



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Hartford Town Hall

171 Bridge Street

White River Junction, Vermont 05001

Present: Richard Grassi, Selectboard Chair; Rebecca White, Selectboard Vice-Chair; Sandra Mariotti, Selectboard Clerk; Simon Dennis, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Dennis Brown, Selectboard Member, Mike Morris, Selectboard Member; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Dawn Pullar; Jeff Moreno, Judith Roberts and Sandra Cary from the West Hartford Library; Bill Neukomm, COVER; Len Brown, Bugbee Senior Center; Karen Morton, Good Beginnings; Corey Mitchell, RSVP; Van Chestnut, Advance Transit; Nandine Hodgdon and Phylliss Bettis, Hartford Library; Lurna Ricard; Carole Haehnal; Kathleen Hickey; David Izzo; Laney Collins; Kate Schaal, Quechee/Wilder Libraries.

I. Call to Order Selectboard Budget Workshop and Pledge of Allegiance

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.
Selectboard member, Dennis Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Order of Agenda: Mr. Pullar, Town Manager asked to add COVER to c. and to separate Hartford Historical Society from Advance Transit, in e. – they are 2 separate items.

III. Liquor Control Board: N/A

IV. Selectboard

1. Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements: TBD

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi thanked Selectboard Vice-Chair, Rebecca White and Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis for their presentations the night before at the *Warrant Information Night*. He also noted the excellent premeeting singers from Hartford High School. He also thanked F.X. Flinn for coordinating the night.

Selectboard member, Simon Dennis asked about the process for the Health and Human Services appropriations. He questioned if there is a way to compare one against another. He would like to gather information and see if the values were comparable. This might be a discussion for the following budget year preparations. Mr. Dennis asked if it is ok and is it the right amount to give

away \$194,000 of tax payers money.

Town Manager, Leo Pullar explained that the requested amounts are generated by the organizations themselves. They are passed with a minimum of 5% of the registered votes. This is a State ordinance. The board does not have much flexibility.

Selectboard Member, Mike Morris asked for the Town Manager to provide a sketch or simple way to see where the TIF dollars are going. This is in reference from last night's Selectboard Budget Meeting. Selectboard Vice-Chair, Becca white said she had gotten suggestions that included the use of photos of the locations and something also more comprehensive on the web site.

No Citizen comments at this time.

2. **Appointments:** N/A

3. **Town Manager's Report:** Mr. Pullar provided for the Selectboard a completed copy of the Audit FY16. There is also a copy posted on the web site.

4. **Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:**

Town Manager, Leo Pullar reported on the General Fund.

General Fund Update:

- Expenditures - \$15,550,493.49
- Revenues - \$15,096,210.00
- Difference - \$454,283.49
- Adjustments:
 - No Change Since January 5, 2017 Workshop

a. Senior Services (421)

- Bugbee Center: Len Brown representing.

Requesting \$147,760.00

Current Year \$135,888.00

Difference:

- Increase in Utilities
- Request for \$13K for Floors for the dining room and bathrooms. They have become a safety issue.
- Town Change in Accounting for Insurance Costs
- Maintains a Small Reserve for Future Roof Replacement (\$20,000)
- Significant Energy Work on the Horizon for this Facility

Selectboard member, Alan Johnson looks forward to the opportunity to bundle some of the energy specific work with the Town.

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi asked if Mr. Len Brown knew the numbers

of people that use the facility and if those numbers have grown from the past years. Mr. Brown didn't have the numbers with him but he did think they are about the same from the previous year. Mr. Brown also noted that many seniors float between the area centers. It depends on the activities offered and the menu.

b. Library Appropriations (712) Library Total: \$360,690.00

Hartford Library:

- Hartford - \$94,000.00 (26% of total requested)
- 4423 Population Served (\$22.95 per individual)
- 6 Days per Week, 42 Hours per Week
- \$7500 from WRJ Library

Quechee Library:

- Quechee - \$162,890.00 (45% of total requested)
- 4718 Population Served (\$42.05 per individual)
- 6 Days per Week, 39 Hours per Week
- \$7500 from WRJ Library

Wilder Library:

- Wilder - \$28,000.00 (8% of total requested)
- Population Included in Quechee
- 5 Days per Week, 18 Hours per Week

WRJ Library:

- White River Junction - \$15,000.00 (4% of total requested)
- Split Between Hartford & Quechee (\$7500 each)

West Hartford Library: Jeff Moreno, Judith Roberts and Sandra Cary representing.

- West Hartford - \$60,800.00 (17% of total requested)
- Includes \$13,100.00 for Facility (Parks & Rec)
- 688 Population Served (\$88.37 per individual)
- 5 Days per Week, 33 Hours per Week (30 hours paid and 3 hours are volunteers)

Comments:

Ms. Sandra Cary, Librarian of the West Hartford Library, presented to the Board the programs and activities that the Library and Community Center offer. They are the only place in their community, West Hartford, that offers a meeting/gathering place. The West Hartford Library is also the only "Town owned" Library. The facility is operated by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town. Being part of the Town, the IT services are also available to the Library. This current year the Library is running on a very tight budget and is relying on others/friends to donate time, items and money. The

increased appropriation amount asked for this coming year will increase the ability to add more programs, services and activities that are needed to serve the community. Jeff Moreno, Trustee for West Hartford Library, is looking for more money to bring in people such as authors, scientists and offer more activities.

