



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 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; Dana Clawson; Denise Welch-May; Cathy Geiger; Lisa O'Neil; Stephanie Waterman

Present on Zoom: Bryan Gazda; Lana Livingston; Heidi Duto; Marcy Bartlet; Cedar

JAM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NevJ1ACeqvY>

- 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: Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Cannabis Control Board.

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to renew the Cannabis application #S-000010551- for The Hidden Grove, LLC. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Local Cannabis Control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting.

- V. Order of Agenda: Item Added to the end of the agenda: 5.k. Exception of Section 3.6 of the Purchasing Policy – Winter Rock Salt

VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment None

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements:

Kim Souza reminded everyone of the Info Night on January 13th, 6:00PM, at the Town Hall.

Lannie Collins reminded everyone that there is still time for petitions for the open Selectboard seats. If interested or for more information contact the Town Clerk.

3. Appointments

- a. **Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to appoint Cathy Geiger to the Hartford Energy Commission for a three year term beginning January 7, 2025 and ending January 6, 2028. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- b. **Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to Reappoint John Haffner to the Committee on Housing and Homelessness for a two year term beginning January 7, 2025 and ending January 6, 2027. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager's Report
Police Chief Resignation

I am very sorry to report the recent resignation of Hartford Police Chief Greg Sheldon, which will become effective on Friday, February 28, 2025. We wish Chief Sheldon all the best in his future endeavors. The Town Manager and HR Director will be working

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

- e. Consider Amending Town's Conflict of Interest Policy
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard adopt the attached proposed amendment of the Town's Conflict of Interest Policy and with further amendments including gender natural descriptors and adding the formatting of our approved policy template and also replacing the word of shall instead of must. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11529/Conflict-of-Interest-signed-172025>

- f. Consider Adopting a Municipal Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance and Appoint Town Liaison and Complaint Recipient.
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Hartford Selectboard adopts the attached draft Municipal Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motions passed.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11528/Code-of-Ethics-Signed-copy>

Tabled: The Appointment of the Town's Liaison to the State Ethics Commissions and The Town's Designated Ethics Complaint Recipient.

- g. Review and Approve Selectboard Calendar Cycles for 2025
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the Annual Selectboard Calendar Cycles for 2025. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11588/Approved-SB-Schedule>

Please Note: Mary Erdei left the meeting at 8:40pm after item 5g.

- h. **Review and Approve L.O.T. Ballot Articles**
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the proposed Ballot Article language as amended for the grouped vehicle purchases from Local Option Taxes on rooms, meals and alcohol. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$442,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already in hand from the Local Option Taxes on Rooms, Meals and Alcohol) toward the purchase of several vehicles, as follows:

1. For the Department of Public Works, (a) a six-wheel dump/plow truck to replace a 2017 truck and (b) a 4x4 % to 1 ton mechanic pick-up truck with a utility body to replace a 2011 vehicle. (\$280,000)
2. For the Department of Parks & Recreation, (a) a four wheel drive heavy-duty pick-up truck with a utility flatbed and lift gate to replace a 2011 pickup truck and (b) a park grounds utility vehicle ("gator") with electric cargo dump to replace a 2014 vehicle. (\$87,000)
3. For the Police Department, a new cruiser to replace an older one with high mileage. (\$75,000)

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to approve the proposed Ballot Article language for the Jaws of Life purchase from Local Option Taxes on rooms, meals and alcohol. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$58,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already in hand from the Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) toward the purchase of vehicle rescue tools (a.k.a Jaws of Life) for the Hartford Fire Department?

- i. Review and Approve Sales Tax Ballot Article

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard approve the following Ballot Article language regarding the adoption of a one-percent Local Option Sales Tax:

Shall the Town assess a one percent (1%) tax on sales, as allowed by Vermont Law, with the proceeds of such sales tax being dedicated exclusively to offset Town municipal property tax rates?

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- j. Ratify Provisional Approvals the Payment Manifest of 12/20/2024 & the Payment Manifest of 12/26/2024 and the Check Register of 12/26/2024

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard ratify the actions of Vice Chair, Kim Souza on December 24, 2024, to provisionally approve the Payment Manifest of December 20, 2024, the Payment Manifest of December 26, 2024 and the Check Register of December 26, 2024. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- k. ADDED ITEM: Exception of Section 3.6 of the Purchasing Policy – Winter Rock Salt

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that in accordance with Section 3.7 of the Town Purchasing Policy, the Selectboard waives the requirement for competitive bidding for the purchase of approximately 2500 tons of winter rock salt and authorizes the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Cargill at a price of \$86.75 per ton. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports

Mary Erdei: Hartford Parks and Recreation Commission. 12/12/2024

Meeting was held at Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 5:15 p.m.

Present: Scott Hausler, Dir., David Crocco, Chair, Nikki Boyle, Brett Mayfield, Tom McCleary, Alison Childs, Joe Denny, Mary Erdei (SB Liaison). 1 vacancy

The meeting was held at WABA for a short tour after the meeting.

Discussion centered around the survey results thus far. Parks and Rec. are hoping for around 400 responses to make it statistically relevant. Currently, they have in the 300's range. Needle drop boxes were discussed by the Health Officer, Brett Mayfield. The boxes are ordered and will be attached to porta potties in Lyman and Kilowatt Parks. Lyman Point Park Project will address updating the playground with Reserve Funds and any grants that might be appropriate to the project. The Marketing and Community Relations Plan Review was voted on for adoption and it was unanimous.

Brett discussed the Hartford Climate Resiliency Building workshop recently held at the Wilder Center and felt it was a wonderful opportunity to discuss community

engagement in a future Community Center. The group took the tour of WABA and learned much about the Zamboni as it operates electrically, looked at how busy the Arena is while lamenting that it currently is only usable 1/2 of the year. While touring, the group was accompanied by the shouts and shots made by grade school hockey players, and studied the “underpinnings “ of the way ice is made to made a rink like this one in Hartford.

Hartford Conservation Commission. January 6, 2025

In person: Katie Mann, Chair; Matt Osborn, Staff Liaison, Chris Beetham, Mike Harris,
Online: Ted Levin, Sky Claud, Mary Hutchins, Mary Erdei, Selectboard Liaison
Absent: Holly Henderson

Discussion centered around the issue regarding the trees in Hurricane Forest and removal of downed trees. No trees are currently being cut in the forest, and removal of dead and down trees are limited as some provide habitat for wildlife. Matt Osborn notified the Commission members that the Conservation Fund for '26 (\$3000) had been cut as per requests made by the Selectboard to the departments for budget year 2026.

The bylaws are currently undergoing minor changes, and one area has been been corrected as to the stipend language for members since the current state law does not permit remuneration for Conservation members.

A calendar of events is being firmed up, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Family Forest Frolic on January 11th, with a new time of 1 p.m.
- 2) Winter Natural History Walk on January 25th, at 8 a.m.
- 3) Mix and Mingle groups affiliated with conservation in the Upper Valley on March 7th, approximately 6 pm -7:30 p.m. with set-up at 5:30
- 4) Green-Up Day on May 3
- 5) Bird Walk on May 17th at 5:30 a.m.

These events will be added to a calendar on the Web page

- VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins 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: 1/4/2025

Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/3/2025 & 1/7/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/10/2024: 12/17/2024 & 12/19/2024

Future Meetings: 1/13/2025 (Info Night); 1/21/2025; 1/23/2024 (Place Holder),
2/4/2025; 2/18/2025; 2/24/2025 (Budget and Candidates Night) ; 2/25/2025.

- IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk

January 7, 2025, Selectboard Meeting