

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Michael Hoyt, Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Paula Nulty; Laura Cooney; Eric & Jill Powell; Jonathan Schectman; Joe Turner;

Participants/Present on Zoom: Dan Fraser, Selectboard Vice Chair joined at the beginning of the Executive Session; Rocket was present in the room through the executive session and then joined on Zoom for the rest of the meeting.

Absent: Ally Tufenkjian, Member

J►M LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vue4gy17egA&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLfaNfKZbq-g&index=2>

- I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting** by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:01PM
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited and led by Lannie Collins.
- III. **Local Liquor Control Board:** None
- IV. **Local Cannabis Control Board:** None
- V. **Order of Agenda:** The Appointments were moved to before the Executive Session.
- VI. **Executive Session:** Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to go into Executive Session for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee and to discuss labor relations agreements with employees 1 V.S.A. §313(a). Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the Motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the International Union of Public Employees'/UFPO Local 405, as tentatively agreed to by the Town's negotiating team comprised of Acting Assistant Town Manager/HR Director Paula Nulty, Acting Police Chief Connie Kelley, and Town Attorney Brian Monaghan, for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028, and to authorize Acting Town Manager Gail Ostrout to sign all documents necessary to effectuate the contract. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 2 (Rocket, Tufenkjian) absent. The motion passed.

VII. Selectboard

1. Public Comment: None

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Kim Souza reported she had attended the 4th VLCT Welcoming and Engaging Communities. More on this from Abundant Sun on February 14th training.

3. Appointments

Re-Appointments

a. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to re-appoint Laura Cooney to the Sister City Committee for a three-year term beginning 1/10/2023 and ending 1/9/2026. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to re-appoint Jonathan Schechtman to the Hartford Historical Preservation Commission for a three-year term beginning 1/10/2023 and ending 1/9/2026. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager Report and Significant Activity Report

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/January%2010th%20Total%20Report.pdf>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. Common Level Assessment presented by Assessor, Joe Turner. Since the town wide revaluation in 2017, both the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) have fallen outside of the statewide tolerance. This sets a town wide revaluation in motion and has additional assessment impacts.

b. Board Training & Funding by Kim Souza
There is currently \$32,023 available in the Selectboard Recruitment & Training GL 10-111-315-0000 with an anticipated \$6,900 in expenses through June 2023. No additional funding is requested at this time for board training in FY2024 as previously encumbered funds should be sufficient for these purposes. The board will discuss funding for town staff training on January 17.

VIII. Commission Reports

Dan Fraser

The Hartford Tree Board selects a tree each month to highlight. We put a sign next to the tree with information about that tree. January's tree of the month is an eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) native to North America. This tree is at the end of the parking lot at the Dothan Brook School (2300 Christian St (Rt 5)) in Wilder. Mature trees are often 200–250 years old, and some live to over 400 years. The eastern white pine has the distinction of being the tallest tree [\[Link\]](#) in eastern North America [\[Link\]](#). Also learn how the white pine played a significant role in the events leading up to the American Revolution!

Mary Erdei

Hartford Conservation Commission

The Tree Board, Hartford CC and Parks and Rec jointly submitted a grant for tree plantings and work to remove invasives at Lyman Park, and this effort will help advance the Climate Action Plan. 40% of the total cuts in the Management Plan for Hurricane Forest is done and discussion of a visit to Wright's Sawmill as well as a video of the process was broached. In March Ted Levin will be putting up 3 Kestrel Boxes, hoping for their use this spring and thereafter. Lee Michaelides and Ted Levin will be leading a hike/snowshoe at Hurricane Forest this Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon to observe/enjoy elements of the natural world in winter.

Parks and Recreation

Scott Hausler announced that copious compliments were given Parks and Rec for the Polar Express and Brett Mayfield added that the Rotary put out a You Tube video on it, if you want to view it. Scott also announced that we can update signs at parks (public places) regarding consumption of/use of cannabis and cannabis products, but we are also getting legal advice from VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns). The commission will discuss that at the next meeting, as well as the issue of enforcement, if needed when a person is not obeying a "stop doing 'this' " or a "please leave" request. Ice Fishing Derby at Dewey will be held in a couple of weeks, weather permitting. Other future events discussed were: Dance with Daughter/s and Dance with Son/s. Scott passed out the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department's Administrative Manual as well as the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report.

Consent Agenda: Selectboard Clerk Kim Souza made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 1/7/2023

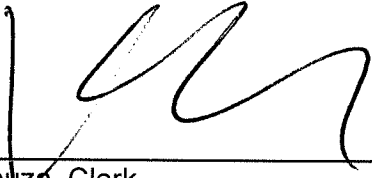
Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/27/2022, 1/5/2023

Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/6/2023 and 1/10/2023

Note: Already Approved Selectboard Meetings:

1/17/2023; 1/19/2023; 1/24/2023

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
1/10/2023

