

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 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; Rocket, Member, Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lana Livingston; Paula Nulty; Jeff Arnold; Laura Cooney; Joan Ponzoni; Russ North; Ted Brady, VLCT; Jeremy Delisle; Joe Major; Scott Hausler

Present on Zoom: Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Wjvw-rNbVE&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLfaNfKZbq-g>

- I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting** by Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:03 PM.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited and led by Rocket.
- III. **Local Liquor Control Board:** None
- IV. **Local Cannabis Control Board:** None
- V. **Order of Agenda:** added Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Approval.
- VI. **Selectboard**
 1. **Public Comment: None**
 2. **Selectboard Comments and Announcements:**

Kim Souza attended the 5th VLCT COHORT session. She is looking forward to the Abundant Sun Presentation that will provide more information from the Town of Hartford Survey.

Mary Erdei plans to attend an IDEAL VT workshop tomorrow in Barre.

Rocket congratulated the staff member that recently had babies.
 3. **Appointments: None**
 4. **Significant Activity Report:**

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Final%20Total.pdf>
 5. **Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances**
 - a. Presentation from Ted Brady, Executive Director VLCT
 - b. Certificate of Highway Mileage presented by Jeremy Delisle.
Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to Certify the 2023 Highway Mileage as presented. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Sister City Presentation presented by Laura Cooney

d. Tree Board Grant presented by Scott Hausler and Jeff Arnold.
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to authorize the Hartford Selectboard to approve the submission of the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program – Communities Caring for Canopy Grant and if awarded the grant, accept the funding up to the requested amount of \$3,170 as identified in the grant submission documents. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e. Engineering Amendment - Quechee Box Culvert Project
presented by Jeremy Delisle

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the board approve the contract amendment with DG utilizing \$43,000 of funds currently dedicated to the project under Purchase Order #6734. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

*Added Item: FY2024 Budget Approval:

Selectboard member, Mary Erdei made the motion That the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2024 general fund (Fund 10) budget totaling \$19,244,122.70 to be funded with \$2,897,575.62 in non-tax revenue, \$1,000,000 from the unassigned fund balance, and \$15,346,547.08 to be raised by taxes. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. 5 (Souza, Erdei, Tufenkjian, Hoyt, Fraser) were in favor, 2 (Rocket & Collins) were not in favor. The motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion That the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2024 solid waste fund (Fund 30) budget totaling \$1,161,064.54 to be funded with \$639,520 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard member, Lannie Collins made the motion That the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2024 White River Water Fund (Fund 50) budget totaling \$1,318,454.88 to be funded with \$1,229,461.65 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion That the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2024 Quechee Water Fund (Fund 55) budget totaling \$588,195.70 to be funded with \$496,894.22 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion That the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2024 White River Wastewater Fund (Fund 60) budget totaling \$2,084,238.24 to be funded with \$1,934,708.33 of revenue. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion That the Selectboard approve of the fiscal year 2024 Quechee Wastewater Fund (Fund 65) budget totaling \$1,410,081.79 to be funded with \$1,221,649.48 of revenue. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f. Approve Warning for Town and School District Meeting Day
Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion That the Selectboard approve the Warning for the 2023 Annual Town and School District Meeting Day. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g. Approve Warning for Annual Town Meeting
Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion That the Selectboard approve the Warning for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports Ally Tufenkjian

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion (HCOREI):

-Most HCOREI-related updates were covered during recent Selectboard meetings, including the approved funding for Communications/Public Information Officer; Town Staff diversity, equity and inclusion training; and the Community Safety Review; as well as the Vermont Community Foundation grant (to be administered by Selectboard member Kim Souza).

-With the upcoming departure of the School District's current Equity Coordinator, HCOREI will be following the process to appoint a new person for the role.

-HCOREI will be forming a planning committee by February to start organizing the Juneteenth celebration.

Dan Fraser

Tree Board update

Arborist Joe Town helped the Tree Board members decide on the pruning of trees on Route 5. Tree board was asked by the Town to check on dangerous trees on the Pomfret Road. Public Works will take care of the damage. Discussed how Hartford's landscaping regulations could be improved to ensure that large parking lots are surrounded by adequate greenspace and that large parking lots are broken up by tree islands and swales: The board found the current Planning and Zoning regulations lacking and will craft a letter to be read at a Planning Commission meeting indicating our desire to see more specific regulations especially regarding commercial parking lots. It seems the regulations have not been updated since 2008. Discuss the evolution of the grant application to Vt Urban and Community Forestry to remove invasives in the riparian buffer beside the Town Hall and replace them with native species.- will see if any grants might be available. Trees that could be selected for riparian plantings were: Sycamore, cottonwood and willow sprouts which might be helpful in managing the knotweed. Discuss what tree species should replace the elms on Pine Street as well as the two mature elms on Hartford Avenue that have died. January Tree of the month will be the white pine at Dothan Brook School, February will be the blue spruce at Town Hall and March will be the oaks at the bank on Maple Street across from Coop. Tree Board is looking for 2 new members.

Rocket

Sister City Committee has an opening.

- VIII. **Consent Agenda Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 1/21/2023

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 1/10/2023; 1/17/2023 & 1/19/2023

Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/20/2023 and 1/24/2023

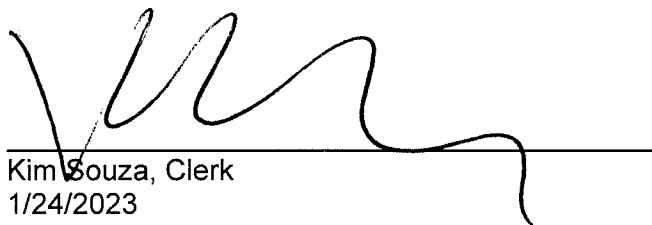
Approve Selectboard Meetings: 2/7/2023 & 2/21/2023

- IX. **Executive Session: Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion That in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law 1 V.S.A. § 313, I move that the Selectboard enter into Executive Session: To discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 7:40pm.**

Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion at 9:05PM. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- X. **Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting**

Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
1/24/2023