

**TOWN OF HARTFORD  
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MINUTES**

**And Budget Workshop**

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 6:00pm

Hartford Town Hall

171 Bridge Street

White River Junction, VT 05001

**Present:** Simon Dennis, Selectboard Chair; Richard Grassi, Selectboard Vice Chair; Dennis Brown, Selectboard Clerk; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Dan Fraser, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Lori Hirshfield, Director of Planning and Development; Gary Schall; Judith Roberts; Nadine Hodgdon; Beverly Pallmerine; David Izzo; Tommy Bauch; Jane Abbott Sweatt; Henry Hazen; Sandra Vary; Genda Gofberg; Ken Parker; Sue Buckholz; Lannie Collins; Jim Dow; John & Gail Schaal.

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/10818?channel=1>

**I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting**

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Local Liquor Control Board: N/A**

**IV. Order of Agenda: None**

**V. Selectboard**

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

No Citizen Comments.

Selectboard Comments: Dennis Brown visited the WABA facility and said "it is awesome."

Kim Souza asked what the protocol is now with the Chair, Simon Dennis, is no longer taking emails. Dick Grassi agreed to take emails intended for the Chair and Dan Fraser agreed to call Simon if needed.

Jameson Davis let everyone know that the Quechee Library will be hosting "I am VT too" January 18<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>. Jameson will be on the panel discussion on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M.

Simon Dennis commented that the Thursday agenda will include the Climate Initiative and the Welcoming Hartford Ordinance.

**2. Appointments: N/A**

**3. Town Manager's Report: None.**

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

- a. TIF Projects List (Information Only) Presented by Lori Hirshfield, Director of Planning and Development.

The estimate for the South Main Street Parking Lot improvements has been updated since the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is now \$1,663,000. Therefore, the projects for consideration are as follows:

• Town Square Parking Lot/Park	\$ 811,700
• S. Main St. Surface Parking Lot Expansion	\$1,822,600
• <u>Maple St. Sidewalk</u>	<u>\$ 32,300</u>
Total	\$2,666,600

That leaves a balance of \$1,130,400 of unobligated TIF funds for other downtown TIF-eligible capital improvements and related costs for consideration at the November general election. The debt for these projects would be financed through bonds or other TIF approved financing mechanism, and serviced with the 75% Town and State tax increment.

It was discussed if the items will be broken out on the ballot or presented as one item. No clear decision was made at this time.

- b. Resolution: TIF Indebtedness. Declaring intent to reimburse certain expenditures from proceeds of TIF indebtedness. (~~Motion Required~~)

This item will be discussed on the January 14<sup>th</sup> agenda. The numbers will be updated at that time.

- c. Budget Workshop: (Information Only)

- Libraries: All 4 Libraries presented what their Libraries do for services. There is a wide variety of services and special events at all the Libraries. They all had increased activity and are a hub for their village and beyond.
- Cemeteries: The cemetery representatives all expressed deep concern for their future. They asked for funds at the minimum to cover mowing next year. Without more funds the repairs to stones, tree work and roads will not be addressed. Christian

Street Cemetery will not have anyone to take care of it after this year. Potentially it will need to be taken over by the Town. Dennis Brown suggested to form a Cemetery Committee (not Commission) and they could take over sooner as a Commission would involve a Charter change. Dan Fraser suggested using volunteers to help maintain the cemeteries. Alan Johnson said to just do it and pull it from the general fund, do not go to the voters. Simon Dennis agreed to not hand it to the voters and that the Selectboard would take another crack on it at another meeting.

- Service Organizations: Gary Schall from Bugbee Senior Center asked to put the amount of \$12,770 back in to their budget for general repairs. It was an error that it was left off their budget.

d. Approval of December 31 AP & Payroll Manifests (Motion Required)

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to Approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll manifests for December 31, 2019. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**5. Commission Meeting Reports:**

Alan Johnson reported for the Hartford Conservation Commission that in February they will present an updated Town Forest Management Plan.

Dan Fraser reported that the Homelessness Committee will soon be submitting a draft plan to the Selectboard.

Dennis Brown from the Historical Preservation Commission is now working on the WWI honor roll and they will be restoring it on a hybrid model not the original. More on this will come later.

Kim Souza reminded everyone of the event at Bugbee on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30P.M., "Is Hartford Ready."

**6. Consent Agenda: N/A**

**7. Executive Session:**

**Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the Motion that pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(B) that the premature general public knowledge of the Comprehensive Tentative Agreement with the Fire Union dated December 13, 2019 will clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage." at 9:40 P.M. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

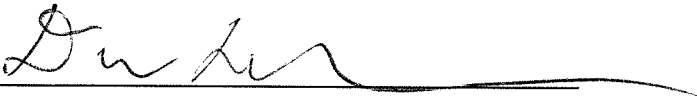
**Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the Motion to go into executive session to discuss the Comprehensive Tentative Agreement dated December 13, 2019. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to close the executive session at 10:26 P.M. Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**8. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting (Motion Required):**

**Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 10:27 P.M. Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown 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.**



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Fraser", is written above a horizontal line.