



**TOWN OF HARTFORD  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday, June 9, 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/12206?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. Local Liquor Control Board:** Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser recessed the Selectboard Meeting and called the Local Liquor Control Board to order.

**1. NEW**

- a. Perry Hospitality Group of Vermont Doing Business as The Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm, 1119 Quechee Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059 (Outside Consumption)

**Selectboard Vice-Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to approve an Outside Consumption License to Perry Hospitality Group of Vermont Doing Business as The Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm, 1119 Quechee Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. 4 voted yes, 1 voted to abstain (Souza) and 1 recusal (Fraser). The motion passed.**

- b. Quechee General Store, 5573 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05059 (2<sup>nd</sup> Class)

**Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Liquor License to Quechee General Store, 5573 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05059. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. 4 voted yes, 1 voted to abstain (Souza) and 1 recusal (Fraser). The motion passed.**

- c. Simon Pearce, U.S. Inc. Doing Business as Simon Pearce Restaurant, Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059. (Outside Consumption for Porch Area and Parker House Lawn)

**Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to approve an Outside Consumption Liquor License for Simon Pearce, U.S. Inc. Doing Business as Simon Pearce Restaurant, Main Street, Quechee, VT 05059 for the Porch Area and Parker House Lawn. Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow seconded the motion. 4 voted yes, 1 voted to abstain (Souza) and 1 recusal (Fraser). The motion passed.**

- d. Wolf Tree Hospitality, LLC, 40 Currier Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (Outside Consumption)

**Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve an Outside Consumption License for Wolf Tree Hospitality, LLC, 40 Currier Street, White River Junction, VT 05001. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. 4 voted yes, 1 voted to abstain (Souza) and 1 recusal (Fraser). The motion passed.**

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Local Liquor Control Board and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 6:16 P.M.

**II. Order of Agenda**

At this time, Police Chief, Phil Kasten joined the meeting and thanked the Selectboard for the recent joint statement they released. Chief Kasten reviewed what the Hartford Police Department does on a daily basis and reviewed the trainings and policies they abide by. The foundation of the Hartford Police Department is Community Policing. Chief Kasten will be available at future Selectboard Meetings for questions and comments.

### III. Selectboard

#### 1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements:

**Citizen Comments:** Mike Morris asked if the way the Welcoming Hartford Ordinance is written does it violate the individual's freedom of speech? Simon Dennis answered that this is not yet clear and it would be best to check with VLCT. The Town Manager will follow up on this.

Lannie Collins questioned the Town's acts of limiting or deleting comments from the Town's Website. This was a discussion that occurred at the last Selectboard meeting. He reminded everyone that the report from Curtiss Reed praised Chief Kasten and the police force. Selectboard member, Alan Johnson said that even with the high praise there is always work to do and changes to be made.

Erik Krauss called in to notify the Board of the Climate Action Committee's timeline that has been adjusted and will review this with the Board at a future meeting.

Dell Robinson called in to volunteer to no longer hold a Juneteenth gathering he was planning and to defer to the one on June 19<sup>th</sup> by the Selectboard. He would also like to be part of this.

**Selectboard Comments:** Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson put out the suggestion of reviewing Union Agreements at a future meeting.

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza would like to invite Chief Kasten back to a future meeting to continue discussions involving the Hartford police.

#### 2. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Juneteenth Proclamation (motion required)

**Selectboard Vice-Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to pass the Updated Proclamation Declaring June 19 "Juneteenth Freedom Day" In the Town of Hartford, Vermont. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

#### ***PROCLAMATION DECLARING JUNE 19 "JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY" IN THE TOWN OF HARTFORD, VERMONT***

*WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States and the emancipation of slaves including Black, Indigenous, and other Communities of Color throughout the Confederate South. Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 with news that the war had ended and the enslaved were now free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863. Until that day, slavery had been relatively unaffected in Texas by the Emancipation Proclamation, and Texas had even been viewed as a safe haven for slave owners to relocate with their slaves because the state experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops; and*

*WHEREAS, on that first Juneteenth, a name that combines June and 19th, the people of Texas were read General Order Number 3, which stated: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." The Juneteenth announcement was met with jubilation that spread throughout the country as communities of color relocated to neighboring states and became reacquainted with family; and*

*WHEREAS, the first Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer and the gathering of family members. Juneteenth continued to be widely observed decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston. Juneteenth today continues to grow within communities and organizations throughout the country. Numerous local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen alongside older organizations with the common mission of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of the history and culture of communities of color, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and*

