

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 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; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Rocket, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; John Haverstock, Town Manager; Rick Vincent; Dillon Walsh; Gail Ostrout; David Briggs; Peggy Adams; Alex Farrell; Jesse Pollard

Present on Zoom: Kim Souza, Clerk; Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Lana Livingston; Dominic Cloud; Heidi Duto

JAM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4KQ-DIPKxA>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6pm by Chair, Mike Hoyt
- 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: None
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Heidi Duto, WRJ, attended the meet & greet at the Bugbee Center. It was a very informative meeting. She is unable to find the recorded meeting so she can post it. JAM said it will be up shortly. She also thanked Officer Angulo for his service to Hartford.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Lannie Collins thanked office Christian Hernandez for the way he handled a difficult situation with a homeless person.

Rocket thanked Officer Angulo for his service to the Town. Also, he thanked Ally Tufenkjian and Dan Fraser for the work they have done on the Selectboard.

Ally Tufenkjian said it was a great honor to serve on the Selectboard as this is her last meeting. She reminded everyone of the cycle of annual events coming up.

Mary Erdei thanked Ally, Dan & Rocket for their service and that it has been a pleasure to work with them all.

Dan Fraser thanked the citizens for their support in the last 5 years and said that the Town Staff is amazing.

Kim Souza said it was an honor to serve with Dan, Ally and Rocket. She is looking forward to serve with the new elected people.

Mike Hoyt said it was a pleasure to serve with all and thanked them for their service.

3. Appointments: None

4. Town Manager's Report:

Town Meeting Preparations

The Town has received our copies of the Town Report for distribution throughout the Town Hall, DPW and Public Safety Complex, libraries and for Budget & Candidate Night and Town Meeting. Thanks to the Town and School Meeting Committee for their help with this. We have also posted an electronic copy on the Town's website and elsewhere.

The Town and School Meeting Committee met on Monday, February 12 to plan for upcoming Town Meeting-related events.

There was a Selectboard candidate forum on Thursday, February 15 at the Bugbee Senior Center.

On Monday, February 26 there will be the traditional Budget and Candidate Night event at the High School. The Town and School District Meeting will take place at the High School on Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 am. Finally, of course, Town Meeting VOTING DAY will take place at the High School from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm. On that day, the Town Hall will be closed, and the regular Selectboard meeting will not take place that night. Instead, there will be a special Selectboard meeting held the following Tuesday, March 12. There will, of course, be a Selectboard Organizational Meeting held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 7.

Welcoming and Engaging Community Cohort

The Town Manager has forwarded an important survey to all of the 195 members of staff and boards, commissions and committees. This brief survey was compiled by Abundant Sun and the responses will provide valuable data to the Town of Hartford and to all members of the Welcoming & Engaging Cohort. There was a solid survey compliance, with ___ responses submitted, for a ___% response rate.

HCOREI Thank you to the membership of HCoreI which hosted me at their meeting on Wednesday, February 7.

Significant Activity Reports Link:

<https://www.hartfordvt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/468>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Remarks from Commissioner Alex Farrell of VT Dept of Housing & Community Development
- b. Coolidge Block Redevelopment with David Briggs
- c. FY24 Budget Status Report presented by Gail Ostrout
Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/9940/123123-Financials-22024-board-meeting>
- d. Authorize Selectboard Chair to Approve Payroll and AP During Election Hiatus
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt, to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll on the morning on Wednesday March 6, 2024. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Note: The full board will then ratify the manifests at the next regular meeting on March 12, 2024.

- e. Assessor Review of CLA Report
- f. Assessor Update on Real Property Revaluation Process
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager to sign the Appraisal

Services Agreement supplied by the Tyler technologies, featuring a price. of \$269,000. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. Consider Retaining Revaluation Consultant
- h. Assessor Update on Revaluation of Utilities
- i. Approve Grand List Litigation Certification
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to sign the Hartford 2023 Grand List document. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- j. Consider Adoption of Selectboard Liaison Policy -Dominic Cloud.
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to adopt the Selectboard Liaison Policy as ammended. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 1 (Collins) not is favor and the motion passed.
- k. Review RFP for Room 1 A/V presented by Dillon Walsh.
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to seek an RFP for Room 1 for the upgrade of the A/V system. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 1 (Rocket) opposed. The motion passed.
- l. Discuss Improved Access to Town Ordinances and Policies presented by Dillon Walsh.

VII. Commission Reports

Hartford Conservation Commission, February 5th, 2024, Mary M Erdei, Liaison

Two outdoor events were held recently, the first being a winter ecology walk led by Ted Levin, author and naturalist, at the Hurricane Forest in January during the last cold snap. 18 adults attended and Ted said the height of the morning was observing active Red Crossbills and Coyote tracks. Last weekend Sky Claud led a Family program at the forest with participants as young as one year old up to a grandmother. Ben Fletcher of the Salamander Team assisted; there were about 20-30 participants and Sky hopes to continue this program in a monthly fashion.

The Hartford Environmental Stewardship Mix and Mingle which will be held at the Bugbee Center on 2/29 at 6 pm, is a great opportunity for residents and others to see what environmental groups are doing and to ask questions of the participating members like: the Tree Board, Salamander Team, Climate Action Steering Team, Garden Club, Upper Valley Land Trust, VINS, VCE, and Conservation Commission among the groups.

Hartford Parks and Recreation, Mary Erdei

There are 2 vacancies and hopefully, the guest who joined the February meeting will be before the board soon as he expressed interest in applying.

Currently the ice fishing Derby rescheduled to early March is still on, but there are still concerns about the thickness and quality of the ice on Dewey's Pond. Discussion has been held, both with the Town Manager and others regarding restoration of Wright's Reservoir. There have been 5 proposals from vendors regarding Lyman Point Park improvements. A review of these is in process. There were 140

finishers at the Ledyard Redzone 5k race and 80 dancers at the Valentines' Dance at Dothan Brook School, both held on February 10th.

And, final adjustments are being made for a short survey for town residents regarding interest in a Community Center.

Ally Tufenkjian

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion (HCOREI): Thank you to our Town Manager, John Haverstock for attending, sharing what he is noticing as key projects and issue areas in Town, and taking time to learn more about the committee's history and work. One committee vacancy.

Resilient Hartford:-The committee is pursuing a small Vermont Fruit & Nut Tree Grant to help fund the purchase of more fruit and nut trees for the Clifford Park Food Forest. This grant program is a collaboration between the Vermont Garden Network and the VT Urban & Community Forestry Program. One committee vacancy.

Hartford Committee on Housing & Homelessness (HCHH): The committee welcomed the members of Norwich's Housing Subcommittee to discuss collaborative opportunities, which could include influencing housing-related state legislation, examining restrictions on wastewater, and supporting regional Accessory Dwelling Unit programs. Both committees will help promote an upcoming Homesharing Event happening April 24th at the Bugbee Senior Center. One committee vacancy.

- VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian second the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

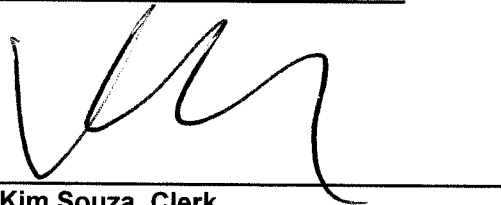
Approve Payroll Ending: 2/17/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 2/16/2024 & 2/22/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 2/6/2024 and 2/13/2024

Note: Approved Selectboard Meetings: 3/7/2024 (Organizational Meeting); 3/12/2024 (replacing 3/5/2024 Meeting) and 3/19/2024

- IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 9:15 PM. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
2/20/2024 Meeting