



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

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

Present: Kim Souza, Vice-Chair; Mary Erdei, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Ida Griesemer, Member; Bryan Gazda; Gwen Tuson; Laura Cooney; Joan Ponzoni; Allison Litton; Pat Cook; Scott Hausler; Matt Osborn; Jonathan Schechtman; Leonard Morse; Lisa O'Neil

Present on Zoom: John Haverstock; Michael Hoyt; Gail Ostrout; Lana Livingston; Heidi Duto; Marie Alvin; Mike Morse; Erik Kraus

Absent: Brandon Smith, Member

JAM LINK:

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Ida Griesemer.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: Items 5.I; 5.m and the Executive Session were tabled until the next meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Heidi Duto from WRJ thanked the Town Staff and Selectboard for the INFO Night held on the 13th. She requested that links be sent for the meetings.

Mike Morris asked if the chat session on zoom could be open before the meetings and during the break. He asked who saw his email to the Board and everyone confirm they did see it. Mr. Morris also asked who can see the attendee list on the Zoom meeting. Only the Panelists can see the entire list.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Mike Hoyt, on Zoom from home, let everyone know he is doing well after suffering from a mild stroke.

3. Appointment: **** Tabled**

- a. Re-Appointment Bruce Riddle to Hartford's Planning Commission for a three year term beginning January 21, 2025 and ending January 20, 2028.

4. Town Manager's Report

- Town Meeting Cycle

On Monday, January 13, Town Moderator Chuck Wooster presided over Warrant Information Night, at which Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza presented the Selectboard's recommendation that the Town's voters enact a one percent sales tax. Department Heads Scott Hausler, Bryan Gazda and Greg Sheldon spoke on a proposed package of replacement vehicles for their departments to be purchased, pending voter approval, with revenue from the Town's Rooms, Meals and Alcohol Taxes. Scott Cooney spoke in support of his proposal to use Rooms, Meals and Alcohol Tax revenue to purchase vehicle extrication tools for the Fire Department.

On Monday, February 24 at 7:00 pm, Budget & Candidates Night will take place at the High School Auditorium

On Saturday, March 1 at 10:00 am, the Town and School District Meeting will take place in the High School's gymnasium.

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=502>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. Sister Cities Update: presented by Joan Ponzoni; Allison Litton; Laura Cooney and Pat Cook. They presented their new Sister City Logo that they hope to use to identify them as a Sister City with Cenon, France.

b. Review and Approve 250th Commemoration Committee Bylaws

Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve the proposed Hartford 250th Commemoration Committee Bylaws and proceed with the Committee appointment process. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

c. Review Taft's Flat Historic District Nominations

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard approve submitting the Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination and the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination to the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and authorize the Selectboard Vice Chair to sign the Certified Local Government Final Review & Recommendation Report for both proposed Historic Districts. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

d. Adoption of FY26 General Fund Budget

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund budget totaling \$22,676,506.82, to be funded with \$3,776,106.89 in non-tax revenue, \$1,479,000 from the Unassigned Fund balance and \$17,421,399.93 to be raised by property taxes. Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

e. Adoption of FY26 Transfer Station Fund Budget

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Solid Waste Fund budget totaling \$919,880.38, to be funded with \$715,000 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor (4, Hoyt was absent) and the motion passed.

f. Adoption of FY26 White River Water Fund Budget

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 White River Water Fund budget totaling \$ 1,409,403.87, to be funded with \$1,402,555.47 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were

in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- g. Adoption of FY26 Quechee Water Fund Budget

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Quechee Water Fund budget totaling \$648,811.50, to be funded with \$604,315.00 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- h. Adoption of FY26 White River Wastewater Fund Budget

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 White River Wastewater Fund budget totaling \$2,312,615.93, to be funded with \$2,322,079.44 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- i. Adoption of FY26 Quechee Wastewater Fund Budget

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Quechee Wastewater Fund budget totaling \$1,520,610.55, to be funded with \$1,507,000.00 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- j. Review and Approve Town Meeting Warning
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11978/2025-Annual-Town-Warning--sigend>

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve the Town Meeting Warning, as presented. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- k. Review and Approve Town & School District Meeting Warning
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11979/2025-Town-and-School-Meeting-Warning---signed>

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve the Town and School District Meeting Warning as presented. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- l. Appoint a Designated Ethics Complaint Recipient - ** Tabled
m. Appoint a Liaison to State Ethics Commission - ** Tabled

- n. Certification of Highway Mileage <https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11980/2025-Certificate-of-Highway-Mileage>

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard certify the 2025 Highway Mileage Certification as presented. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.

- o. Transfer Station Feasibility Study Update presented by Bryan Gazda and Gwen Tuson from Sanborn Head.

VII. Commission Reports
Hartford Parks and Recreation
January 9, 2025

In person: Chair, David Crocco, Chair; Allison Childs, Joe Denny, Nikki Boyle, Brett Mayfield, Tom McCleary, Scott Hausler, Director, Mary Erdei, SB Liaison

Parks and Recreation decided after current elections to return to a 5 pm start time for meetings. The current slate of officers will continue in place. There is still 1 vacancy in the Commission. There has been a vacancy for a student liaison for some time now.

During the Vacation Week ending Jan 2, 2025, more than 414 skates were rented, sometimes selling out on some days. Basketball has begun. The interest in a REC. Center survey has disbursed and graphs are under way to list responses to the questions.

Scott Hausler discussed the upcoming Accreditation Schedule and Procedures which are ongoing and will be in place for the deadline of January 15th. Hartford will host the 5 person team in a virtual visitation in late April/early May meeting. There are 152 standards for reaccreditation, and this is our 4th process. Hartford is one of the smallest towns across the country to maintain accreditation which gets harder with each accreditation.

The calendar of meeting dates for 2025 was approved.

HCOREI
January 15, 2025

Attendance: In person: Pat Autilio, Chair, Susan Mullens, Co-Chair, Mary Erdei, SB Liaison, Sara Campbell, member, Jasmine Hawkins, community guest
Online: Guest Kendra LaRoche, and Kim Souza, SB member guest
Absent: Nancy Russell, Schoolboard Liaison, Tatum Barnes, staff

2 Vacancies: 1 student and 1 member (Joe Major resigned and we thank him for his work on this board.)

We welcomed our speaker of the evening, Dr. Kendra LaRoche, Executive Director of SNSC (Special Needs Support Center) who is approaching Hartford's HCoreI to encourage support for individuals with disabilities. In existence since 1979, SNSC was previously located in Lebanon, but now has moved to Hartford, remaining a steadfast server of the areas of Hartford, Lebanon and Hanover and other Upper Valley towns in need. Kendra explained that advocacy is a broad concept and that SNSC is currently working with businesses, organizations, nonprofits and municipalities to become Certified as Disability-Friendly. Their mission includes 13 goals as well as offering support that is free to our town for the outcome that Hartford would become an "Accessible City". The first step in this process of certification would be to present a Resolution; then, once passed, co-writing grants together would follow, as well as audits, training, etc.

A 2025 calendar was adopted, 2025 planning goals discussed.

VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins 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: 1/18/2025
Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/17/2025 & 1/23/2025
Approve Meeting Minutes of: 1/7/2025
Future Meetings: 1/23/2025 (if needed); 2/4/2025; 2/18/2025; 2/24/2025
(Budget and Candidates Night); 2/25/2025

IX. Executive Session: ** Tabled

a. Personnel: Discussion of Police Chief's Resignation

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Clerk Mary Erdei made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43PM. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk
January 21, 2025 Meeting