*WHEREAS, we recognize that presently, 155 years after the last enslaved peoples in the United States of America were freed from the shackles of bondage, people of color continue to struggle and overcome racism and bigotry; and*

*WHEREAS, the Town of Hartford, Vermont wishes to show solidarity and stand with our Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color by adopting Juneteenth as an official holiday: and*

*WHEREAS, during the 2008 legislative session, Vermont became the 29th state in the nation to have an official state observance of Juneteenth Freedom Day, which will be commemorated annually in Vermont on the third Saturday in June.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hartford Selectboard members Dan Fraser, Simon Dennis, Alicia Barrow, Alan Johnson, Joseph Major, and Kim Souza hereby proclaim June 19, and every June 19th thereafter: "JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY" in the Town of Hartford to be celebrated on the third weekend in the month of June. We encourage Hartford residents, schools, businesses and community groups to celebrate Juneteenth as a day of remembrance and celebration.*

*ADOPTED this 9th day of June 2020.*

- b. Appointment of Member to Vacant Selectboard Seat (motion required)

There was no application submitted for the vacancy.

**Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to extend the deadline for Selectboard applicants to June 26. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. 5 were in favor and 1 (S. Dennis) voted no. The motion passed.**

- c. Proposed Letter to Granting Agencies notifying of Welcoming Hartford Ordinance (motion required)

**Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to not send the proposed letter to the Granting Agencies. Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- d. Approval to Submit Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan to the State (motion required)

Erik Krauss called in and asked if Cyber Attacks should or could be added to this draft. Lori Hirshfield said yes as this is a working document and a draft.

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion that the Selectboard proceed with the draft submittal to the State as proposed with the recommended changes and also subject to additional edits from the Planning Department. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- e. VLCT Resolution Urging Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to Local Governments (motion required)

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to adopt the resolution urging congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to local governments and authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

***Resolution Urging Fair and Direct Federal Emergency Aid to Municipalities  
Reopen and Rebuild American Economics***

***Whereas, America's cities, towns and villages face unprecedented threats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and***

***Whereas, municipalities are essential to America's economic recovery and without funding support for local governments, municipalities may go from being a critical part of the economic solution, to becoming a major obstacle to long-term stabilization and recovery; and***

***Whereas, America's cities, towns and villages will experience budgetary shortfalls of up \$134 billion in fiscal year 2020 alone, and the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on communities will continue long after this year; and***

***Whereas, three million critical municipal worker jobs are at risk, threatening cuts to basic community services, including 9-1-1 response, sanitation, economy recovery and maintenance; and***

***Whereas, communities have taken extraordinary measures to protect health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the emergency; and***

***Whereas, Vermont's municipal leaders are united in helping their communities make a strong comeback after experiencing furloughs among municipal staff, loss of direct municipal revenue and tremendous demand from residents and Main Street and other local businesses for assistance; and***

***Whereas, America's rural communities and small towns, especially here in Vermont, are struggling just as much as big cities and risk being left far behind;***

***Now, therefore, be it resolved, that:***

- 1. Vermont local officials call on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's communities, regardless of population size;***
- 2. this funding be flexible and address not only the additional expenses incurred by communities to respond to the pandemic emergency, but also the dramatic budgetary shortfalls resulting from pauses in commerce, tourism, and other economic engines;***

3. local governments will ensure federal funds are immediately used to rebuild and reopen the economy;
4. funding will keep workers employed and critical services operating; and
5. Vermont local officials have been part of the emergency response and now call on Congress to build a united national partnership for a safe, healthy, prosperous life.

Submitted by the Town of Hartford, Vermont.



By its duly elected officials and adopted on: June 9, \_\_\_\_\_ Dan Fraser, Chair

- f. Extension of Deferrals for HBRLF Loan Repayments (motion required)

If all six borrows opt for the deferral, the Town would defer receiving approximately \$15, ,100 in total. The current balance available for new loans in the fund currently is \$85,224.

**Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve the deferrals, and direct the Town Manager to proceed with the necessary paperwork to execute the deferrals. Selectboard Member Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza reported from the HBRLF meeting the progress on the potential for micro grants and recommended criteria. More on this at next week's Selectboard meeting.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson reported on the timeline from the Climate Action Committee. They are in need of more flexibility with the time frame. They will submit a new plan for the Board to review.

- VI. **Executive Session: Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow made the motion to go into 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 at 8:30 P.M. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow made the motion to close the Executive Session at 9:21 P.M. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

- IV. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: (Motion Required)

**Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 9:22 P.M.**

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.