Selectboard Vice-chair, Rebecca White does not support the increased amount that West Hartford Library is asking for. Ms. White believes that being in a community that offers services of at least two other Libraries, the citizens of West Hartford has easy access to a Library even if West Hartford is not open as many hours as they are presently. Ms. White's big concern is that she believes the Library does not need to be open 33 hours and additional time for the community center. She suggests we keep in line with the other Libraries and fund \$15,000-\$30,000/year. It does not feel to Ms. White as a fair appropriation. She will not support an appropriation of \$47,700.

Selectboard member, Alan Johnson noted that the Library itself has not been open and running enough for a fair estimate on its expenses. What information we may get from the State Library will not be representative of it's potential. Overall it would be nice for all libraries to report on their community services so there are comparable.

Selectboard clerk, Sandi Mariotti asked what the recent survey showed as far as the Libraries. Selectboard Chair Grassi said it showed "strongly in favor" and additional funding if needed.

There were no discussions or questions for the other Libraries.

No decisions will be made tonight.

c. Community Health (412) Total - \$59,907.00

- Visiting Nurses Association
\$41,882.00 – No Change (Renewed Petition)
- VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
\$975.00 – No Change
- Good Neighbor Clinic
\$7,500.00 – No Change
- COVER- Bill Newkomm, Executive Director representing.
\$5,000.00 – Increase of \$4,001.00 (Updated Petition)
Cover offers services to Urgent needed home repairs for low income families in the Upper Valley.
- Good Beginnings – Karen Morton, Executive Director, representing
Serving NH and VT. 34 families last year in Hartford. They serve families with new babies. Respite for parents and

training is also available. A new service is to Foster Families.
\$4,550.00 – No Change

- d. Mental Health (413) Total - \$16,995.00
 - Headrest - \$7,000.00 – No Change

 - HCRS - \$9,995.00 – No Change

- e. General Appropriations (425) Total - \$82,050.00 – Van Chestnut, Executive Director, representing. At a later date, he would like to come back to the Board to discuss more in depth the services provided by Advance Transit. The past year, they had 80,000 passenger visits in the Town of Hartford.
 - Advance Transit
\$77,050.00 – Increase of \$1,510.00 (Updated Petition)

 - Hartford Historical Society
\$5,000.00 – No Change

- f. Low Income Services (423)
 - SEVCA - \$9,000.00 – No Change

- g. Youth/Adult Service (424) Total - \$17,713.00
 - The Family Place
\$9,500.00 – No Change

 - Windsor County Partners
\$3,500.00 – No Change

 - VT Center for Independent Living
\$845.00 – No Change

 - WISE
\$2,000.00 – No Change

 - Vermont Adult Learning
\$999.00 – No Change

 - Green Mountain RSVP Volunteer Program
Corey Mitchell, volunteer coordinator for Winsor County representing RSVP. They are just back in Windsor County. They started with only 2 volunteers in Hartford and are now up to 11.
\$869.00 – No Change

- h. New Requests Total \$9,300.00
 - Spark! Community Center
\$2500-New Request (submitted petition)

Stagecoach Transportation Services
\$6800.00-New Request (submitted petition)

Total Appropriation Requests

- Community Health (412) - \$59,907.00
- Mental Health (413) - 16,995.00
- General Appropriations (425) - \$82,050.00
- Low Income Services (423) - \$9,000.00
- Youth/Adult Services (424) - \$17,713.00
- New Requests - \$9,300.00
- **Total - \$194,965.00**

Next Meetings:

January 11, 2017

- Review/Approval of Enterprise Fund Budgets
- Review/Approval of Fee Schedule
- Review/Approval of CIP
- Review of Final Draft Budget

January 12, 2017

- Review/Approval of General Fund Budget

5. Commission Meeting Reports: None

6. Consent Agenda: N/A

V. Executive Session: N/A

VI. Closing (Mot. Req.) **Selectboard member, Mike Morris made the motion to close the meeting at 9:00 P.M. Selectboard Clerk, Sandi Mariotti seconded the motion. 7 members voted aye, 0 members voted nay and 0 members abstained. The motion passed.**

All Meetings of the Hartford Selectboard are open to the public. Persons who are seeking action by the Selectboard are asked to submit their request and/or materials to the Selectboard Chair or Town Manager's office no later than noon on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled meeting date. Requests received after that date will be addressed at the discretion of the Chair. Citizens wishing to address the board should do so during the Citizen Comments period; comments from the public

Sandra Mariotti

Sandra Mariotti, Selectboard Clerk

1/10/2017