



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, October 28, 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; Clerk, Ashley Andreas; Miranda Dupre; Ida Griesemer; Erik Krauss; Tim Fariel; John Haverstock; Lana Livingston; Rick Vincent; Lisa O'Neil; Scott Cooney; Paula Nulty; Michelle Boleski; Barbara Middleton; Heidi Duto; Cathy Melocik; Patti Holmes; Scott Holmes; Sonia O'Banion; Esme Cole; Jennifer Lamareux; Pete Zendran; Dave Briggs; Peggy Adams; Adam Grounds; Miriam El Guemri

Present on Zoom: Jeremy Delisle; Lori Hirshfield; Marie Alvin; Mike Morris; Michael Redmond

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIDHW3H3RFg>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6pm by Chair, Mary Erdei
Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei announced that the Health Board meeting scheduled for tonight at 5:30 was canceled by the Health Officer as there was a resolution prior to the meeting.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Patti Holmes.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Cannabis Control Board at 6:02PM.
 1. **Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Renew the Local Cannabis License for the Tea House, LLC at 50 Woodstock Road, White River Junction, VT 05001. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei closed the Local Cannabis Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting at 6:03PM.
- V. Order of Agenda: there were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment
Michelle Boleski from WRJ and a member of the Community Coalition voiced her concern about the Haven's low barrier shelter being built in WRJ. Some concerns are safety & security; operating hours; drug & alcohol use policy, regulatory plan and oversight among others.
The current Director, Michael Redmond responded to her concerns. They are planning community meetings as well as attending Hart Stat meetings.

Barb Middleton from WRJ and a member of the Hartford Community Coalition and subgroup on accountability shared her concerns about not getting the data they need to address the issues facing the Town. John Haverstock said that the PD is putting together a package of data to share and it should be available soon.

Heidi Duto of WRJ spoke about harassment from the Police Department concerning a former employee of the Police Department.

Sonia O'Banion from WRJ a member of the Coalition and Accountability groups said that there is no safety plan in place for the low barrier shelter. Town ordinances need to be updated and it is the job of the Selectboard. There needs to be safety in the Town.

Cathy Melocik from Wilder noted that Wilder has issues that need to be addressed. She wanted to thank the Board, Town Manager and the Police Department for handling the recent activities in the Town this year. There has been significant crime in Wilder this year. She attended the Two Rivers planning meeting that was held here over the summer. She would encourage people to look at their website.

Jennifer Lamoureux from WRJ lives on a dead-end road and there are encampments by her home. She has a young child and it is not safe for her to go out of the house.

Michael Redmond from the Upper Valley Haven spoke about the November Benefits being suspended due to the government shutdown. They are doing as much as possible to insure the food programs at the Haven. They have also seen an increase of usage.

Marie Alvin of WRJ is concerned that the HPD is not doing their job at the Park & Ride. She also commented about her concern that the PD is often on her street and outside her home.

Mike Morris from Hartford spoke about the condition of the town's roads. They are in severe conditions. We need to take care of our roads. He is also concerned about the increase of signs throughout the Town.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Eric Krauss thanked everyone for coming tonight to share in public comment. It has not been unheard. Thursday night there is an executive session of the Selectboard to talk about issues related to the Police Department. We are not unaware of the issues we face as a Town. Priorities in the budget will be Public Safety and DPW.

Miranda Dupre thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Ida Griesemer really appreciates everyone that spoke tonight. It is very helpful to the Board as leaders in the Town. She wants to be part of taking questions and accountability that the culture is addressed overall.

Mike Hoyt thanked people for coming.

Tim Fariel thinks we still have a great community here and there are some challenges ahead. He encourages continued talk and new solutions to work together.

Ashley Andreas committed to further investigating these claims and accountability because it should not be allowed. She suggested that we look to the organization Braver Angels.

Mary Erdei thanks to everyone that came tonight. We must be patient and respectful. We will take this all into consideration.

3. Appointments

- a. **Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Re-Appoint Allison L. Childs to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three year term beginning October 28, 2025 and ending October 27, 2028. Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- b. **Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to Re-Appoint Esme Cole to the Energy Commission for a three year term beginning October 28, 2025 and ending October 27, 2028. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- c. **Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Re-Appoint Ted Levin to the Hartford Conservation Commission for a four year term beginning October 28, 2025 and ending October 27, 2029. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss 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=532>

Audit

The Town's external auditors are working at Town Hall to review the FY25 budget year. The members of the Selectboard are encouraged to stop in for a brief check-in with the auditors—usually on the third floor at Town Hall. The auditors will be presenting their findings at the November 25 Selectboard meeting.

Difficult Conversations with Constituents

Thanks to Vital Communities and the Braver Angels Organization for co-hosting a meeting on the topic of Difficult Conversations with Constituents on October 23 in Enfield. It was fun to attend together with Selectboard members Ashley Andreas and Miranda Dupre and about a dozen other

folks and two excellent facilitators.

VLCT Safety-Related Legislative Agenda

On Wednesday, October 29, VLCT will host a second Zoom chat on the topic of VLCT's legislative priorities in the field of Public Safety.

Upcoming Selectboard Meetings

There will be a Special Selectboard Budget meeting on Thursday of this week (October 30) at 6:00 pm for budget presentations on Fire, Police and Dispatch. The following week, there will be a Special Selectboard Budget Meeting on Thursday, November 6. The next regular Selectboard Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 12, because Tuesday, November 11 is Veterans Day--a national holiday.

