



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 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; Brandon Smith, Member; Ida Griesemer, Member; John Haverstock; Lisa O'Neil; Rick Vincent; Bryan Gazda; Stephanie Gile; Nancy Howe; Chris Holzwarth; Dillon Walsh; Peter iikhanemazendaran; Gail Ostrout

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y4kUEfJ0Sc>

- 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: Lannie Collins asked if 5.f. Regarding SB Vacancy could be put nearer the beginning of the agenda. It was moved to after the Budget Presentations.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment: None
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Kim Souza reminded everyone about the Town Meeting that is coming up in March. This is a time to become more civically engaged. Anyone interested in running for the Selectboard there will be 4 seats up for election or reelection on March 4th and petitions for this is due to the Town Clerk's office mid-January. There is also a program thru the State Treasury's office in Vermont called Vermont Saves which is launching in December. This is a program for folks that are not eligible for retirement funds through their workplace. You can look up more information on this by going to their website at vtsaves.vermont.gov.

Brandon Smith said the election struck many people hard this year. So he is showing his support for the Palestinians tonight. For more information to his personal website at: hey@brandonsmith.com.

Ida Griesemer highlighted a local topic about the VA (Veterans Hospital) is in need of volunteers. Parking Lot Shuttle - transport patients from parking lot to main entrance, Volunteer Escorts - deliver people and items throughout WRJ facility. Kitchen Aide - assemble and deliver meal trays, wash trays and dishes, Clinic / Clerical Aide - Same Day Surgery - assist with replenishing stock, transport labs and medications, assist with paperwork. DAV Drivers - transport patients from a designated pickup location to the facility by way of DAV vans stationed in the community. To learn more about our program please call 802-296-5190 or 802-295-9363 x5392 Stacey.Wright-Hodge@va.gov

Lannie Collins had the privilege to attend the Veteran's Day ceremony here In Hartford. It was his honor to share with fellow veterans.

3. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to Re-Appoint Clare

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard award the bid to Dead Driver Company, Woodstock VT, for an estimated 29,950 gallons of No. 2 heating fuel at a price of \$2.8181 per gallon and authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Dead River Company for the period of November 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.
Selectboard member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d. Review Proposal to Re-Award Nutt Lane Contract presented by Chris Holzwarth,
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that (1) The Selectboard hereby authorizes the Town Manager to award and execute a contract with Issac's Excavating, Inc. for \$305,000 utilizing ARPA funds for the Nutt Lane Water Main Improvement Project, and (2) to utilize up to \$61,000 of Hartford Water Reserves for a 20% contingency fund to cover unforeseen issues related to the project. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. Consider Policy and Ordinance Digitization Proposals presented by Dillon Walsh.
Discussion amongst the board the budget for this project, if deemed a worthwhile endeavor in this fiscal year or in the future. It is IT's recommendation, as previously stated, that this service is best handled outside of the town's internal resources as it currently stands. From there, decide between the differences which vendor is the best choice for the town. Both have a similar hosting fee, General Code charges per new ordinance, Civic Plus charges a flat fee. Civic Plus would integrate, General Code would not. General Code is bigger in New England, with customers such as Lebanon and Rutland.

Decision was to come back to the Board with a recommend motion and the funding source.

- f. Consider Options Regarding Selectboard Vacancy
The Selectboard decided by consensus that they will leave the Selectboard Vacancy, made by Sue Buckholz resigning, open until the March 2025 elections.

VII. Commission Reports

Hartford Conservation Commission, Mary Erdei.

HCC members: Present: Katie Mann, Chair, Chris Beetham, Mike Harris, Ted Levin, Holly Henderson, (Mary Hutchins online), Matt Osborn, staff, (Mary Erdei online).

Absent: Skye Claud; Guest: Sarah Kelly (online)

Guest speaker Sarah Kelly, Dartmouth Research Scientist and Geographer is studying the impacts of flooding with her students, first on the Black River and now on the White River. They look at/examine the flooding as it affects riparian life and have involved the Abenaki in their work. They have been meeting at the West Hartford Library and have become "culvert crawlers" on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons, which will come to an end soon with the end of the term. They will turn over the data they are collecting first to the Town and then to the State of Vermont.

Projects discussed were: finding seedlings to plant in the David Chang Conservation Area along the river bank to hopefully both provide stabilization and shade, planting fruit and nut trees for the Food Forest at Clifford Park, apply tree tubes on young hardwood tree saplings to keep them from being eaten by deer browse, remind people interested in being in the town forest of hunting and to wear vests, and ongoing work on any bylaws revisions.

- VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 11/9/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 11/8/24 & 11/12/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 10/29/2024

Future Meetings: 11/14/2024 (Budget Meeting); 11/19/2024 (Budget Meeting) & 11/26/2024.

- IX. Executive Session: Consider Proposed Litigation Settlement
Selectboard Member Lannie Collins made the motion to move to find 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
Move that the Selectboard go into executive session to discuss a pending legal matter in which the Town is involved and attorney-client communications made for the purpose of arbitration and mediation, as set forth in 1 V.S.Z. Section 3133 (a)(1)(C).
Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE SELECTBOARD OF THE TOWN OF HARTFORD

The undersigned, being the members of the Selectboard of the Town of Hartford (the "Town"), a municipal corporation duly created and validly existing under and pursuant to the laws of the State of Vermont, hereby resolve as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town authorizes and ratifies the settlement of the following claim against the Town:

Kwame Banks, Charging Party v. Town of Hartford, Respondent,

Vermont Attorney General Public Protection Division File No. 2023- 03623; EEOC Charge No. 16K-2024-00002

RESOLVED, that the Town admits no liability and enters into the settlement for the sole purpose of avoiding protracted litigation and agrees to the terms the agreement entitled "Settlement Agreement and General Release" executed on November 5, 2024.

RESOLVED, that the Town hereby authorizes Town Manager John Haverstock to execute on behalf of the Town the Settlement Agreement and General Release, and any and all necessary and incidental documents required in connection with the above-described settlement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Resolution on the dates set forth below dated November 12, 2024.

*Michael Hoyt, Selectboard Chair
Kim Souza, Selectboard Vice Chair
Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk
Ida Griesemer, Selectboard Member
Lannie Collins, Selectboard Member
Brandon Smith, Selectboard Member*

Motion: Selectboard Clerk Mary Erdei made the motion to adopt the Resolution as read. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: **Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16PM. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Erdei", written over a horizontal line.

Mary Erdei, Clerk
November 12, 2024, Selectboard Meeting