

TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD Minutes
Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 6:00pm

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; Rocket, Member, Lana Livingston; Paula Nulty; Dillon Walsh; Bryan Gazda; Ken Parker; Christine Cooper Warner; Aaron Warner.

Absent: Ally Tufenkjian, Member

JAM Links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ttj5Gnzuwk4>
<https://reflect-catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/37588>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6pm by Chair, Mike Hoyt.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Rocket.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board. Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt recessed the Selectboard Meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board.
 - a. **Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve a 1st and 3rd Class and Outside Consumption Liquor License for Vermont Spirits Distilling Company at 5573 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05001. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. 4 were in favor, 1 recused (Souza) 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.**

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Local Liquor Control Board at 6:05pm and reopened the Selectboard meeting.

- 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, read information to the Board about illegal trafficking of children.

Marcy Bartlett from Wilder asked for a moment of silence for the Rutland Police Officer that lost her life while on duty, Officer Jessica Ebbighausen in Rutland, and our own HPD Officer Karl Ebbighausen and his family.

Doreen from Hartford thanked the Board for the speed bumps on Summer Street.

Heidi Duto from Hartford commented on a Selectboard meeting that was not warned on the website until the day before the meeting. She also stressed that there is poor communication in the town and that it is everyone's duty to communicate.
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Rocket commented that there is an environmental emergency and the question of resilience needs to be discussed.

Mary Erdei thanked the town staff for the continued help they are providing to the public around flooding issues. She also shared information that is available to the

public about scams relating to recent flooding issues.

Dan Fraser said that the Tree Board is getting ready to doing “poison ivy” pulling. Kim Souza agreed with Rocket that Resilience needs to be addressed.

3. Appointments: None

4. Town Manager and Significant Activity Reports

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/7.25.2023%20Sig%20Acts%20Total.pdf>

Paula Nulty announced that FEMA will be onsite through Wednesday. She also reported that the issue at the Transfer Station concerning hazardous waste was resolved and everyone is safe. The item was removed.

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. Class II Highway Grant

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion to execute Grant #P02134 utilizing reserves and operating cash flow to provide short-term financing of the grant. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Town of Hartford - Municipal Mitigation Grants in Aid FY24 - GA0563

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to execute Grant #GA0563 utilizing reserves and operating cash flow to provide short-term financing of the grant and to authorize Public Works Director to sign all necessary documents. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Simon Pearce Dam Update

Members of the Simon Pearce board were present. They have requested if the town can provide some signage concerning the bridge being closed. They also reported that as of now the Dam is safe. They are waiting for the water levels to lower to be able to do a complete inspection.

d. Wilder Community Center

David Clem presented the opportunity to sell the Wilder Community Center to the Town of Hartford on 6/27/23. The board directed the Acting Town Manager on 7/11/23 to reach out: 1) to Leadership Team and Bugbee Senior Center to verify if they had an interest in the building for current or futures services; 2) to David Clem on the sales price. Board discussion followed and by consensus they decided to notify Mr. Clem that the town has no interest in purchasing or leasing his property at this time.

d. Town Website Update

Dillon Walsh reported that the migration to the new website is still being done. He expects the site to go live the second week of August.

e. Human Resource Software Update

Paula Nulty reported that the software, “Namely” is still progressing. It will most likely not be complete until the new town manager is hired.

f. Timeline for Open Board Items

The Board stated priorities of what they need to discuss in the coming months.

These included hiring a town manager, the charter review and the selectboard calendar. Other items included hiring a communications/publications officer, policy on policies, the transfer station, and cemeteries. Ken Parker, representing the Hartford Cemetery on Maple Street spoke to the board about his concerns and what the board is going to need to do about the items. The cemetery committee report from 2018 was referenced.

VII. Commission Reports

Mary Erdei – Conservation Commission

There is one vacancy on the Commission, as a result of the recent resignation of Jon Bouton, for whom we are appreciative of his dedication and service for about 15 years. Thank you Jon and best wishes.

There were several guests at the last meeting, including Suzanne Enser, who filled in for Jennifer Byrne who was set to attend. Suzanne, who represents the Ottaquechee District, is a member of the Natural Resources Conservation District, and spoke to the upcoming Survey. The Foot Race that was to be held at the Hurricane Forest was cancelled due to the very wet conditions that would have aggravated the trail system and is rescheduled to August. Other items of interest were on: pollinators, invasive plants, snowmobile bridge repairs and books (Our Better Nature and Nature's Best Hope) which are at town libraries and some school libraries (Dothan Brook). The recycling done at the Community Coalition Block Party was much more successful than previous times and with a little bit of tweaking, will guide people more easily toward trash or compostables. August 28th, 7 pm is the next meeting of HCC.

Kim Souza - Town Manager Search Committee: The committee has been working well together with the leadership of the Chair, Vice Chair and Dominic Cloud. The first round of candidate interviews was held all day on July 24 and the next sessions are scheduled for July 27th. The committee hopes to forward promising candidates to the Selectboard by Monday, July 31st and to schedule finalist interviews with the board during the week of August 7 or 14.

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.

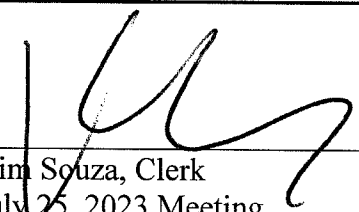
Approve Payroll Ending: 7/22/2023

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 7/11/2023 & 7/18/2023

Approve A/P Manifest of: 7/21/2023 and 7/27/2023

Selectboard Meetings Already Approved: 8/8/2023 and 8/22/2023

IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dan Fraser made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
July 25, 2023 Meeting