



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, August 19, 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; Clerk, Ashley Andreas; Miranda Dupre; Ida Griesemer; Erik Krauss; John Haverstock; Rick Vincent; Joe Major; Brian Fitzgerald; Cheryl Choge; Bryan Gazda; Chris Holzwarth

Absent: Vice Chair, Michael Hoyt

Present on Zoom: Lana Livingston; Heidi Duto

JAM LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrhcNvy4ECo&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLFaNfKZbq-g>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mary Erdei at 6:02PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Joe Major
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: chair, Mary Erdei recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Cannabis Control Board at 6:04PM.
 - a. **Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to approve the Local Cannabis License #S-000012661; for Altius THC LLC. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei closed the Local Cannabis control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting at 6:05PM.
- V. Order of Agenda: John Haverstock announced that there will be no Executive Session for the Clerical Union Item. **Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss suggested adding the Executive Session for Selectboard Vacancy Applications and Decide on Interviews to be moved to open session tonight as item 5.g. Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment
Joe Major, WRJ and Treasurer of the Town of Hartford. This is the first Budget that for three of the Board members, and perhaps a fourth, that will be entering into. The finance department currently will be down to 50% personnel. Gail Ostrout, Finance Director, will be a great resource for questions but will also be staffing the department and interviewing for new staff. So, her time will be limited. The Town Manager, John Haverstock is also a great resource for questions along with the Treasurer.
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
Ashley Andreas reminded people that tomorrow there will be a River Festival at Lyman Park from 6-9pm. DPW – culvert mapping will be there.

Mary Erdei reported that the Quechee Fire Department #2 will have their ribbon cutting on Friday at 4pm. Also, on wed. the 27th the Bugbee Building Committee will hold their first meeting.
 3. Appointments
 - a. **Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion to Re-Appoint Larson Burns to the Design Review Board for a three year term beginning August 19, 2025 and ending August 18, 2028. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager Report

Significant Activity Reports Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=517>

Town Manager's Report

Transfer Station Tour

Thanks to Bryan Gazda and the Transfer Station staff for the tour they provided to several Selectboard members and me on Tuesday, August 12. It was a fun and educational experience.

Meeting with School District Superintendent

I had lunch on Tuesday, August 12 with School Superintendent Caty Sutton to discuss areas of common interest and to emphasize the importance of communication and collaboration wherever possible and appropriate.

Finance Department

The Finance Department will soon be at half-strength, with two staffers having departed or soon to depart. Recruitment to fill these slots is under way. Hours of operation for this Department may need to be reduced for the foreseeable future. Such changes will be well-publicized to minimize any inconvenience.

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Consider and Approve Assessor's Errors & Omissions Report presented by Assessor, Rick Vincent.

Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion to:

Approve the adjustment in assessed value for 235 Fairbanks Turn, SPAN number 285-90-15255, from \$2,292,200 to \$1,082,200. Selectboard member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer Approve the adjustment in assessed value for 27 NORTH MAIN STREET, MAP/LOT 45/123-BMC-1, SPAN # 285-090-17007 from \$1,808,300 to \$1,524,800

and

Approve the adjustment in assessed value for 27 NORTH MAIN STREET, MAP/LOT 45/123-BMC-2, SPAN # 285-090-17008 from \$570,900 to \$539,400

Selectboard Clerk Ashley Andreas seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Asset Management Grant Kick-Off Session presented by Chris Holzwarth, DPW and Cheryl Choge from The State of VT.
- c. Remarks from DPW on Highway Division's Plans for the Future Presented by Bryan Gazda and Chirs Holzwarth from the Department of Public Works.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12829/DPW-Public-Presentations>
- d. Recap of Town's Tax Sale Presented by Town Manager, John Haverstock
The Town Bid on 6 of the 11 properties at tax sale.
- e. Provide Budget Guidance to Staff
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12831/Revised-FY-2027-Budget-Guidance-Memo-JSH>

Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre made the motion that the Selectboard adopt the FY2027 Budget Guidance as amended. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f. Discuss Selectboard Community Engagement Plans
Date: October 3rd – First Friday in downtown WRJ. John Haverstock will check on the venue (proposed the Filling Station)

Added Item: g. Discuss Selectboard Vacancy Applications and Decide on Interviews

It was decided to interview all 5 applicants at the August 26th meeting. They will have 15 minutes each to respond to questions from the Selectboard. John Haverstock will compile the questions.

VII. Commission Reports: None

VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre 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: 8/16/2025

Approve A/P Manifest: 8/15/2025 & 8/21/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 8/5/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 8/26/2025 (Special Meeting); 9/2/2025; 9/16/2025; 9/30/2025

IX. Executive Session: Discuss Status of Contract Negotiations with Clerical Workers' Union Consider Approval of Agreement; Discuss Selectboard Vacancy Applications and Decide on Interviews

No Executive Session.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: **Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00PM. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**



Ashley Andreas, Selectboard Clerk
August 19, 2025 Meeting