

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Kim Souza, Vice-Chair; Mary Erdei, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Susan Buckholz, Member; Brandon Smith, Member; Ida Griesemer, Member; John Haverstock; Bryan Gazda; Rick Vincent; Karen Powell, Leslie Merrill; Sonja Smith; Heidi Duto; Timothy Reite

Absent: Michael Hoyt, Chair

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston

JAM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2eiSIMdsuU>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6:01pm by Vice Chair, Kim Souza.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by John Haverstock
** Order of Agenda: the added item was accepted for the Local Liquor Control Board.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza recessed the Selectboard meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board.
 1. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion for the Renewal of Hua Teng Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a China Moon Buffet, 96 Sykes Mountain Ave, White River Jct., VT 05001 for a 1st Class license. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADDED ITEM:

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to Approve the Outside Consumption License for REDCAN at 129 South Main Street, Suite 100, White River Junction, VT 05001. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza closed the Local Liquor Control Board and opened the Local Cannabis Control Board at 6:14pm.

- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board
 1. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to Renew the Cannabis License for Altius THC LLC for #S-000008489. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza closed the Local Cannabis Control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting at 6:16pm.

- V. Order of Agenda – 2nd item added to the Local Liquor Control Board.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment: None
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
Mary Erdei attended the opening of Riverwalk. The event was well attended.

We are lucky to have this building here.

Brandon Smith spoke about the free education program in the building trades. This is a program held at HCATC. If you are interested you can reach out to Brandon.

Kim Souza praised the Police, Fire and Public Works for an outstanding job at the recent 4th of July celebration event that included Fireworks.

The Economic Development Forum was cancelled in June. It is rescheduled for Tuesday, July 16 at 6pm. This is mainly an on-line event however if that is not possible for you it will also be available in Room 2 at Town Hall.

Sue Buckholz reported on the Frederick Douglass Reading she attended. This was a great event held at Quechee Lakes.

3. Appointments

- a. **Selectboard Lannie Collins made the motion to Appoint Karen L. Powell to the West Hartford Library Board of Trustees Beginning July 9, 2024 and ending March 4, 2025 subject to review from VLCT or Town Council. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Activities

The Town Manager, HR Director and our interview team have been discussing our excellent candidates for the CMS (Communication and Media Specialist) position and we hope to be able to announce a hire soon.

Interviews will soon begin with respect to the Community Nurse position, of course with a different interview team.

Staff Appreciation Event

Town staff enjoyed a lovely evening together at VINS for the Staff Appreciation event on Thursday, June 27. Thanks go to HR Director Paula Nulty for organizing this team-building event, Maple Street Catering for providing the excellent food and drink and the folks at VINS for supplying our wonderful group-friendly venue and perfect weather! Finally, one more word of THANKS to the Town of Hartford's dedicated and hard-working staff!

FY2025 Tax Rates

At a brief, Special Selectboard meeting held on Tuesday, July 2, the Selectboard approved a FYE Accounts Payable Manifest and Tax Rates calculated to generate the property tax revenues necessary to fund the voter-approved FY2025 General Fund budget.

Geothermal Energy Research

On July 1, the Town Manager, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Energy Commission Chair and David Briggs spoke with federal energy experts on the topic of the feasibility of establishing a geo-thermal energy district here in Hartford—specifically, White River Junction. Dana Clawson has secured a pledge of 40-60 hours of free expert consultation for this project. A second discussion will take place on Friday, July 12 during which the project scope will be firmed up.

VTrans Local Concerns Meeting

During our next Selectboard meeting, on July 23, VTrans will conduct a Local Concerns Meeting related to its plans to develop a scope of work for Bridge 73 over the White River and NECRR, located along Route 5 in White River Junction.

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=486>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Approve Correction to the FY2025 Grand List Figure
No Action Taken.

- b. Award Contract for Aggregate Purchasing
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to authorize the Department of Public works to utilize:
 - 1. Pike Industries, Inc., as the primary vendor for aggregates, with the exception of Winter Sand based upon their overall competitive bid pricing, with Twin State Sand & Gravel Co., Inc., being utilized in the event of a product shortage at Pike Industries or when deemed operationally expedient.
 - 2. D & D Excavating, Inc., as Primary vendor for Winter Sand based on their overall competitive bid pricing, with Twin State Sand & Gravel Co., Inc., being utilized in the event of a product shortage at D & D Excavating, Inc., or when deemed operationally expedient.Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- c. Award Contract for Sludge Hauling & Grease Removal
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Stearns Septic Service, LLC for \$51,660 with any change orders to follow the purchasing policy. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- d. Award Contract for Wastewater Line Cleaning
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with N.A. Manosh, Inc. for \$42,400 with any change orders to follow the purchasing policy for the Wastewater Line Cleaning. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- e. Consider Adoption of Selectboard Dependent Care Reimbursement Policy
Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion that the Selectboard approve and adopt the proposed Hartford Selectboard Member Dependent Care Reimbursement Policy, as amended. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- f. Discuss Plans for Library Listening Sessions
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza is to engage with village libraries in the Town of Hartford to coordinate 2 facilitated Listening Session events between August and October 2024. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports
Hartford Conservation Commission
Mary Erdei, Liaison

The meeting commenced after board members walked through the David Chang Conservation area to observe the eroding river bank. The meeting was held at the Quechee Library. Discussion of what to do (or not do) with respect to the eroding river bank will be held off until all parties, state and regional as well as local agencies are consulted.

Some late results of Green Up Day include the fact that the price of recycling tires has grown exponentially to \$14.50/tire and 22 were collected on Green Up Day, indicating that the Commission will have to increase their budget to accommodate. Good news includes that several companies in the area who volunteer on that day have been helping for over 20 years and that some pay volunteer hours for employees per year. King Arthur Baking Co. is one such company.

Trails Day on June 8th resulted in a 16 foot bridge being built by 8 volunteers while the Forest Frolic also that day in Hurricane Forest learned about nature issues through a story walk that included 4 families (app. 10 people). Future Forest Frolic events will be on July 13th and August 10th. There is a forestry workshop on July 9th, meeting at the parking lot of the Town Forest from 6-7:30 pm.

- VIII. **Consent Agenda: Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 7/6/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 7/5/2024 & 7/11/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 6/25/2024 & 7/2/2024

Selectboard Meetings for approval: 8/6/2024 and 8/20/2024

Note: Already Approved Selectboard Meetings: 7/23/2024

- IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:20PM. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk
July 9, 2024 Selectboard Meeting