



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Chair, Ida Griesemer; Vice Chair, Erik Krauss; Clerk, Ashley Andreas; Miranda Dupre; Michael Eigenbrode; Mary Erdei; Tim Fariel; John Haverstock; Janet Potter; Allison Litten; David Barrell; Lexi Webster

Present on Zoom: Heidi Duto; Kim Souza; Jeremy Delisle

Absent:

JAM Link: [Hartford Selectboard 07/21/26](#)

- I. Selectboard Meeting Called to Order by Selectboard Chair Ida Griesemer at 6:00 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by John Haverstock.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda

An item on the MOU for West Hartford Library Trust was in a prior version of the agenda. The agenda was updated and this item was not part of this Selectboard meeting.

VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Janet Potter of White River Junction thanked the police and the Selectboard and spoke on the issues of encampments and the South Main St parking lot.

Heidi Duto of White River Junction, via Zoom, asked when the new Town Manager will be sworn in. Gail Ostrout will be sworn in at 8:30am on Monday July 27th.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Ashley Andreas spoke on thanks to John Haverstock and congratulations to Gail Ostrout.

Tim Fariel spoke on need for new strategies to address community problems.

Erik Krauss asked for patience and spoke on systemic challenges.

Mary Erdei spoke on all the Pride events happening this week.

Ida Griesemer echoed prior comments.

3. Appointments

1. Consider the Re-Appointment of David Barrell to the Tree Board for a three-year term beginning July 21, 2026 and ending July 20, 2029

David Barrell spoke about the Tree Board and that there are 2 openings on the Board and need more help.

Selectboard Member Mary Erdei moved to appointment David Barrell to the Tree Board for a three-year term beginning July 21, 2026 and ending July 20, 2029. Selectboard Member Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager Report

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=571>

Town Manager Transition

I am prepared to use the remainder of this week for transition sessions with the Town's next Town Manager, Gail Ostrout.

Needle Collection

The issue of discarded syringes (i.e., needles) and public safety is an issue that has generated concern among Town residents. Some have advocated for installing needle collection containers on Town property. Others have suggested that the Town staff collect data on the number and locations at which used needles are found. On Monday, June 29, I met with Police Chief Connie Kelley, HPD Outreach Lieutenant Will Furnari, HPD Crime Data Analyst Amie Wunderlich, Community Nurse Katie Williams, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Jay MacDonough, Town Health Officer Brett Mayfield and Deputy Town Health Officer Zachary Lloyd-Guthrie to discuss these topics.

The consensus was that the installation of additional needle collection kiosks on Town property is a sensible idea, from a public health and safety perspective. HPD Outreach has proposed this in a bid for some of the Town's Opioid settlement fund grant money. Should that effort fail, staff could be expected to seek funding in the next budget cycle, soon to begin.

The community conversation over these matters will, of course, continue, as the opioid abuse epidemic rages all across our country.

Coolidge Block Re-Development

A brief update: Town staff continue to engage with the owner of the Coolidge Hotel block (David Briggs) and with a would-be developer (Adam Grounds of Copper Acre), through the Town's Public-Private Partnership process. In this dynamic, proposals are made, questions are asked and answered, issues are researched. As you know, a grant-funded parking and inter-modal transportation study is under way and this should help to advance the dialog on project scope, feasibility and cost. It is expected that staff will recommend further Selectboard involvement in these discussions in the coming weeks.

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

Committee/Commission Updates: None

Action Items:

- a. Consider Adopting Resolution Designating July as Parks and Recreation Month

Selectboard Vice Chair Erik Krauss moved to designate July as Parks and Recreation month. Selectboard Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f. Accept the State's Downtown Vibrancy Grant Award

Kim Souza of White River Junction via Zoom spoke on the Vibrancy Grant.

Selectboard Member Mary Erdei moved to approve and sign the attached Letter of Attestation in order to execute the Vibrancy Grant documents. Selectboard Member Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. Constitute the Capital Improvement Plan Committee

Tim Fariel was nominated and accepted the position on the Capital Improvement Plan Committee as the Selectboard Member.

Selectboard Member Miranda Dupre moved that (a) the Selectboard appoint the proposed slate of candidates to serve on the Town's Capital Improvement Plan Committee until further notice and that (b) they convene an organizational meeting within thirty days, to be followed by a meeting in September, 2026 designed to explain the CIP process to the public and to solicit public input. Selectboard Clerk Ashley Andreas seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Consider Awarding Sodium Hypochlorite Contract (DPW/Water)

Selectboard Vice Chair Erik Krauss moved to award the bid to Allen Engineering & Chemical Corporation, Rutland, VT for an estimated 23,760 gallons of Sodium Hypochlorite at a price of \$3.50 per gallon and an estimated 4,950 gallons of Polymer 8837 at \$25.67 per gallon and authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Allen Engineering and Chemical Corporation for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. Selectboard Member Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Consider Awarding Polymer 8837 Contract (DPW/Wastewater)

See Item VI 5 B.

- d. Consider Awarding Stern Pack 70 Contract (DPW/Wastewater)

Selectboard Vice Chair Erik Krauss moved to award the bid to Holland Company, Inc., Adams, MA for an estimated 12,000 gallons of Stern Pack 70 at \$3.50 per gallon and authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Holland Company, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. Selectboard Member Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. Consider Awarding Aggregates Contract (DPW/Highway)

Selectboard Vice Chair Erik Krauss moved to authorize the Department of Public Works to purchase aggregates with the exception of winter sand from either Pike Industries or Twin State Sand & Gravel Co., Inc. based on product pricing, product availability, and operational expediency. Selectboard Member Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair Erik Krauss moved that the Hartford Selectboard designate D & D Excavating, Inc., as primary vendor for Winter Sand based on their overall competitive bid pricing, with Twin State Sand & Gravel Co., Inc., being utilized in the event of a product shortage at D & D Excavating, Inc., or when deemed operationally expedient. Selectboard Member Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- h. Consider Adoption of Proposed Immediate-Term Recommendations for Boards, Committees and Commissions

The Selectboard discussed the proposed recommendations.

Allison Litten spoke on the Sister City Committee and the unique challenges and that this should be a conversation.

Selectboard Member Miranda Dupre moved to move forward with revised document that highlights only the recommended next steps as discussed (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, and 5.7). Selectboard Clerk Ashley Andreas seconded the motion. 5 were in favor (Erdei abstained) and the motion passed.

Discussion Items (Action May be Taken):

- i. Discuss FY27 Budget Guidance to Staff

The Selectboard discussed Budget Guidance and Miranda Dupre will draft a memo for FY27.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/13571/Budget-Guidance-to-Staff-FY27>

VII. Commission Reports

Mary Erdei gave an update on the Design Review Board and a proposal from the Filling Station. Sister Cities had a video call with Cenon, France about their upcoming music festival.

Erik Krauss spoke on the work done by the Conservation Commission and it has 2 openings.

Ashley Andreas spoke on Resilient Hartford and the Committee Housing and Homelessness collaboration.

Ida Griesemer spoke on the preparation for the Special Selectboard Meeting August 12th on affordability.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Selectboard Member Mary Erdei moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 7/18/2026

Approve A/P Manifest: 7/17/2026 & 7/23/2026

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 7/7/2026, 7/9/2026 (Special Meeting) & 7/13/2026 (Special Meeting)

Future Meetings Approved: 7/30/2026 (CIP Project Prioritization Workshop), 8/4/2026, 8/12/2026 (Special Meeting) & 8/18/2026

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Vice Erik Krauss moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. Selectboard Member Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ashley Andreas, Clerk