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. FY27 Budget Presentation: Assessor - Presented by Rick Vincent, Assessor
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12978/Hartford-Assessing-Budget-Presentation-FY2027>
- b. FY27 Budget Presentation: Town Clerk – Presented by Lisa O'Neil, Town Clerk
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12979/BUDGET-FY-2027-DRAFT-SB-UPDATES>
- c. FY27 Budget Presentation: Human Resources – Presented by Paula Nulty, HR Director
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12980/Human-Resources-Budget-Presentation-FY27---2>
- d. Consider Recommendation to Select Vendor for New Fire Department Rescue Pumper presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney.

Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to approve the Fire Department's recommendation to select Sutphen Corporation, through Dingee Machine Co., as the vendor for the purchase of a new rescue pumper, utilizing the Sourcwell Cooperative Purchasing Program (Contract #113021-SUT). Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. Consider Proposed Purchase of a 1-Ton Utility/Tow Vehicle for the Fire Department - Presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to approve the Fire Department's recommendation to purchase a 1-ton utility/tow vehicle from Colonial Municipal Group under the Massachusetts State Purchasing Contract VEH110, at an estimated cost of \$114,117.50 with funding to come from the Fire/Ambulance Reserve Account. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f. Consider Authorizing Purchase of Wastewater Treatment Trucks Presented by Jeremy Delisle, DPW.

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to award the bids for two 2026 Chevrolet 3500 Pickup Trucks with plows and cranes in the amounts of \$84,240.00 and \$83,340.00 to Benson Chevrolet, Inc., Ludlow, VT, and authorize the Public Works Director, Bryan Gazda, to sign all documents related to the purchase of the new trucks. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. Discuss Status of TIF District and Next Steps presented by Lori Hirshfield, Planning and Development Director.- Presented by Lori Hirshfield, Director of Planning and Development.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Approve submittal of the Phase Filling and Substantial Change Requests to the Vermont Economic Progress Council for first level review and proceed with a Public Hearing for the Substantial Change for November 18, 2025, and authorize Town Manager and staff to complete and submit the necessary submittals and to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign a transmittal letter on behalf of the board. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- h. Conclude Consideration of Submitting Municipal Planning Grant Application for WRJ Parking/Transportation Study Presented by Lori Hirshfield, Planning and Development Director.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Approve the submission of a VMPG application for \$30,000, and adopt and sign the “FY26 Municipal Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant form designating Town Manager John Haverstock as the Municipal Authorizing Official, Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei as the Alternate Municipal Authorizing Official, and Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield as the Grant Administrator, and direct the Town Manager and Town staff to complete all submissions necessary to apply for and execute the Municipal Planning Grant. Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Erik Kraus made the request *That the Selectboard have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the RFP before it is released and that the Selectboard receive, at minimum, updates on the study at the completion of the analysis and recommendation tasks (refer to 10/28/2025 Selectboard packet page 151 for description of tasks) and at the conclusion of the study.* 5 members of the Board agreed with the request and 2 did not.

Resolution Passed

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Hartford is applying for funding as provided for in the FY26 Budget Act and may receive an award of funds under said provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development may offer a Grant Agreement to this Municipality for said funding; and

WHEREAS, the municipality is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes or that the municipality has voted at an annual or special meeting to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes,

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Legislative Body of this Municipality enters into and agrees to the requirements and obligations of this grant program including a commitment to match funds.

2. That the Municipal Planning Commission recommends applying for said Grant;

Bruce Riddle, Vice Chair of the Planning Commission

3a. That John Haverstock, Town Manager who is either the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as defined by 10 VSA §683(8), or is a Select Board Member, the Town Manager, the City Manager, or the Town Administrator, is hereby designated to serve as the Municipal/Authorizing Official (M/AO) for the Grant Electronic Application and Reporting System (GEARS), and to execute the Grant Agreement and other such Documents as may be necessary to secure these funds.

3b. (Alternate Authorizing Official for redundancy)

That Mary Erdei, Selectboard Chair, who is either the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as defined by 10 VSA §683(8), or a Select Board Member, is the Town Manager, the City Manager, or the Town Administrator, is hereby designated to serve as the Municipal/ Authorizing Official (M/AO) for the Grant Electronic Application and Reporting System (GEARS), and to execute the Grant Agreement and other such Documents as may be necessary to secure these funds.

3c. That Lori Hirshfield, Planning Director is hereby designated as the Grant Administrator, the person with the overall Administrative responsibility for the Municipal Planning Grant program activities related to the application, and any subsequent Grant Agreement provisions.

Passed this 28th day of October, 2025.

VII. Commission Reports

Ida Griesemer reported from the Energy Commission.

As part of their meeting on 10/23, the Hartford Energy Commission continued to discuss opportunities to install bicycle parking in downtown WRJ. After the meeting some attendees took a walk around downtown to identify potential locations for bike racks.

VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 10/25/2025

Approve A/P Manifest: 10/24/2025 & 10/30/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 10/14/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 10/30/2025 (Budget); 11/6/2025 (Budget); 11/12/2025; 11/18/2025 (Budget); 11/25/2025

IX. Executive Session: None

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:36P.M. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Andreas', is written over a horizontal line.

Ashley Andreas, Selectboard Clerk
Selectboard Meeting 10.28.2025

