



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, July 11, 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; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Dana Clawson; Joe Major; CHiCo Estridge; Jahn Haffner; Dillon Walsh; Bryan Gazda; Lori Hirshfield; Jesse Pollard; Samantha Davidson Green;

Absent: Rocket, Member

JAM Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODKs4cAaE&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLfaNfKZbq-g&index=1>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00 PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Gail Ostrout, Acting Town Manager gave an update about storm related issues. She thanked the staff for all their hard work done.
- III. Executive Session:
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to move to find that premature general public knowledge of the potential agreement between the Town and the Hartford Career Firefighters' Association will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei moved that we enter executive session to discuss the potential agreement between the Town and the Hartford Career Firefighters' Association under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
Selectboard Member Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to close the Executive Session at 6:28PM. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Public Session Motion

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to Move to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Hartford Career Firefighters'

Association, Local 2905, of the International Association of Firefighters, as tentatively agreed by the Town's negotiating team comprised of Acting Assistant Town Manager/HR Director Paula Nulty, Fire Chief Scott Cooney, and Town Attorney Brian Monaghan, for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028, and to authorize Gail Ostrout, Acting Town Manager, to sign all documents necessary to effectuate the contract. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

IV. Local Liquor Control Board: None

V. Local Cannabis Control Board: None

VI. Order of Agenda – Move 5.j. Housing Committee Report to after 5.c.

VII. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Marie Alvin from WRJ (on zoom) thanked everyone for all the work done around the Wilder Park & Ride. She would like the Town to find a place for the overflow from the Haven. She would like a Town newsletter. Parks & Rec currently gives weekly updates that she finds very helpful. She asked again how much is the Haven costing the Town for emergency services.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

All the Selectboard Members thanked the Town staff for all the work they have done and will be doing in the days to come to recover from storm issues.

3. Appointments: None

4. Town Manager and Significant Activity Reports

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

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. VT Law and Graduate School Preferred Sighting Guide presented by Dana Clawson.

Recommendation: The Hartford Select Board make recommendations on the document at any point in time and refer to guide as request for preferred siting designations come before the Select Board.

b. Amendment to TRORC contract on Town Plan Housing Chapter Update.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to Authorize the Selectboard Chair or Vice-Chair to execute an amendment to the contract with TRORC to include additional services as detailed in Attachment 3, increase the compensation to \$20,750, and extend the term of the contract to November 30, 2023, effective as of July 1, 2023. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Request to install monitoring wells on Town Hall Property and Maple St.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to Approve the placement of the proposed monitoring wells on the condition that they meet the approval of staff upon the review of required submittals by Weston & Sampson or its designee. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d. Guard Rail Improvements (Project No. 2023-H1) Selectboard member, Lannie Collins Made the motion to authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a contract with Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing, Inc for \$40,298 with any change orders to follow the purchasing policy. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- e. Line Striping (Project No. 2023-H8) Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a contract with the K5 Corporation for \$43,706.71 with any change orders to follow the purchasing policy. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- f. Town Manager Search Committee Update
The Selectboard was updated from a memo from Dominic Cloud, VLCT. The committee is meeting 7/13/2023 to select the first round of candidates. Hopefully the first round of interviews will be no later than early in the week of 7/31/2023.
- g. FYE25 Budget Timeline
It was the consensus of the Selectboard to begin the Budget process in August with the Capital Budget.
- h. Construction Line of Credit
It was the consensus of the Selectboard that the Town's Finance Director and Treasurer will apply for a three-million-dollar line of credit for construction projects.
- i. JAM (Junction Arts & Media – formerly CATV)
It was decided by consensus that we will continue with JAM and Zoom as we are now and wait for Dillion Walsh, IT Director, and JAM to come up with a better solution to go forward.
- j. Housing Committee
The Selectboard discussed the Town's Letter of Interest and potential proposal for state funding for emergency housing efforts in order to give guidance to the Housing & Homelessness Committee. There was consensus that additional information from the state on the amount of funding available and proposal submission process was needed and for the committee to keep researching options, such as supporting an existing organization's efforts.
- k. Wilder Community Center
The Selectboard asked the Acting Town Manager to ask the Dept. Heads if they have any suggestions for the use of the building. Also, to reach out and ask what the cost and timeframe is.

VIII. Commission Reports

Dan Fraser: Tree Board

The July Tree of the Month is a yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) at the corner of Worcester Ave and Rt 5 (across from the entrance to Hartford High School). It tends to be a good street tree because once established, it is drought tolerant. This tree is extremely rare and difficult to find in the wild and in nursery production. In fact, it is on the endangered species list for many states.

Kim Souza: Planning Commission

On June 26th the Planning Commission approved a Boundary Lot Line Adjustment on Old River Road and reviewed a Site Development Plan on Christian Street which was continued to July 31st.

Town Plan Steering Committee met on June 29th and discussed the developing Goals, Strategies and Actions relating to the update Housing Chapter of the Town Plan. The next meeting is Weds, July 12 @ 6:30pm. Community members are encouraged to look for more information on this at the Home for Hartford Page on the Town Website and to participate in the Homes for Hartford multimedia station located at JAM (formerly CATV) in downtown White River Junction. Folks can join the conversation about current and future housing needs in Town – its fast, easy and fun to see the impact of input immediately. The Multimedia Station will rotate to different locations in Town over the next few months.

Ally Tufenkjian:

Resilient Hartford:

- Had a successful work party at the Clifford Park Food Forest on June 25th with more planting, weeding, and seeding.
- Pursuing a New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (NEGEF) to secure funding for a water pump for the Food Forest.
- The Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA) and the QLLA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council have been working on a revised land use agreement for an Abenaki herb garden.
- The Hartford School Board denied the request to Wilder School Food Forest Project due to the staff shortage for custodial and maintenance positions. They will work with the school principal on a revised proposal.
- One vacancy

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion:

- One vacancy and one anticipated vacancy

Housing & Homelessness Committee:

- One vacancy

IX. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

***Please note: the motion made by Kim Souza for the Tax Rate approval was inadvertently stated as "billion." It should have been stated "million" for the grand list number. The written motion is correct.*

Approve Payroll Ending: 7/8/2023

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 6/27/2023 & 7/7/2023

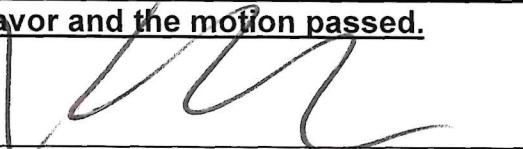
Approve A/P Manifest of: 7/7/2023 and 7/13/2023

Selectboard Meetings Needed to be approved: 8/8/2023 and 8/22/2023

Selectboard Meeting Already Approved: 7/25/2023

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
7/11/2023 meeting