

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, May 16, 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; Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Kim Souza, Clerk; Lannie Collins, Member; Mary Erdei, Member; Ally Tufenkjian, Member; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Paula Nulty; Scott Cooney; Greg Sheldon; Scott Hausler; Dana Clawson; Mark Bradley; Heidi Duto; Joe Major; Sara Campbell; Jonathan Rugg; Michael Redmond; Diane Brzozowski; Joe Trottier; Aaron Warner

Absent: Rocket, Selectboard Member

Present on Zoom (Citizens): Maria Alvin; Michelle Boleski; Sherry West; Marcy Bartlett; Mike Morris;

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O9zcoGTOC8&list=PLAdkf9ugxof7FGsvb7b8PHLFaNfKZbq-g&index=1>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Mike Hoyt at 6:00PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Gail Ostrout.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment

Aaron Warner from Hartford addressed the Board concerning the application to fly the Pride Flag on the Town Hall flag pole. He said social agendas are being put forth by the Town leaders. The Town Charter does not mandate that the Selectboard address these social issues, only that it has fiduciary responsibilities to the entire Town.

Joe Major, WRJ. Mr. Major spoke to a recent article Mr. Warner wrote on an online website after the last Selectboard Meeting. There was misinformation and half-truths in the article. Mr. Major pointed out the issues that HCOREI is now addressing – for everyone.

Joe Trotter, lifetime resident from Hartford. He thinks that the Flag request is a very serious issue and suggests that we hold off a decision tonight and put it before the Town citizens to decide.

Marie Alvin from Hartford (zoom). Wondering about the questions she has sent.

1. The results of the Safety meetings? *Second discussion tonight on this.*
2. Sorting Police Calls by village. This would be helpful. *Will ask the Chief if this could be done.*

3. Are we billing the Haven for police services?
4. Have we looked at the Town owned land for homeless campsite or Haven overflow.
5. Mike Morris – asked if Zoom could be able for the at home people to see the complete room. *Will ask JAM.*

Marcy Bartlett from Wilder wants to thank Chief Sheldon for a really well articulated report about the noise complaint in WRJ. There has been more police presence on Hartford Avenue – thank you.

Sherry West from WRJ. Comment on the Flag issue. She has talked to various people concerning the making of a “Town” flag. If just having a town flag created by the school children would represent all.

Heidi Duto from WRJ. Heidi commented on the survey that is out form the Town Manager Search Committee. There is an issue with it – that it came be filled out by people multiple times and anyone can fill it out, not necessarily people that have ties to Hartford. *Sara Campbell, TMSC responded that the survey was put out that way so that the survey is confidential.*

Selectboard Comments and Announcements:

Kim Souza reported that there is now a survey online (Town of Hartford Website) from the Town Manager Search Committee.

Ally Tufenkjian reminded people of the Clifford Park Food work party on the 20th 9AM-Noon. Resilient Hartford is doing this project.

Lannie Collins apologized for his recent actions that are a result of him feeling disrespected by the other members on the Board. Going forward he will try to do better.

Mike Hoyt – this Thursday, May 18th there will be a reception at Town Hall, 5-6 for the new Assessor, Rick Vincent and new Public Works Director, Bryan Gazda. The Hartford Alumni Association has asked if the Selectboard Members would like to participate in the Alumni Parade on June 24th. Also – today is Leo Pullar’s birthday (former Town Manager).

2. Appointments: None
3. Town Manager and Significant Activity Report
Significant Activity Report: <https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Total.pdf>
Town Manger report: Hydrant flushing is happening through May.
Public Works will be doing door-to door pipe inspections as they are required to do. Also, Dian Perry, Admin Assistant to the Police Department will be retiring.
4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances
 - a. Community Safety Review RFP Discussion; finalize 5/30/23
Discussion Only. It will be finalized at the May 30, 2023 Selectboard Meeting. Citizen, Jonathan Rugg asked the Board what is the purpose of this RFP? When are the rest of the Town, not the “marginal population”, going to be safe and are they going to be represented?

- b. Open Container/Outside Consumption
Chief Greg Sheldon, “According to Vermont DL&L any licensee granted an OCP approved by local control, and DL&L would not be in violation of town ordinances for open containers.”
- c. Town Website Update by Dillon Walsh. Hopeful to activate in June of 2023.
- d. Parks & Recreation Ordinance Revision
Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to make the amendments to the Hartford Park Ordinance as presented in the attached requested revision and follow the statutorily prescribed procedures set forth in 24 V.S.A. §§ 1972 et seq. for adopting, amending, or repealing an ordinance. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- e. March 31, 2023 Financial Update – presented by Gail Ostrout.
Overall, no concerns.
- f. Bugbee Senior Center Capital Assessment Contract Award
Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion that The Hartford Select Board authorize the Acting Town Manager to execute the contract with Studio Nexus and start the feasibility study process. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- g. Wilder Park & Ride Closure – a decision will be made at the next Selectboard Meeting on May 30th.
- h. Draft Hartford Boards & Commissions Vacancy Posting Policy and Appointment Policy presented by Ally Tufenkjian. More discussion at the May 30th Selectboard Meeting. Please send suggestions for changes to Ally Tufenkjian by May 21st.
- i. Pride Flag Request 7/22/23 3pm - 7/29/23 3pm.
Selectboard Member Ally Tufenkjian made the motion to approve the request by the Pride flag from 7/22/23 3pm - 7/29/23 3pm. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 5 voted yes, 1 (Collins) voted no. The motion passed.

VII. Commission Reports

Dan Fraser

May Tree of the Month is the swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) on South Main Street in White River Junction across from the Tucker Box Restaurant. If you visit before it leaves out, you will notice the crooked branching structure. As the name suggests, this oak is found growing wild in low-lying and swampy areas. But it grows just as well in an urban or suburban setting. It tolerates compacted soil and surprisingly drought.

Kim Souza

The Town Manager Search Committee met on May 11. The online survey to seek public input has been launched and can be found on the home page of the town website until

May 28th. Staff committee members are working with acting town administrators to do a survey for town employees to collect information about what is important to staff. VLCT Consultant, Dominic Cloud, has drafted a preliminary position profile and marketing materials which will be reviewed by the Selectboard. The tentative timeline includes posting the position in June, performing interviews in July and hopefully be in position to make an offer by the end of summer.

Mike Hoyt

Attended the Sister City Committee meeting. They did not have a quorum. They currently have 2 openings.

- VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 5/13/2023

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 5/2/2023

Approve A/P Manifest of: 5/12/2023 and 5/18/2023

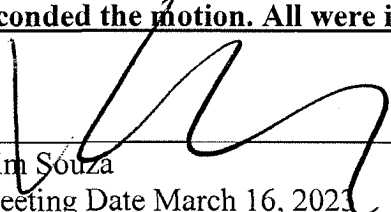
Approve Selectboard Meetings of: 6/13/2023; 6/20/2023 and 6/27/2023

Already Approved: 5/30/2023

- IX. Executive Session: **Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian made the motion that we enter executive session to discuss the evaluation of a public officer and the employment of a public officer pursuant to Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

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

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: **Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35PM. Selectboard Member, Ally Tufenkjian seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**



Kim Souza

Meeting Date March 16, 2023