

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6:00pm

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall and on Zoom

Present: Kim Souza, Vice-Chair; Lannie Collins, Member; Susan Buckholz, Member; Brandon Smith, Member, Ida Griesemer, Member; Joe Major; Rick Vincent; Bryan Gazda; Dana Clawson; Terry Lee Armstrong; Will Adler; Mary Kay Brown; Dennis Brown; David Briggs; Peggy Adams; Marcy Bartlett; Heidi Duto; Ally Tufenkjian; Susanne Abetti; Laura Emerson

Present on Zoom: Michael Hoyt, Chair; John Haverstock, Town Manager; Lana Livingston; Dan Fraser;

Absent: Mary Erdei, Clerk;

JAM Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QF-9A3_PPQ8

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair Mike Hoyt at 6:02PM.
- 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 at 6:04PM.

 - a. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the renewal of Global Montello Group Corp. doing business as: Jiffy Mart #439, 6000 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05701 for a 2nd Class Liquor License and a Tobacco and a Tobacco Endorsement. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and the motion passed.
 - b. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to Renew Evans Group of Vermont, Inc. doing business as Evans Expressmart, 1038 N Main St., White River Jct., VT 05001 for a 2nd Class Liquor License and a Tobacco and a Tobacco Substitute Endorsement. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Local Liquor Control Board and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 6:06PM.
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of the agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment

Mary Kay Brown of WRJ asked the Board when do the new selectboard members have VLCT training on proper selectboard rules and processes and related to that have they received any documents on training and what the responsibilities of a selectboard member are? She finds it very disturbing that at least 1 board member does not know their duty.

Dennis Brown of WRJ is hearing and seeing dissatisfaction with our government. It is far from perfect but this is what we have and we are all trying to make it better. He then read a quote from Winston Churchill

Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. ... 'Winston S Churchill, 11 November 1947.

David Briggs from WRJ presented another chapter in the Hotel Coolidge Block redevelopment. He said the geothermal bill is currently in the legislature. He is currently in pursuit of a developer.

Marcy Bartlett, from Wilder, spoke in favor of allowing Hometown Heroes Banners to downtown WRJ. We have many “heroes” that are not just those who served in the military.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Brandon Smith commented on his social media post sharing his opinions on the military. His intention was to separate the honoring the people that are serving or have served as opposed to what the military does now.

Ida Griesemer attended the Wilder Hydro Dam relicensing process meeting. She thanked Lori Hirshfield and Scott Hausler for leading the effort to develop a comment on behalf of the Town and thank all the residents that came out to the meeting.

Sue Buckholz sent out a public apology concerning her Town email. She was finally able to access it on Saturday. She is now catching up on those emails.

3. Appointments

Renewal: **Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to reappoint Tom McCleary to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term beginning March 19, 2024 and ending March 18, 2027. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager's Report

Wilder Hydro Dam License Renewal

The public comment period has opened with respect to the renewal by the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERC) of the Wilder Hydro Dam's license to operate. Such a time only occurs every 40 years or so, so the Town would be wise to seek public input and Selectboard approval of Town comments. Toward that end, the Town staff and the Conservation Commission hosted a public outreach effort on Monday, March 18. The Connecticut River Conservancy plans to address the Selectboard on this opportunity at its meeting on April 2.

Selectboard Member Training Opportunities

Brandon Smith and Ida Griesemer enjoyed a tour of the Skating Rink on Saturday with the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Dana Clawson—just before ice is removed for the season this week.

The Town Manager will be joining Ida and Brandon (and any other Selectboard members who wish to join us) for a VLCT Training entitled Selectboard Essentials in Fairlee this coming Saturday, March 23 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

VLCT Consultant Dominic Cloud (who also serves as the Town Manager in Saint Albans City) will facilitate a Selectboard workshop on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:00 pm upstairs in Room 317 on Conducting Effective and Efficient Selectboard Meetings.

Finally, kudos to Brandon for signing up for the upcoming VLCT Open Meeting Law seminar in April. We have had several members of Town boards, commissions and committees register, as well.

I am looking forward to getting to know the new members of the Selectboard better and recently began with a lunch meeting with Brandon and will soon have a coffee with Ida. I am also hoping to get together with Sue sometime soon.

