



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, February 4, 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; Rick Vincent; John Vickery; Greg Sheldon; Lori Hirshfield; Mary Kay Brown; Dennis Brown; Bruce Riddle; Heidi Duto; Erin Wetherell; Earl Hatley; Cathy Melocik; Tim Fariel; Ally Tufenkjian; Paulette Osborne;

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston; Erik Krauss; Esme Cole; Heidi Haenel; Omega Haenel

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/live/PDIzXlwDBsM>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6:00 PM by Chair, Mike Hoyt.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by John Haverstock.
- 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: Cathy Melocik of Wilder encouraged the Board to look at the property at 99 Depot Street. It had not been occupied for 10 years. It is a multifamily house.
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
Kim Souza reminded everyone to vote on March 4th.
Brandon Smith is interested in hearing about the Fair & Impartial Policing Policy tonight.
Ida Griesemer urged everyone to get to know the candidates for the upcoming elections. She thanked those that are running.
Lannie Collins thanked DPW for doing a great job plowing after the couple of storms we had. He also thanked the Fire Department for the great job they did dealing with getting a structure fire under control. Mr. Collins also announced that he can no longer support the local option sales tax. He thinks we (the Town) is not representing it clearly to the voters. He also has concerns about the recently Selectboard approved Town Budget.
Mike Hoyt congratulated Wolf Tree on their nomination for the James Beard Award.
 3. Appointments
 - a. **Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to reappoint Bruce Riddle to Hartford's Planning Commission for a three year term beginning February 4, 2025 and ending February 3, 2028. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
 - b. **Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to appoint Erin Wetherell to the Hartford Parks & Recreation Commission for a three year term beginning February 4, 2025 and ending February 3, 2028. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
 4. Town Manager's Report
Town Meeting Cycle
The candidates petition deadline of January 27 has passed, so we now know the

declared candidates for election at Town Meeting.

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.

Bugbee Feasibility Study

Studio Nexus is nearing completion of their work on the ARPA-funded feasibility study for the building and grounds. We expect a presentation to the Selectboard to occur later this month, to include Studio Nexus and the leadership of the Bugbee Board.

President's Day Holiday

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of the President's Day holiday.

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=503>

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Update on Town-Wide Property Re-Evaluation presented by Tyler Technologies and Rick Vincent, Assessor.
- b. Review Application to Hang Banners (Hartford Heroes)
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to authorize 30 banners for the Hartford Heroes from the dates of 5/17/2025 to 7/17/2025 for the villages of White River Junction, Wilder and Hartford. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. 3 voted yes (Collins; Hoyt & Griesemer) 2 voted no (Smith & Erdei) and 1 abstained (Souza) The motion passed.
- c. Remarks from Police Chief Greg Sheldon and Status Update: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12007/Status-Presentation-Outline>
- d. WRJ Downtown Program 2025 Vibrancy Grant Attestation
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve and sign the Letter of Attestation. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- e. Presentation and Submittal of Hartford's TIF District FY2024 Annual Report
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to Accept Fiscal Year 2024 TIF Annual Report to be sent to the Vermont Economic Progress Council and authorize the Town Manager to make any minor changes and to sign the Certification Form. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- f. Request for Authorized Signer Certificate Update for US Bank
Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion that The Selectboard authorizes the following individuals for Vermont Bond Bank and US Bank reimbursement requests and call backs:
For Signatory on Reimbursements:
Michael Hoyt - Board Chair
Joseph Major -Town Treasurer
John Haverstock -Town Manager

For Call Backs:
Gail Ostrout -Finance Director
Florentina Rollins -AP & Payroll Manager
Kerri Thebodo -Finance Specialist

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

VII. Commission Reports - None

VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the agenda. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 2/1/2025

Approve A/P Manifest of 1/31/2025 & 2/6/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 1/21/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 2/18/2025; 2/24/2025 (Budget and Candidates Night); 2/25/2025; and 3/1/2025 (Town & School District Meeting)

IX. Executive Session

Personnel: Discussion of Police Chief's Resignation

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place this body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a) (1). Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion.

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to discuss a potential contract and/or the appointment or employment of a public officer or employee, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Sections 313 (a)(1)(A) and 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(3).

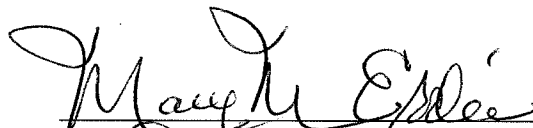
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

No motion made.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40PM. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk
February 4, 2025, Selectboard Meeting