



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 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; Mark Bradley; Barb Duclos; Gaal Crowl; Katie Mann; Andrew Winter; Adam Morse; Chris Holzwarth; Bryan Gazda; Lori Hirshfield;

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston; Jasmine Hawkins

Jam Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnmHXm2YEtY>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00 PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Lannie Collins.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: *This item is tabled until the next Selectboard Meeting.*
Consider the Approval for a New Application for Rachel Burge & Matthew Burge d/b/a Honey Child, LLC. 139 Hillridge Rd, White River Jct., VT 05001. For 1st and 3rd Class Liquor Licenses Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- IV. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- V. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment: None
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
Kim Souza reviewed the Town Meeting Cycle of events.
Mary Erdei welcomed Connie Kelley as the new police chief.
Ida Griesemer reminded everyone to vote on March 4th.
Lannie Collins attended the Hartstat meeting. He found it very informative. He is interested in seeing the trends and looking forward.
 3. Appointments
 - a. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to Appoint Jasmine Hawkins to the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (HCOREI) for a two year term beginning February 18, 2025 and ending February 17, 2027. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
 - b. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to Re-Appoint Christopher Lowe to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three year term beginning February 18, 2025 and ending February 17, 2028. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
 - c. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to Re-Appoint Steve Lagasse to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three year term beginning February 18, 2025 and ending February 17, 2028. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded he motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
 - d. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to Re-Appoint Alice Maleski to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three year term beginning February 18, 2025 and ending February 17, 2028. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager's Report

Town Meeting Cycle

On Monday, February 24 at 7:00 pm, Budget & Candidates Night will take place at the High School Auditorium. It will be broadcast on JAM.

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

Police News

Lt. Commander Connie Kelley has accepted a promotion to serve as Hartford's next Police Chief. She will be sworn in on Monday, March 3 at 9:00 am, here in Room 1 of Town Hall. We thank Connie for her 26 years of service to the Hartford Police Department and to the Town of Hartford, and we wish her every success as Hartford's next Chief. A public welcoming ceremony will be scheduled soon, with details on a venue, date and time to be announced.

On February 11, the current Chief and his Outreach Division conducted their first monthly Hartstat data sharing meeting, at which there was a discussion of the fact that many calls for service have to do with quality of life issues rather than crime. Data sharing will allow HPD and social service agencies to collaborate to better address these issues, bringing the most appropriate tools to bear on issues in our community such as homelessness, drug abuse and/or mental health. The next monthly meeting will take place on March 11 at 8:00 am.

In the April/May timeframe, the HPD's Outreach Division, now fully-staffed with its Lt. Commander and several civilian members, will roll out its Community Coalition process, based on Chief Sheldon's Rutland Project VISION process, but tailored to local issues and circumstances. Let's stay tuned for information on this important step forward.

Clerical Workers Union

The new Town Clerical Worker's Union has asked for an initial meeting with the Town, which will hopefully take place during the week of February 24. Kristin Warner of AFSCME will lead the Union team. The Town's team will include Town Manager John Haverstock, HR Director Paula Nulty, Parks & Recreation Director Scott Hausler and Attorney Brian Monaghan, who has helped the Town negotiate contracts with other unions.

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=504>

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Conservation Commission Update – presented by Katie Mann, Chair
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12071/Hartford-Conservation-Commission-2024-for-Selectboard>
- b. Bugbee Senior Center Architectural Feasibility Study by Studio Nexus Architects
The next steps may be to establish a building committee.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12073/2025-0213-Bugbee-Executive-Summary-and-OPCC->
- c. Green Heights Drive Housing - Review of Road Realignment and Water System Agreements, and Initiate Hickory Ridge Road Realignment Proceedings
Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12057/Green-Heights-Drive-Housing-Packet>

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion that In accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 708 the Selectboard authorizes the Town Manager to initiate the process of formally discontinuing and realigning a southerly portion of Hickory Ridge Road and realigning it by publicly warning and notifying affected to persons owning or interested in lands through which the highway may pass or abut, of the time when they will inspect the site and receive testimony at least 30 days in advance via certified mail (19 V.S.A. § 709) Further, we authorize the Town Manager to give notice to the planning commission, post a copy of the notice in the office of the town clerk, and cause a notice to be published in a local newspaper of general circulation in the area not less than ten days before the time set for the hearing. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion that We the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager to execute the Road Realignment Agreement and the Water System Agreement for the Black Rock Investments, LLC development conditioned to the successful outcome of the discontinuance and realignment proceedings for the southerly end of Hickory Ridge and receipt of a Water Line, Public Access, Vehicle Turnaround, and Emergency

and Municipal Services Easement Deed from Black Rock Investments, LLC. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d. VCDP Grant Application for Housing Project at 444 Sykes Mt. Ave.
Hold a public hearing on March 18, 2025 to determine if the Town should submit a VCDP application for the proposed Sykes Mt. Avenue Multifamily Housing Project.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to hold a public hearing on March 18, 2025 to determine if the Town should submit a VCDP application for the proposed Sykes Mt. Avenue Multifamily Housing Project. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. Review and Approve Corrected Town Mileage Certificate
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard recertify the 2025 Highway Mileage Certification as presented. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- f. Designate Liaison to State Ethics Commission
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to appoint the Town Manager as the Town's Liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- g. Designate Ethics Complaint Recipient – Tabled.

VI. Commission Reports

VII. 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.

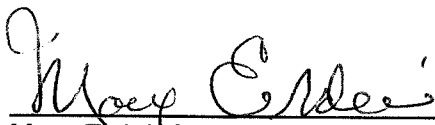
Approve Payroll Ending: 2/15/2025

Approve A/P Manifest of 2/14/2025 & 2/20/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 2/4/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 2/24/2025 (Budget and Candidates Night); 2/25/2025; 3/1/2025 (Town and School District Meeting); 3/6/2025 (Organizational Meeting); 3/18/2025.

VIII. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM. Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Mary Erdei, Selectboard Clerk
February 18, 2025 Meeting