



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall and Zoom

Present: Dan Fraser, Chair; Joseph Major, Vice-Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Dennis Brown, Member; Michael Hoyt, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Tracy Yarlott-Davis, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Hannah Tyler, Dir. Of Public Works; Joseph Trotter; Rocket; David Briggs; Peggy Allen; Russ North; Beth Demers; Miriam Wood; Heidi Duto; Clare Forseth; Dave Sherman; Karen Watson; Tom Kahl; Stephanie Waterman; Kathy Lamb;

Zoom: Lannie Collins, Selectboard Member; Marci Bartlett; Mike Morris;

CATV Link:

- I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting** was called to order at 6:00 PM by Dan Fraser.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board.

III. Local Liquor Control Board: LLC Authorization Letter

Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown made the motion to approve the authorization of the Town Clerk to sign for approved Liquor Licenses Applications on behalf of the Selectboard understanding it is the Selectboard's responsibility to approve or disapprove all applications submitted to the Town at a duly warned meeting and the Town Clerk shall only sign applications to attest the action taken by the Board and noted in the Board meeting minutes. Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Local Liquor Control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting.

- IV. **Order of Agenda:** Both items 5.c. and 5.d. have been moved to the next regular selectboard meeting on January 25th.

V. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Russ North from the School Board: The School Board is hosting a Community Meeting on 1/26/2022 at 6pm to discuss the Haven, St. Paul's Church and Twin Pines Housing project. The Selectboard is invited to attend. The meeting will be both in person and Zoom or Teams.

David Briggs from WRJ spoke to the Board about the action that is taking around the Gates Street Project. He suggested that the Board reconsider putting in the sidewalks on Fairview Terrace. This would be the time to do it for both economical reasons and efficient way to include it on the Bond with the work to be done on Gates Street hill. He also noted that Hillcrest Hill still needs speed control and sight line work.

Heidi Duto from WRJ addressed the Board about the ongoing efforts to clear RVs from the South Main Street parking lot. The Tow Manager reported that one of them has been removed and they are exploring ways to clear the other one. Ms. Duto also later commented on the proposed budget. She asked the Board to please look at reducing the budget because the people in the Town cannot afford the budget as it has been presented.

Marci Bartlett from Wilder thanked the staff for all the hard work they have done and also congratulations to the PD as Eric Clifford returns to work.

Mike Morris from Hartford asked follow up questions from his 11/2/2021 questions. He wants to know how many staff members are still working from home. He also brought up that there needs to be a better process for citizens to get answers to their questions.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Dennis Brown attended the meeting about the retail sale of cannabis being out onto the March ballot. He learned a lot and was glad to see folks there.

3. Appointments: a.) Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major made the motion to Re-Appoint Ann Raynolds to the Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (HCOREI) for a two-year term beginning January 11, 2022 and ending January 10, 2024. Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager's Report: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/5553/TM-Report-011122>

Significant Activity Report: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/5554/Sig-Acts---Total>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Year of the Tree Proclamation – presented by Karen Watson of the Tree Board and Tom Kahl from the Conservation Commission.

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to adopt the Year of the Tree Proclamation as written. Selectboard Member, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Increase in Health Officer stipend
Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza moved to increase the compensation for the Health Officer position to \$5,000 annually. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Revolving Loan Fund Application: *moved to January 25, 2022.*
- d. Bond Bank Application: *moved to January 25, 2022.*

e. Cannabis

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion for the suggested language for the proposed Ballot Article to read “Shall the town authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? “Cannabis retailer” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years of age and older for off-site consumption. Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f. Fiscal Year Budget Update – Town Manager Information only.

g. Reauthorization of the Face Covering Rule

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion for the Selectboard to reauthorize and ratify the Rule on Face Coverings in the Town of Hartford as presented at the January 11th agenda. Selectboard Member, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 1 (Collins) was not in favor. The motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to amend the Rules of Procedure to remind members and staff that the Board will only conduct emergency meetings when specifically authorized by the open meeting law and upon review of any other relevant state laws that may include more specific restrictions. Selectboard Vice Chair, Joe Major seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 2 (Brown & Collins) were not in favor and the motion passed.

VI. Commission Reports

Kim Souza reported from the Planning Commission. They reviewed 2 applications. They were the Norther Stage Outdoor theater and the So Main Street parking lot.

Ally Tufkenjian reported from the Climate Committee. The committee now has 2 open slots for volunteers.

Dennis Brown from the Hartford Preservation Commission. They discussed the article for the Town Report. They are also looking at their bylaws and charge. Specifically, about their relationship to the planning Commission. The Zoning Commission had 2 applications and they both were passed. The Conservation Commission has a new member, Ted Levine. They have noticed more traffic in the Town Forest and because of this there is less wildlife. The timber harvesting project is still being worked on. They are also still working with the Mtn. Bike Association. The Hartford School students are still working in the forest and there are 4 new way finding signs installed. On Feb 12th they will join the Parks & Rec department with a walk in the town forest.

VII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 1/8/2022

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/14/2021 & 12/17/2021

Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/7/2022 & 1/11/2022

Selectboard Meeting Dates of: **Needs Approval: 1/17/2022 & 1/18/2022

Already Approved: 1/25/2022; 2/8/2022; 2/22/2022

VIII. Executive Session: NONE

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Member, Ally Tufkenjian made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Kim Souza, Clerk