



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, July 23, 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; Kim Souza, Vice-Chair; Mary Erdei, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Susan Buckholz, Member; Brandon Smith, Member, Ida Griesemer, Member; John Haverstock, Town Manager; Lori Hirshfield; Scott Cooney; Chris Holzwarth; Jo-Ann Ells; Rita Seto; Larry Rogers; Dennis Margnia; Earle Simpson; Colin Butler; John Haffner; Scott Farmsworth; Liz OConnor; Josh Moulton; Michael Redmond; Kyle Katz; Laura Stone; Kevin Morgan;

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUdqqZdHzAA>

- 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: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment - none
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Lannie Collins discussed the lack of transparency from the School Board and the recent lack of accountability from them. He hopes the residents can see the division between the Town and the Schools.
 3. Appointments: None
 4. Town Manager's Report

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=487>
 5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances
 - a. Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Local Concerns Meeting on Bridge 73 https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/10358/2-Hartford-BF-011390_07_23_2024-Public-Meeting

Presented by Laura Stone, P.E. and Josh Olund, P.E., PhD

Meeting Overview: Project Location; Existing Conditions; Project Purpose; Site Constraints and Considerations; Alternatives; Maintenance of Traffic; Collect Input From the Community.

Purpose

Provide a safe, equitable crossing for all modes of transportation over the New England Central Railroad and White River that meets the needs of the travelling public

Need

 - Address structural deficiencies and ongoing deterioration
 - Extend service life of the crossing
 - The bridge railing and approach railing do not meet the current standards
 - Address the girder paint system.

Alternatives To Be Considered

 - No Action
 - Additional maintenance required within 10 years
 - Rehabilitation and Preservation

- 20-year design life
- Deck Replacement
 - 35-year design life
- Bridge Replacement
 - 100-year design life

Next Steps

- Obtain and Analyze Concrete Testing Results
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Hold Public Information Meeting to present Recommended Alternative
- Complete Scoping Report
- Begin National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process for Environmental Permitting
- Begin Development of Project Plans and Documents

Contact Information: Laura.stone@vermont.gov

- b. Developer Remarks on Sykes Mountain Avenue Housing Projects
Green Heights Drive Housing Project, Water Booster Station
One of the conditions of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment approvals is:

“The applicant submits documentation outlining the steps necessary, as agreed upon with the DPW, for the construction, ownership, maintenance, easements/rights-of-way (etc.) of the utilities, access, road realignment, and crosswalk including items requiring approval from the Selectboard.”

The Applicant is seeking preliminary feedback from the Selectboard as they continue to work with Town Staff on the details of the water booster station.

Action: Provide preliminary feedback to the Applicant in order to assist them in preparing a formal request for the Selectboard.

Green Heights Drive Housing Project, Road Improvements

One of the conditions of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment approvals is:

“The applicant submits documentation outlining the steps necessary, as agreed upon with the DPW, for the construction, ownership, maintenance, easements/rights-of-way (etc.) of the utilities, access, road realignment, and crosswalk including items requiring approval from the Selectboard.”

Action: Provide preliminary feedback to the Applicant in order to assist them in preparing a formal request for consideration by the Selectboard at a future meeting.

NOTE: There was a consensus from the Selectboard for these projects to move forward.

- c. Review and Discuss Community Safety Study Report – Presentation only.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/10357/240718-DRAFT-HVT-Final-Report>
- d. Resilient Hartford Update: Clifford Park Food Forest Update by Kyle Katz.
 Presentation only.
- e. Adoption of Updated Emergency Operations Plan
 Town of Hartford Emergency Operations Plan 6-2024: <https://www.hartford->

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to adopt the 2024 revision to the Town of Hartford Emergency Operations Plan. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f. Continued Discussion of Listening Sessions by Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza.

Proposed dates and subjects: September 9th an evening meeting at Wilder Library for a “communication” listening session and September 22nd – an afternoon (facilitated) strategic planning session at West Hartford Library.

VII. Commission Reports

Brandon Smith:

Report from the Housing and Homelessness Commission

- Committee met on July 18. There was continued discussion of what is now being deemed a directory of rental housing in Hartford. One goal of the committee is to have something to present to the board when it makes a report about its activities in September. I don't want to speak out of turn, before the committee finalizes any positions, or to take the wind out of their sails, so I'll leave it for them to state in September.

Kim Souza:

The Planning Department & Town Plan Steering Committee hosted a community forum on July 16 to share some of the work that has been taking place throughout the initiative to update the Economic Development chapter of the Town Plan. The consultants from Better City shared the group's efforts toward the end goal of a strategic roadmap with defined objectives including opportunities, specific steps, actions and key metrics. For more details, refer to the 07.16.24 Planning Commission meeting minutes posted in the agenda center on the town website.

VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 7/20/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 7/19/2024 & 7/25/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 7/9/2024

Note: Already Approved Selectboard Meetings: 8/6/2024 and 8/20/2024

IX. Executive Session

1. Legal (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to find that that there are legal matters involving the Town and premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town and/or persons at a substantial disadvantage

And that

the Selectboard go into executive session to discuss two pending legal matters in which the Town is involved and attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional services, as set forth in 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) and (F).

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motions. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2. Contracts (Consulting Contract)

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the potential consulting contract with such would-be consultant would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy And that the Selectboard go into executive session to discuss whether, and on what terms, to enter into a contract with a third-party consultant, pursuant to 1. V.S.A. Section 3133 (a) (1)(A). Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Please Note: Kim Souza left the meeting at 9:33PM.

Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz made the motion to close the Executive session and return to the regular Selectboard Meeting. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 10:04pm.

Post Executive Session Motions:

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard participate in a mediation of a claim pending before the Vermont Attorney General's Office against the Town of Hartford and that Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt be authorized to attend and participate in the mediation together with the Town Manager and the Town's legal counsel. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard participate in a mediation of a claim pending before the Vermont Human Rights Commission against the Town of Hartford and that Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz be authorized to attend and participate in the mediation together with the Town Manager and the Town's legal counsel. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 10:05 PM. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk
July 23, 2024 Selectboard Meeting