



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 25, 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; Ida Griesemer; Erik Krauss; Tim Fariel; John Haverstock; Lana Livingston; Linda Simon Miller; George Miller; Hiedi Duto; Phil Sargent; Scott Hausler; Paula Nulty; Gail Ostrout; David Briggs; Cathy Melocik; Mary Kay Brown; Dennis Brown; Peter Zendran

Absent: Miranda Dupre; Michael Hoyt;

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIHApS9sII8>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6:03PM by Chair, Mary Erdei.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Gail Ostrout.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board at 6:04PM.
 1. **Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer made the motion to Renew the Application for Cappadocia Cafe, LLC; 5 S. Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 for a 1st Class, 3rd Class and Outside Consumption License. Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas 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 offered his gratitude to the Town Staff, people of Hartford and fellow Board members during this Thanksgiving season.

Ida Griesemer offered her gratitude for all the people that serve the community, the public and Town staff.

Tim Fariel appreciates the Town staff.

Ashley Andreas offered her gratitude to the residents, Town staff and all the committees and Board members. Volunteers make our Town run.

Mary Erdei added her thank you to Finance Director Gail Ostrout.

3. Appointments: None
4. Town Manager Report
Significant Activity Reports Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=542>

Selectboard Meetings

There was a Community Forum hosted by the Quechee Club on Wednesday, November 19. Thanks to the Quechee Club and to our friends at JAM, who covered the event. Thanks also to all attendees from across the Town.

There will be a Special Selectboard Budget meeting on December 2. The Finance Director will not be available to participate.

There will be another regular Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, December 9, at which further budget discussions/deliberations will take place.

Town Meeting Preparations

Planning is under way for another Town Meeting cycle of events. This work will involve staff and a growing number of members of the Town and School Meeting Committee.

Bugbee Building Committee

The hard-working Bugbee Building Committee has met seven times and is working on a set of recommendations for the Selectboard to consider. Stay tuned for a discussion which may impact the FY27 budget and/or Town Meeting ballot.

Finance Director Position

The Town Manager has identified a person with many years of municipal government experience (including in municipal finance) to serve as the Town's Interim Finance Director from early December through March, 2026. Hopefully, this will provide the Town sufficient time to work with a consultant to recruit a more permanent successor. A proposed contract will be discussed tonight in executive session.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Town offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28.

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Consider Acceptance of FY25 Audit Report Presented by Gail Ostrout.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13066/FYE-2025-Audit-Board-Memo-112525>

Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion to table this item.

Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. FY27 Budget Presentation: Finance Presented by Gail Ostrout.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13067/Auditing-FY-27-presentation>

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13068/Finance-FY-27-presentation>

- c. FY27 Budget Presentation: IT Presented by Gail Ostrout

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13069/Budget-Workshop-IT-181-2026-2027>

- d. Consider Proposal from 250th Committee and Hartford Alumni Association for Parade Funding presented by Linda Simon Miller and David Briggs

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13070/HHSAA-Memo-to-Selectboard-rev-11-17-25>

John Haverstock will talk to the Finance Director to see what the process would be to pay out of this year's funds.

- e. Review 2026 Banner Request (Hometown Heroes) by Dennis Brown.

https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13073/1-IMG_7996

Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to approve the request by the Hartford Heros Banner Committee for Hartford Heros Banners placed on Town poles between May 16, 2026 and July 18, 2026. Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. 4 were in favor and 1(Erdei) abstained. The motion passed.

- f. Budget Wrap Up #1

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13071/doc03168520251120143228>

VII. Commission Reports

VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 11/22/2025

Approve A/P Manifest: 11/21/2025 & 11/26/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 11/12/2025; 11/18/2025 and 11/19/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 12/2/2025 (Budget); 12/9/2025; 12/16/2025 (Budget); 12/30/2025

Budget Meetings if Needed: 12/4/2025; 12/11/2025; 12/18/2025

IX. Executive Session:

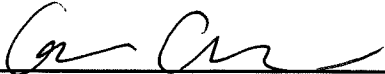
Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion that In order to allow for (a) the review of a proposed contract for an Interim Finance Director and (b) a discussion of the evaluation of a Town employee, I Move to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place this body and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage, pursuant to V.S.A. Section 313 (a) (1), and I Move to discuss a potential contract and personnel matters, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 subsections (a)(1)(A); and (a)(3). Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas moved to close the Executive Session at 9:24PM. Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel made the motion that the Selectboard approve and authorize the Town Manager to execute the Employee Leasing Agreement proposed by MGT with regard to the provision of Interim Finance Director services to the Town of Hartford. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. 4 voted yes and 1 (Andreas) abstained. The motion passed.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 9:26PM. Selectboard Member Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.


Ashley Andreas, Selectboard Clerk,
November 25, 2025, Selectboard Meeting