



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 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 on Site: Dan Fraser, Selectboard Chair; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant.

Present on-line: Simon Dennis, Selectboard Vice-Chair; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Joe Major, Selectboard Member; Alicia Barrow, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member.

CATV Link: <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/12164?channel=1>

Read by the 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. If anybody has a problem, please call 802-369-9036 and 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. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser called the Selectboard to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board at 6:04 P.M.

III. Local Liquor Control Board

1. Thyme LLC Liquor License Modification (motion required)

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve the Liquor License modification for the Outside Consumption area for It's about Thyme Restaurant at 85 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Local Liquor Board and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 6:06 P.M.

IV. Order of Agenda: Alicia Barrow asked to add an item to the Agenda about how the Town of Hartford could support the BIPOC community during these times. It was agreed to discuss after item 4.d.

V. Selectboard

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

Public Comment: Mike Morris asked to have clarity on the proposed letter that Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey was going to send Granting Agencies notifying of Welcoming Hartford Ordinance. The letter has not been sent and it was agreed to have the proposed letter on the next Selectboard agenda.

Selectboard Comments:

From Alan Johnson:

I have seen a lot of posts of black squares and heard many calls for "equality for all" from white people today. I appreciate the sentiment, but they are missing the point on both counts. First, we don't need equality for all, we need equity for those in need, in this case, for black people who fear being murdered

by police and all the other atrocities of racism.

In that light, this blackout isn't about white people being silent. It is about amplifying righteous black voices. White people should be finding righteous messages from black people that they agree with and proudly sharing those. Get the black voice out there.

As such, in the hope of giving a greater share of time to the black voices on the Selectboard, I will remain silent for the remainder of this meeting, except when called on to vote by our chair, or when explicitly asked to speak by a person of color.

If I boil it down to a single descriptive sentence, I think this would be it: Selectboard member Alan Johnson spoke of the need for white people to amplify righteous black voices.

2. Appointments

- a. Consider the appointment of Giavanna Munafo to the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion for a term of two years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending June 1, 2022.

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to appoint Giavanna Munafo to the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion for a term of two years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending June 1, 2022. Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Consider the appointment of David Barrell to the Hartford Tree Board for a term of three years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending June 1, 2023.

Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to appoint David Barrell to the Hartford Tree Board for a term of three years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending June 1, 2023. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Consider the appointment of Leif Smedman to the Hartford Tree Board for a term of three years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending June 1, 2023.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to appoint David Barrell to the Hartford Tree Board for a term of three years beginning June 2, 2020 and ending June 1, 2023. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Town Manager's Report: Significant Activity Report ending June 2, 2020.

4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:

a. Solid Waste Transfer Station Workshop (information only)

Hannah Tyler, DPW Director and Mia Roethlein from the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources presented the current situation as well as options to go forward on the Town's Solid Waste Facility.

After the presentation and discussion, Dan Fraser, Selectboard Chair, asked Ms. Tyler to come back to the Board with more details on some of the options. These will be presented at a future Selectboard meeting.

b. 2020 Fee Schedule (motion required)

The updated fee schedule was presented to the Board by Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey. This will take into effect July 1, 2020.

The revised fees are estimated to generate additional revenue in the FY2020 General Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Water Fund, Quechee Water Fund, Wastewater Fund and Quechee Wastewater Fund.

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Fee Schedule and authorize the Town Manager to implement the proposed new rates effective July 1, 2020. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. TA-60 Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways in Accordance with 19 VSA §306(j) (motion required)

The Town is required to submit a completed Annual Financial Plan to the Vermont Department of Transportation. The purpose of the document is to demonstrate that the Town is expending an appropriate amount of local tax revenues (no less than \$300 per mile of class 1, 2, and 3 roads). Annually, our representatives at the VTrans District Office and the Regional Planning Commission assist the department with the form to ensure completeness and accuracy.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion That the Selectboard endorse the 2020 Annual Financial Plan (TA-60) for submission to the Vermont Department of Transportation. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d. Ad Hoc COVID-19 Response Committee Update and Recommendations (motion required)

A new Charge was proposed to include the recommended updates from the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Response Committee. These recommendations are:

1. A pause on the focus/subgroup dedicated to "Supporting Medical Professionals". Since the region has not experienced overwhelming hospitalizations due to Covid-19, this has not been necessary. We would like to reserve the right to reactivate this focus in the future should circumstances change.

2. Addition of two new foci/subgroups:

a. Communications: A group to review, create, and distribute communications to the town. The Volunteer Communications Manager would work with this subgroup and vet all communications through the EOC to ensure appropriate messaging.

b. Community Connections and Wellness: A group to create new ways for residents to connect and celebrate the resilience of our town. In the absence of many celebrations this summer, there is a need to find that common experience to keep morale high. Similarly, prolonged shelter/work from home may cause mental and personal health concerns that have long-lasting impact on the community. With these concerns in mind, this subgroup will collaborate with existing community resources and supports to create spaces and opportunities for Hartford residents.

3. Request for three additional committee members who live or work within the Town of Hartford. As the scope of the committee expands, bringing in new members with an interest in community development will enhance our work and allow some respite for current members.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to amend the Charge in accord with the COVID-19 Response Committee. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey will post the application for the new positions.

New Agenda Item: The Selectboard discussed options the town can show support of the BIPOC community and also supporting a Juneteenth celebration. Many ideas were shared including a proclamation and a celebration at one of the Town's parks. Kim Souza asked if this could be sponsored by HCOREI. Alicia Barrow said she would contact Allene Swienkowski.

Simon Dennis wants to keep focus on the education for all Department Heads on Racial Sensitivity.

e. Social Media Discussion (information only)

Alan Johnson presented options to "control" comments on the Town's Facebook page. There can be ways to monitor comments or even eliminate all comments. More discussion on this is needed.

VII. Commission Meeting Reports:

Kim Souza will attend the BBRLF meeting tomorrow. The board requested a financial analysis and the committee reportedly said that their minutes were sufficient. They will discuss again at the next meeting.

Simon Dennis reminded the board that the \$3,000 expense for Town Businesses masks had already been approved by the board. Mr. Godfrey recommended purchasing the masks from our vendor and if more money is available from grants that could be used to purchase from local businesses.

VIII. Consent Agenda (Motion Required)

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda and authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

Selectboard Vice-chair, Simon Dennis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 5/30/2020

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 5/19/2020 and 5/26/2020

Approve A/P Manifest of: 5/29/2020 & 6/2/2020

Selectboard Meeting Dates of:

Already Approved: 6/9/2020, 6/16/2020 and 6/30/2020

IX. Executive Session:

Discussion of the appointment of a town manager under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to go into the Executive session for Discussion of the appointment of a town manager under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 9:14 P.M.

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 9:47 P.M.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting (Motion Required):

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to close the Selectboard meeting at 9:47 P.M. Selectboard Member, Alan John 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.