

2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 10:00AM

Present: Town Moderator, Chuck Wooster; Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt; Selectboard Vice Chair Kim Souza; Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei; Selectboard Members Ida Griesemer, Lannie Collins and Brandon Smith; Town Manager John Haverstock; Town Clerk Lisa O'Neil; Town Staff; Members of the general public; Members of the School Board; School Superintendent, Caty Sutton.

Town Moderator Chuck Wooster opened the Annual Town Meeting at 10:08 a.m.

The citizens of Hartford who are legal voters are hereby warned to meet on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Hartford High School Gymnasium for the purpose of transacting Town business not involving voting by Australian ballot.

Selectboard Chair Mike Hoyt made the motion to receive the reports of the Town Officers. Selectboard Vice Chair Kim Souza seconded.

There followed three presentations regarding pending ballot articles. Scott Hausler, Bryan Gazda and Tom Howell spoke about the ballot article seeking Local Options Tax (LOT) funding for vehicle replacement purchases. Scott Cooney spoke about the ballot article seeking LOT funding for the purchase of Jaws of Life equipment. Selectboard Chair Mike Hoyt spoke about the ballot article seeking adoption of a one percent Local Option sales tax. There followed a discussion with questions and answers on these ballot articles.

The motion passed.

Selectboard Chair Mike Hoyt made the motion to collect Town General and Highway Tax and the Town School District's Tax on real estate in two installments, the first being on or before August 15, 2025, and the second installment being on or before February 6, 2026, through the Treasurer. Selectboard Clerk Mary Erdei seconded.

The motion passed.

Selectboard Chair Mike Hoyt made the motion to vote what compensation the Town will pay its Town officers from the General Fund, effective July 1, 2025, pursuant to 24 V.S.A., Section 932: Moderator \$100.00 per meeting; Board of Civil Authority \$50.00 per four hour shift or any part thereof; Treasurer \$16,000.00 per annum; Selectboard \$100.00 per meeting, with the Chair receiving \$300.00 additional per annum and the Vice-Chair receiving \$150.00 additional per annum, with Selectboard members eligible to receive a dependent care reimbursement in the amount of \$20.00 per hour for meeting attendance; such officials will receive mileage reimbursement in the amount equivalent to the rate authorized by the IRS when a town vehicle is not available to them. Selectboard Clerk Mary Erdei seconded.

Resident Mike Morris offered an amendment to increase the per-meeting compensation for members of the Board of Civil Authority from \$50.00 per four hour shift or any part thereof to \$100.00 per four hour shift or any part thereof. Colin Butler seconded the motion. Amendment passed. Motion passed.

Colin Butler made the motion to adjourn. Selectboard member Lannie Collins seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned 12:12 p.m.