



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 6:00pm

Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,

White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Chair, Mary Erdei; Vice Chair, Michael Hoyt; Erik Krauss; Brandon Smith; John Haverstock; Connie Kelley; Will Furnari; Laura Cooney; Tim Fariel; Kim Souza; Bryan Gazda; Lisa O'Neil; Katie Williams; Justin Righter

Absent: Ashley Andreas, Clerk; Miranda Dupre; Ida Griesemer;

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston; Scott Cooney; Lori Hirshfield; Heidi Duto

JAM LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCt6xAE51tQ&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLFaFfKZbq-q>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6pm by Chair, Mary Erdei.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Mike Hoyt.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board
Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board.

Renewals:

- a. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Approve Maple Street Catering, dba Big Fatty's BBQ at 186 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 for a 1st Class License, Third Class License and Outside Consumption Permit
and
- b. to Approve River Roost Brewery at 230 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 for a 1st Class License and Outside Consumption Permit
and
- c. to Approve Simon Pearce (US) LLC dba Simon Pearce Restaurant at 1792 Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059 for a 1st Class, 3rd Class License and Outside Consumption Permit. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- d. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion to Approve Simon Pearce (US) LLC dba Simon Pearce Retail Store at 1760 Quechee Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059 for a 2nd Class License
and
- e. to Approve Simon Pearce (US) LLC dba Pontil Holdings at 1760 Quechee Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059 for a 1st Class 3rd Class License and an Outside Consumption Permit
and
- f. to approve VFW at 92 South Main Street, White River Junction. VT 05001 for a 1st Class and 3rd Class License. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei closed the Local Liquor Control Board and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 6:05pm.

- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda – there were no changes to the order of Agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment - None

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Erik Krauss reported that June 5 was World Environment Day. In the recent past, this is the day that the Global Footprint Network has chosen to announce Earth Overshoot Day for the current year.

According to footprintnetwork.org: "Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. We maintain this deficit by liquidating stocks of ecological resources and accumulating waste, primarily carbon dioxide in the atmosphere."

Earth Overshoot Day for 2025 is July 24. July 24th is day 205 of the year, that's 56% of the way through the year. Every day after that in 2025 humanity is in overshoot, living beyond the capacity of our biosphere.

3. Appointments

New:

- a. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion to Appoint Justin Righter to the Climate Action Steering Team (CAST) for a three-year term beginning June 10, 2025, and ending June 9, 2028. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- b. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Appoint Katherine Williams to the Sister Cities Committee for a three-year term beginning June 10, 2025 and ending June 9, 2028. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager Report

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Clerical Worker's Union

Negotiations on the terms of a contract continued with a session on Friday, June 6. There will be another sessions on June 11.

ADA Friendly Town

In follow-up to the Selectboard's Resolution declaring the Town to be ADA Friendly, The Town Manager has spoken with Kendra LaRoche of the Special Needs Support Center and we further discussed the Town's ADA compliance on May 28. We are planning a Town Hall site visit here at Town Hall.

Bliss Road Tower

On June 9, the Town's Planning Commission considered an applicant's proposal to replace the Bliss Road Tower. Among the considerations discussed was aesthetics and the results of a balloon test.

Curbside Recycling Program Discontinuance

Efforts are ongoing to alert Town residents of the discontinuance, effective June 30, of the Town's curbside recycling program. The Town has communicated the change to residents via E-Newsletters, social media announcements and a dedicated page on the Town's website, all of which note the alternatives residents have for recycling: the Transfer Station, local garbage haulers (which by law must offer recycling services) and the Lebanon Transfer Station. A postcard was sent out to the home of every Town resident on Monday, June 2. The Town has separately reached out to condominium association presidents and landlords with the information.

The Town Manager and DPW Director have held a site meeting at the Transfer Station to discuss the logistics associated with the anticipated increase in the numbers of visitors. The Transfer Station is preparing for an increase in usership and is planning to make a modification to posted hours of operation, effective July 2, by offering early evening access on Wednesdays (open until 5:45 pm).

Staff Appreciation Party

On Thursday, June 12 at 5:00 pm, Town Staff will enjoy a Staff Appreciation Party at

the VINS complex in Quechee.