Town Manager Activities

The Town Manager had a good discussion with the Town's Economic Development consultant, which will be drafting an updated Town Plan chapter on this topic and he was pleased to attend an Economic Development Forum at the Bugbee Senior Center on March 14 facilitated by the same consultant.

The Town Manager attended a Breakfast on March 18 with the Town's legislative delegation.

On March 28, the Town Manager and DPW leadership will meet Pomfret Selectmen and their Highway Foreman to discuss River Road, which links our two towns.

Storms often pound this rural road and it is very expensive to maintain it. Therefore, we will be discussing the possibility of re-classifying this Class 3 road to Class 4 or even a trail, which would greatly reduce the burden to maintain it.

Significant Activity Reports Link:

<https://www.hartfordvt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/475>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Remarks on Hometown Heroes Project, Presented by Dennis Brown and Joe Major. Many residents spoke in favor and not in favor. The Selectboard will take this up again at a future meeting.
- b. CSO Grant Application presented by Bryan Gazda
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to Approve (and sign) the Step II CWSRF loan application and appoint Bryan Gazda, Director of Public Works as the Authorized Representative to sign any other necessary documents related to Step II CWSRF loan application in any absence of the town manager. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Discuss Utility Assessment presented by Rick Vincent
Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the Motion to accept the Bryan Fogg Utility Appraisal proposal of \$27,000 as part of the 2025 town-wide reappraisal project. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- d. Discuss Retention of VISION Consultant for Revaluation presented by Rick Vincent
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the Motion to accept the Norm Bernaiche proposal of \$10,000 to act as a consultant for the 2025 townwide reappraisal project and authorize the Town Manager to sign the associated contract with Norm Bernaiche upon approval of the Finance Director and the Town Manager. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. Continued Discussion of Selectboard Liaison Assignments

Mary Erdei to the HCOEI was tabled.

Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz made the motion to appoint Kim Souza to the HCOEI beginning 3.19.2024 and ending on voting day, March 4, 2025. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. 5 were in favor and 1 abstained (Souza). The motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to appoint Brandon Smith to the Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness beginning 3.19.2024 and ending on voting day March 4, 2025. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 abstained (Smith). The motion passed.

- f. Block Grant for Public Safety Complex Heat Pumps
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard vote in favor of the Town of Hartford submitting their application for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and put those funds, totaling \$75,380, towards electrifying the heating and cooling system at the Public Safety building. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g. Appointment of Authorized Representatives to Act on Bond Bank Matters

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard authorize Town Manager John Haverstock, Town Treasurer Joe Major, Selectboard Chair Mike Hoyt and Selectboard Vice-Chair, Kim Souza to act on the following Vermont Bond Bank matters:

1. VMBB-2012 Series 1
2. VMBB-2017 Series 4
3. VMBB-2014 Series 3
4. VMBB -2014 Series 3
5. VMBB-2017 Series 3
6. VMBB-2020 Series 2
7. VMBB-2021 Series 1
8. VMBB-2021 Series 1
9. VMBB 2022 Series 1
10. VMBB 2022 Series 1

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h. Appointment of Authorized Representatives to Act on Water and Wastewater Loans and Grants

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard authorize Town Manager John Haverstock to act as Authorized Representative and authorize Town Treasurer Joe Major, Selectboard Chair Mike Hoyt and Selectboard Vice-Chair Kim Souza to act as Authorized Alternate Representatives on the following Water and Wastewater grants and loans from the State of Vermont:

1. RF3-069
2. AR1-006
3. AR1-099
4. AR1-041
5. RF3-329
6. RF1-188
7. RF1-202
8. RF1-222
9. RF3-390
10. RF1-271

11.RF1-291

12.RF3-467

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports – none submitted.

VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Member, Lannie Collons made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

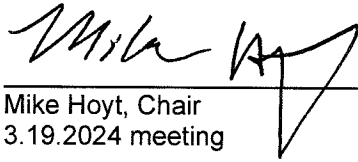
Approve Payroll Ending: 3/16/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 3/15/2024 & 3/21/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 3/12/2024

Note: Already Approved Selectboard Meetings are: 3/27/2024-workshop
4/2/2024; 4/16/2024 and 4/30/2024

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 8:45PM. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Mike Hoyt, Chair
3.19.2024 meeting