

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 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; John Haverstock; Dana Clawson; Lori Hirshfield; Aaron Warner; Christina Cooper Warner; Will Adler; Cathy Melocik; David Briggs; Lynn Bohi; Jesse Pollard; Joe Major

Present on Zoom: Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Heidi Duto; Bryan Gazda; John Reid

JAM Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umhpdLtv_ZM

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:00PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Selectboard Member, Rocket.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: added item of Certificate of Mileage before item i.
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Aaron Warner from WRJ spoke against Drag Queen Story Hour events and in support of Lannie Collins' remarks from a prior Selectboard meeting on the topic. Aaron is also running for a Selectboard seat in March.

Cathy Melocik from Wilder opposes the statements from Mr. Warner as they are unsupported.

Heidi Duto from WRJ asked if the Candidate Night could be scheduled sooner. It is so close to election day and doesn't leave a lot of time for people to get to know the candidates. Bugbee Senior Center is holding a Candidate Forum on February 15th at 1pm.

David Briggs from WRJ shared historic pictures of the downtown block that has seen redevelopment over the years.

Aaron Miller has met with David Briggs and is interested in WRJ. His company specializes in energy transfer options.

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Kim Souza reported that last Wednesday the Board met with Dominic Cloud to discuss the process of Commission Liaisons. She also reminds citizens to read the Significant Activity Reports of the great things each Town Department is doing.

Dan Fraser urged everyone to look at all the candidates before voting.

Ally Tufenkjian thanked the Town Clerks Office for their work during this Town Meeting Cycle. She also thanked the Town and School Meeting Committee and Melinda Brooks for her support in the Town Manager's Office.

Rocket has had good conversations already with the other candidates. He stressed a need that the Selectboard needs procedural improvements for the meetings. He would like to have shorter meetings. He also thanked DPW for their work they do.

Lannie Collins thanked Mr. Warner for his words of support. He stressed that the Selectboard needs to focus on the nuts and bolts of running the Town, not other issues. He has had discussions with citizens that fear speaking out at meetings that they will be labeled “racist, homophobic, bigot or other negative terms”.

Mike Hoyt said the Selectboard does focus on town business. Everyone has “freedom” of speech.

3. Appointments: **Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to appoint John Reid to the Planning Commission for a three year term beginning February 6, 2024 and ending February 5, 2027. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager’s Report

Bond Hearing

There was a supplemental bond, LOT and charter revision hearing on Monday, February 5, which was jointly held by the Town and the School District. It has been a pleasure working with Superintendent DeBalsi on these hearings.

Town Report

The Town Manager reviewed the Town Report proof with staff and had the printer make some relatively minor revisions. We should soon receive our copies for distribution throughout the Town Hall, DPW and Public Safety Complex, libraries and for Budget & Candidate Night and Town Meeting. We will also, of course, post an electronic copy when it becomes available.

Welcoming and Engaging Community Cohort

The Town Manager has forwarded an important survey to all of the roughly 200 members of staff and boards, commissions and committees. This brief survey was compiled by Abundant Sun and the responses will provide valuable data to the Town of Hartford and to all members of the Welcoming & Engaging Cohort. There has been a solid survey compliance thus far, but there is still roughly two weeks to fill out the survey, so please do so right away.

HCOREI

I am looking forward to joining the folks at HCOREI at their meeting tomorrow night.

Transfer Station Discussion Schedule

Based on discussions with the Selectboard leadership, I am planning to schedule and warn a special selectboard meeting for next Wednesday, February 13 to review the Sanborn Head Transfer Station site assessment and to discuss providing additional guidance to Sanborn Head as they continue their work on a feasibility study. We will still plan on our regularly-scheduled February 20 meeting. This would be the time to raise any objections to this plan.... Any objections?

Significant Activity Reports Link:

<https://www.hartfordvt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/466>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances
 - a. **Public Hearing No. 2 on Charter Revision Proposal Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to open the public hearing at 6:52PM. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

There will be two separate items on the ballot. The 1% sales tax and the summary of procedural minor changes. After passing with the Town it will go to the Vermont legislature for approval.

Selectboard Clerk Kim Souza made the motion to close the Public Session at 6:59PM. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Meeting reopened at 6:59PM

- b. Report on Activities from the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Dana Clawson.
- c. Consider Use of Climate Action Reserve Funds

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard authorize the use of up to \$5,000 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund for the purchase of electric equipment for the Hartford Parks & Recreation Department. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d. Community Resiliency Building Program

Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to support and sign the letter of intent for the Town of Hartford to participate in the Community Resilience Program. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. TIF District Annual Report presented by Lori Hirshfield.
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to Accept Fiscal Year 2023 TIF Annual Report to the Vermont Economic Progress Council, and authorize the Town Manager to make any minor changes and to sign the Certification Form. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f. Award Contract for Economic Development Consultant
Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to Award the bid to Better City in the amount of \$30,000 to update the Economic Development Chapter of the Town Plan, and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract and other actions necessary to complete the project. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. Consider Revised Utility Agreement with VTrans for Water Line
Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion that the Selectboard Authorize the Town Manager to execute the agreement numbered UT0238 for \$165,000. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- h. Appoint Authorized Town Representative for Water/Wastewater Loans/Grants
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Town Manager, John Haverstock, can sign as an alternate authorized representative for the purpose of furnishing to the State of Vermont for all Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor

and the motion passed.

****Added Item: Certificate of Highway Mileage: Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to certify the 2024 Highway Mileage Certificate. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

i. Discuss Enhanced Town Calendar Proposal

It was decided to use this as a draft for general guidelines to the Selectboard Calendar. Kim will update the missing Commissions.

VII. Commission Reports

Ally Tufenkjian

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion (HCOREI): -Julia Lau, Hartford School District Equity Coordinator, shared the impressive work that she is doing in collaboration with principals, teachers, and students in our school district. She asked for some feedback on school district initiatives she is working on and is excited to collaborate more with the committee. We are very lucky to have Julia!

-Our Town Manager, John Haverstock, will be attending the February 7th HCOREI meeting to learn more about its work.

-One Committee vacancy.

Resilient Hartford: -One committee vacancy.

Hartford Committee on Housing & Homelessness (HCHH):-One committee vacancy.

Kim Souza

The Planning Commission met on February 5th. They reviewed one preliminary sketch plan from Execusuite for a proposed 40 unit housing development in the former Brookside Nursing Home location with 40% of the units dedicated to income sensitive housing. The commission considered two applications which are in progress for site development plans for Black Rock Investments developments off Sykes Avenue which consist of a 48 unit income sensitive housing project and a 192 until market rate housing project. The process is ongoing and the application is continued until April 15, 2024.

Rocket **TSMC:**

The team is working hard to ensure a successful Budget & Candidates Night!

VIII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 2/3/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 2/2/2024 and 2/8/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 1/23/2024 and 1/31/2024

Already Approved Selectboard Meetings: 2/13/2024; 2/20/2024; 3/7/2024 Organizational meeting - 3/12/2024 and 3/19/2024.

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting; Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion too adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Kim Souza, Clerk
2/6/2024 Meeting