Selectboard Facility Tours

On Thursday, June 12, there will be a tour of the DPW Facility at 173 Airport Road from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. On Monday, June 16, there will be a tour of the Public Safety Complex on VA Cutoff Road from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Juneteenth Holiday

Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19 in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Significant Activity Reports Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=512>

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Update from the Community Nurse, Katie Williams presented.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12673/HCN-Selectboard-Presentation-06-25>
- b. ARPA Project Update presented by John Haverstock
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12674/ARPA-Funded-projects>
- c. Review Fuel Bids for LP Gas and Award Contract -presented by Bryan Gazda
Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion that The Selectboard award the Bid to Dead River Fuel, 43 Lincoln Corners Way, Woodstock, VT for an estimated 15,050 gallons of LP Gas at a price of \$1.5218 per gallon and authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Dead River Fuel for the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- d. Review Fuel Bids for No. 2 Heating Fuel and Award Contract. Presented by Bryan Gazda
Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion The Selectboard award the bid to Simple Energy Partners, LLC, 162 N. Main Street, West Lebanon, NH for an estimated 26,050 gallons of No. 2 heating fuel at a price of \$2.6550 per gallon and authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Simple Energy Partners LLC for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- e. Review and Consider Request to Waive Purchasing Policy for Clerk Records Restoration and Preservation presented by Lisa O'Neil
Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion
Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion for an exception to 3.5 of the Purchase Policy due to the specialty, single-source nature of the product/services to be provided by Kofile and approval by the Select Board due to the estimate amount in excess of \$20,000. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion for an exception to the Hartford Purchasing Policy, sections 3.5;3.6; and 3.7, to enable the Clerk to proceed with the Preservation/Restoration of the thirteen (13) volumes of Town Records, to include Volume 7, and Volumes 14-25, based upon the estimate provided by Kofile, dated May 12, 2025. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded he motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- f. Public Hearing: Review and Consider Traffic and Parking Ordinance Updates Including Metered Parking.

Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdie recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 7:30pm.

This session is where the public can comment on this issue.

Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei closed the Public Hearing and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 8:03pm.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to instruct the Town Manager and Chief and Will to come back to us with language that shows fine of \$11.00 instead of \$15.00 that exempts Saturdays and Public Holidays from the Ordinance. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g. Discuss Selectboard Work Plan Event

It was decided to do the Work Plan Session on May 29th from 9am-2pm with an hour lunch.

VII. Commission Reports

Erik Krauss noted that the Conservation Commission has 1 opening and the Historic Preservation Commission has 2 openings.

Brandon Smith Report

At the Planning Commission hearing held June 9, 2025, the commission saw a presentation by a representative of the company wishing to replace a cell tower on Bliss Road, about which the Commission and this board have heard previously. Height of the tower would go from 88 to 120 feet, and increase cell coverage by T-Mobile in the vicinity. Existing tree line is around 65 feet, so the new tower would be 55 feet above that. The developer flew a balloon at the height of the proposed tower and took photos at various locations in the area. The Planning Commission voted to allow its chair to evaluate the developer's responses to two follow-up questions and decide, from there, whether to draft a letter in support to the Vermont Public Utility Commission. These questions are regarding the tower's fall zone and whether, under any circumstances, the tower would fall its entire length and encroach on a neighboring property; and whether there is a reason for the specific placement of cell signal emitters along the tower. In other business, the Commission voted to approve a request to subdivide a lot owned by Consolidated Communications, at the corner of Gates and Currier streets, which would allow a purchase of the white part of the building—on the corner—by the School for Cartoon Studies.

VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Vice Chair made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 6/7/2025

Approve A/P Manifest: 6/6/2025 & 6/12/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 5/27/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 6/24/2025; 7/8/2025 & 7/22/2025 and 6/29 Work Session.

IX. Executive Session: Consider Retaining Counsel to Open Probate Estate for Deceased Delinquent Taxpayer

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt Moved to find that 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. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt Moved 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 providing professional services, as set forth in 1 V.S.A. Section 3133 (a)(1)(E) and (F). Selectboard member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 9:03 pm.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to close the Executive Session at 9:15pm. Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager/Delinquent Tax Collector to work with the Town Attorney as proposed to establish a Probate Estate for a deceased former Town resident for purposes of selling his Hartford real property in order to satisfy his delinquent tax debt. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.


Mary Erdel, Chair
June 10, 2025 Selectboard Meeting

