
- The Committee still has two openings.

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion (HCOREI):

- Committee reorganized officers; Sara Campbell remains Chair, Molly Armbrust was appointed Vice Chair, and Pat Autilio remains Clerk.
- The School Board ratified the recently amended HCoreI charge at its 3/8 meeting.
- Committee discussed the idea of creating a resolution in honor of the late HCoreI and community member Ann Reynolds.
- Committee member John Hall brought forward the idea of having a joint discussion between the Selectboard and the School Board on the future of equity work in Hartford as a joint project between both Boards. Further discussion will likely take place at the next meeting.
- Member John Hall's term has ended so there is now an open seat on the Committee. A huge thank you to John for his years of service on the Committee and for the kind, wise way he has led this work forward for Hartford.

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness:

- Appointed Alex Belenz to be the Committee's representative for the Town Plan Steering Committee.
- Discussed outreach to different towns to learn more about what they are observing and doing locally and regionally. The Committee will extend invitations to various towns and leaders of housing-related initiatives to connect with them.
- Continued discussion on the Committee's areas of interest and potential scope of work and will be creating a document to capture the Committee's focus areas and next steps.

Dan Fraser

Tree Board

April Tree of the Month is the ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba), the first and last new trees planted on South Main Street across from Tucker Box restaurant. It will grow to a height of 25'-50' and has fan-shaped bright green leaves. It tolerates heat, air pollution and salt which makes it a great street tree. Learn more about the ginkgo that is said to be a living fossil!!

- VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to approve the consent agenda without the March 9th minutes. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

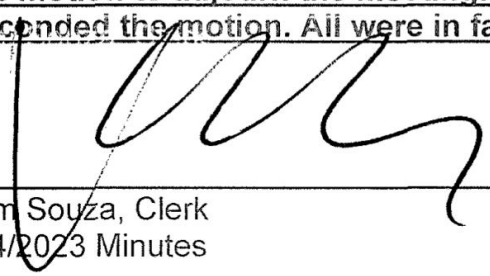
Approve Payroll Ending: 4/1/2023
 Approve Meeting Minutes of: 3/21/2023; 3/9/2023
 Approve A/P Manifest of: 3/31/2023 and 4/6/2023
 Approve Selectboard Meetings: 5/2/2023, 5/16/2023, 5/30/2023
 Already Approved: 4/18/2023

- IX. Executive Session: Selectboard Vice Chair 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, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Selectboard Vice Chair made the motion to close the Executive session at 8:45pm. Selectboard Member Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to evaluate the Acting Town Manager and Acting Assistant Town Manager in accordance with the agreement made with the Selectboard and Town Charter. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
4/4/2023 Minutes