



**TOWN OF HARTFORD  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

6:00pm Hartford Town Hall

171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, VT 05001

**This meeting was conducted in compliance with  
Vermont Open Meeting Law with electronic participation.**

**Present via Zoom:** Simon Dennis, Selectboard Vice Chair; Alicia Barrow, Selectboard Member (in at 6:23 P.M.); Joseph Major, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Clerk; Emma Behrens, Selectboard Member.

**Present at Town Hall:** Dan Fraser, Selectboard Chair; John MacLean, Interim Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Rachel Edens, Selectboard Member

**CATV LINK:** <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/13655?channel=1>

*Read by Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser:*

As Chair of the Town of Hartford Selectboard I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law, I confirm that we are:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by [telephone/video/other electronic means], with additional access offered through telephone, zoom and youtube.com. We are using Zoom for this remote meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, participate in this meeting by <https://zoom.us/j/549799933> - Please mute your microphone, [youtube.com/catv810](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=810) – click “live now”. If you're calling in from phone dial: (415) 762-9988 Type in the Room ID: 549-799-933 followed by #. Press # a second time. Press \*9 to raise your hand for public comment.
- b) Providing public notice of instructions for accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, including how to access the meeting using telephone, zoom and youtube.com in our posted meeting agenda. [Instructions have also been provided on the town website on the “Agendas and Minutes.”]
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.
- d) Continuing the meeting if necessary. In the event the public is unable to access this meeting, it will be continued to a time and place certain.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting that are not unanimous will be done by roll call vote, in accordance with the law. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance of all Selectboard members participating in the meeting.

- I. Selectboard Meeting** was called to order at 6:00 P.M.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board** Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board at 6:03 P.M.

1. Annual Letter from the Select Board to the VT Department of Liquor Control

for signature authorization.

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion that the Selectboard approve the letter authorizing Lisa to attest to the Liquor Licenses that we have approved. Selectboard member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor (5) and the motion passed.**

Selectboard Chair closed the Local Liquor Control Board and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 6:05 P.M.

**IV. Order of Agenda:** No changes.

**V. Selectboard**

**1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements**

**Citizen Comments:**

Mike Morris from Hartford asked what the reasons are that the Board is not discussing the reopening of Fairview Terrace at this time. Hannah Tyler from DPW responded saying that the closing to one way was due to a one-year study monitoring the movement of the retaining wall. Since the closure there has been no measurable movement. If re-opening to a two-way consideration should be made, it would be advised to again monitor for movement for safety reasons. The Selectboard did make a decision not to re-open it to two way. She has not been given any recent directive to reinvestigate that situation.

Steve Pomije from WRJ called in to make the Selectboard aware of a company in the Historic WRJ that is bringing in over 80 industrial grade trucks a day. The facility poses a threat of diesel exhaust pollution from the trucks and its operation. Mr. Pomije asked the citizens to contact their State Representatives, the EPA and the Department of Transportation about this dangerous situation. Chair, Dan Fraser said he was not aware of this situation and said they would look into it.

Catherine Melocik from Wilder asked about the update on the sewer hookup the Norwich School and other interested business are requesting. Mr. MacLean said that they are still reviewing it and will be discussed at the January 26<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

Sheila Armen from Quechee asked the Board to consider putting the opt in Act 164 - Marijuana bill/sales on the March Ballot. This is for adult cannabis use retail stores. Mr. Fraser said we can add it to the special Selectboard meeting 19<sup>th</sup> agenda.

March Bartlett from Wilder called in to thank Chief Kasten for his work in the

Town and thanked Joe Major for his comments in the Valley News about Chief Kasten.

**Selectboard Comments:**

Dan Fraser read the announcement about the February 5<sup>th</sup> Tax Payment in person options at Town Hall.

Dan Fraser read the Proclamation for Dennis Brown's years on the Selectboard.

John Maclean announced that February 5<sup>th</sup> will be Chief Kasten's last day. At the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a more formal farewell.

**2. Appointments**

**Renewals:**

- a. Consider the re-appointment of Ryan Scelza to the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund (HBRLF) for a three-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2024.

**Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to re-appointment Ryan Scelza to the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund (HBRLF) for a three-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2024. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- b. Consider the re-appointment of Jay Zanleoni to the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund (HBRLF) for a three-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2024.
- c. Consider the re-appointment of Angela Emerson to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2025.
- d. Consider the re-appointment of John Reid to the Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2024.

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to: re-appoint Jay Zanleoni to the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund (HBRLF) for a three-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2024 AND to re-appoint Angela Emerson to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2025 AND**

**to re-appoint John Reid to the Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning January 12, 2021 and ending January 11, 2024. Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

3. **Town Manager's Report:** Mr. MacLean said more on the Norwich School request and Chief Kasten leaving will both be on the agenda for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Significant Activity Report

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/202>

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

- a. Simulcast Radio System RFP Award

After proposal review, we are recommending installation of a four-site system. Once the four-site system is in place and functioning the Town can determine if additional tower locations or additional services are needed in the future.

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a financing agreement for the purpose of a public safety radio system proposed by Burlington Communications, Inc. not to exceed \$352,332. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. 5 voted yes and 1 (Barrow) voted no. The motion passed.**

- b. State of Vermont finance and maintenance agreement

The Town has recently been provided with a standard Finance and Maintenance (F&M) agreement by the State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation for the work associated with the roadway improvements on Route 4/14 from mile marker 0 (at the Lyman Bridge) to Hartford Village Center. This project is entirely funded by VTrans and will include improvements to the traffic lights, road surface, and improve accessibility.

**Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the Finance and Maintenance Agreement. Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- c. Acceptance of VCDP Grant Agreement and Approval of Grant Agreement Resolution for Wentworth Community Housing Phase 2.

**Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to Approve the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement #07110-IG-2019-Hartford-19 for the Wentworth Community Housing 2 project, and also pass the Grant Agreement Resolution, Form PM-1. Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- d. Authorize Tax Installment and Town Officer Compensation questions to be voted by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2021.

**Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to have the questions traditionally voted by floor vote on the Saturday preceding Voting Day, pertaining to Town Officer Compensation and Collection of real estate taxes in two installments placed on the Town ballot for consideration by the voters on March 2, 2021. The Articles shall be included in the Town Meeting Warning(s). Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

## VI. Commission Meeting Reports

Kim Souza reported from the Planning Commission. They will be meeting to discuss a change in zoning regulations where Route 4 and Route 5 meet (by Morris Homes.) They will meet via zoom on January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM.

Emma Behrens from the Conservation Commission reported they are working on an updated Hartford Town Forest recreation plan.

Simon Dennis reported on the Homeless Shelter group has met twice and is focused on locations, permitting and other aspects of the work.

Alicia Barrows reported from the Sister City Committee. They are meeting to finalize the plans for signs to be seen around the villages soon.

Joe Major as liaison to HCOREI will be taking a lead role promoting the implementation of the strategic plan.

## VII. Consent Agenda: **Joe Major made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 1/2/2021

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/29/2020

Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/8/2021 & 1/12/2021

Selectboard Meeting Dates of:

**Already Approved:**

1/19/2021 (special meeting) & 1/26/2021 (regular meeting)

**VIII. Executive Session: NONE**

**IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Emma Behrens made the motion to close the Selectboard meeting at 8:02PM. Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and 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.