



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm
Hartford Town Hall
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

Present: Outgoing Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi; Outgoing Selectboard Vice Chair, Rebecca White; Outgoing Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti; Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis; Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson; Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown; Selectboard Member, Mike Morris; Town Manager, Leo Pullar; Administrative Assistant, Lana Livingston.

I. Call to Order Special Selectboard Organizational Meeting

Outgoing Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Reorganization of Board Positions (Mot. Req.)

Outgoing Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi began the meeting by stating that the Board will be as open and transparent as possible as the three board positions; Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk, are filled.

Mr. Grassi asked who is interested in Chairing the Selectboard. Mr. Grassi was the only volunteer.

Outgoing Selectboard Vice Chair, Rebecca White made the motion: That Richard Grassi be appointed the Hartford Selectboard Chair. Outgoing Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti seconded the motion. Mr. Grassi noted that nothing has changed since last year, so he would be able to fulfill the obligations of the office. He also thanked everyone that assisted him this last year especially with the computers. **The Board voted for Mr. Grassi, as Chair, unanimously.**

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi asked who was interested in the Vice Chair Position. Rebecca White, Simon Dennis and Dennis Brown all raised their hand. Sandra Mariotti said that she would like to be considered for the position next time. Right now, she is too busy to commit to the position.

The statements below are from the Selectboard members that are interested in the Vice Chair position.

Outgoing Selectboard Vice Chair, Rebecca White said she would like to continue to stay on as Vice Chair. This has been a really good opportunity for her. It has been both positive and she has enjoyed it. She mentioned that 1 in 5 elected officials are women and she is happy to be one. She wants to work on not rushing through and letting others come forward to make motions to the Board. Ms. White reminded the others that there are agenda setting meetings with the Town Manager and also special events to cover if the Chair cannot attend.

Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis congratulated Rebecca White for an excellent job as Vice Chair. Over the last five years, Mr. Dennis has now on two occasions, thrown his hat into the ring for the Vice Chair position. He sees the Board going from a reactive position to proactive and he would like to be part of this. Mr. Dennis believes that the Board needs to have structure when making decisions and he believes he can offer guidance to get to this.

Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown has chaired Boards before so he has experience. He likes to moves things along, but he also sees the benefits of not rushing through. He likes what Mr. Dennis said about being proactive, not reactive. He believes that attending the extra meetings are important and he would be able to do these.

Selectboard Member, Mike Morris said that he has been doing a lot of thinking these past two months. This position is a leadership position and he believes the only appropriate leaders would be Dick Grassi, Sandi Mariotti and Dennis Brown.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson asked if all the interested people in the Vice Chair position would be able to step in to cover for the Chair if needed. Mr. Brown said he didn't see that as a problem, Ms. White said her work schedule is flexible so she would be able to cover and Mr. Dennis said his work schedule is also flexible so he saw no problems covering.

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi said that the agenda setting meetings are flexible so he was sure they could find a time that worked for everybody.

Outgoing Selectboard Clerk, Sandra Mariotti said that Dennis Brown has been very thoughtful and has stayed on an even keel during his first year on the Board. For those reasons, **Ms. Mariotti made the motion that Dennis Brown be Vice Chair of the Hartford Selectboard. Selectboard Member, Mike Morris seconded the motion. 4 members voted Aye (Mike Morris, Sandra Mariotti, Alan Johnson, Dennis Brown), 2 members voted Nay (Rebecca White & Simon Dennis), 1 abstained (Dick Grassi). The motion passed.**

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi asked who was interested in the Clerk position. Sandra Mariotti was the only member interested. **Selectboard Member, Mike Morris made the motion that Sandra Mariotti be the Clerk of the Selectboard. Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis seconded the motion. The Board voted for Mrs. Mariotti, as Clerk, unanimously.**

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi thanked everyone for all their good work over the past year and is looking forward to working with everyone this coming year. He also thanked Rebecca White for all the good work she did as Vice Chair.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson asked Mr. Pullar about when the Energy Position would be hired. Mr. Pullar said he is looking for the new person to begin on July 1st. His timeline is posting the job in April and interviewing in May so the person can begin in July.

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Dennis Brown asked about the Liaison positions for the coming year. Mr. ~~Brown~~ is good with the committees he has. Selectboard Member, Simon Dennis thinks it would be good to reflect on them and have a discussion about them. Mr. Pullar will put the item on the next board meeting agenda on March 14th.

IV. Closing

Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi closed the meeting at 6:25 P.M. with no objections.

Sandra Mariotti

Sandra Mariotti, Selectboard Clerk.

