



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, September 5, 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; Lana Livingston; Gail Ostrout; Paula Nulty; Chris Holzwarth; Bryan Gazda; Joe Major; Sarah Kelly; Will Adler;

Present on Zoom: Dan Fraser, Vice-Chair; Ally Tufenkjian, Member;

JAM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQdc63JDeHU>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:01PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Joe Major.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: added item- the discussion of the scoring matrix for the RFP reviews on the Community safety proposals.
Postponed items: 3.a. tabled until the next regular meeting, September 19th.
5.a. Hartford US5 Speed Study Results tabled until the next regular meeting on September 19th.
Payroll Ending: 9/2/2023: Postponed until the next regular meeting on 9/19.
Approve A/P Manifest: 9/7/2023 Postponed until the next regular meeting on 9/19.

Discussion of the RFPs for Community Safety matrix review. Lannie Collins worked on this. There still needs to be weights assigned to each item. It was decided that the individual Selectboard members would submit to Mr. Collins their opinions on what the scoring/weights should be and he will take the averages of the submitted numbers. Also, if you have specific questions that you would like to ask the applicants, send those to Chair, Mike Hoyt. All questions much be the same to all the applicants.

- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment
Joe Major from White River Junction addressed the Selectboard on the committee of employment of people with disabilities. Every year the committee chooses businesses that practice within the Americans with Disabilities Act. This year JAM, a Hartford Business, was recognized by winning this award.
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
Rocket recognized the police department's hiring 2 new officers. And

thanked Luca Menezes, who is leaving, for his service. Rocket thinks that in the last months the Board and Community has made great strides forward. Also, hopefully the reason there has been less public comment is that they are happy with the governance the Selectboard is doing. He thanked Mike Hoyt for his leadership.

Kim Souza noted that the Town Website is looking a lot better although there is still a way to go.

Lannie Collins provided a shout out to the company that is working on the bridge. Glad it is open. Also, he wants to thank the good work that Nott's is doing on the Quechee Box Culvert. We are making progress.

Mike Hoyt mentioned all the work that has been done in the Town this past year.

3. Appointments:

a. Consider the Appointment of Nancy Trottier to the Committee on Housing and Homelessness for a two-year term beginning 9/5/2023 and ending 9/4/2025. *Postponed until the next regular meeting on 9/19/2023.*

b. **Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to Appoint Sarah Kelly to the Hartford Energy Commission for a three-year term beginning September 5, 2023 and ending September 4, 2026. Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager and Significant Activity Report

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/454>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. Hartford US5 Speed Study Results *Postponed until the next regular meeting on 9/19/2023.*

b. Water Resource Engineers

Selectboard Member, Lannie Collins made the motion that the Selectboard (1) accept the Water Resource Engineer rankings, (2) authorize the release of a certification of the rankings to the State of Vermont, (3) to waive the Request for Proposal requirements of the Town of Hartford Purchasing Policy for engineering services funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and (4) to authorize the Department of Public Works to utilize the RFQ process and rankings to satisfy the applicable portions of the purchasing policy as outline in Agenda Memorandum dated September 5, 2023 for Town Selectboard Meeting Item 5.b. for SRF and self-funded projects. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. FY25 Budget Timeline

The Selectboard agreed by consensus that they adopt the FYE 2025 Budget calendar as presented.

VII.

Commission Reports

Mary Erdei: Hartford Conservation Commission

The meeting began with full introductions and a warm welcome to Conservation Commission new members Sky, Chris and Mike. Matt Osborne reminded the Commission of what Hartford Conservation Commission was responsible for and some of the events we have held in the near past. He also discussed the upcoming budget and its process and funding procedures as well as a reminder to us all there is sometimes a delicate balance between conservation and recreation.

Other items of note: the Lower Reservoir Road small grassy area would NOT be mowed to create a hospitable climate for animals, birds, insects, pollinators, at this time; use of QR codes for trailhead kiosks to continue the explanation of the most recent logging to trail-goers; the habitat posts from which some will be left and the others for Matt Dragon team of students, and an upcoming Conservation brochure. Next meeting October 2nd, 2023.

Ally Tufenkjian: Resilient Hartford:

-The Committee discussed the future of the Clifford Park Food Forest with regard to climate change. The park sustained some minor flooding during the July storm, but no damage or soil contamination occurred. The Committee strategized ways to make the Food Forest more resilient considering that climate-related challenges will continue. The next Food Forest Workday is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th from 4-7pm.

-A fall workday for the Quechee Abenaki Garden is being planned.

-The Committee has one open seat.

Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness:

-Member Patrick Danaher has resigned and we thank him for his service to the committee. This means there is one additional seat open.

-Committee members discussed and gave feedback on the draft of the Town Plan's Housing Chapter and members will attend the Town Plan Steering Committee's meeting on Sept. 12th for further discussion.

-The Committee discussed the Department of Children and Families Letter of Interest submitted by Hartford and the process for receiving emergency housing funds. This funding opportunity is not a grant with a proposal process; if Hartford has an idea for a project that fits the criteria, they can reach out to their contacts at the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to inquire about next steps. There is no formal deadline or amount of funding allocated; OEO will direct people to the relevant department for potential funding. If the Committee identifies a relevant project, they will keep the town informed.

VIII.

Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 9/2/2023: Postponed until the next regular meeting on 9/19.

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 8/22/2023 and 8/29/2023

Approve A/P Manifest of: 9/1/2023 (9/7/2023: Postponed until the next regular meeting on 9/19.)

Selectboard Meetings Approved: 10/3/2023; 10/17/2023; 10/31/2023.

**Already Approved: 9/19/2023

IX. Executive Session: Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of confidential attorney client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body regarding 1472 and 1498 Maple Street, Hartford, will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its communications. Seconded by Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Rocket moved that we enter executive session to discuss 1472 and 1498 Maple Street, Hartford, under the provisions of 1VSA313(a)(1)(F), and to discuss the employment of public officers pursuant to 1VSA 313(a)(3). Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei made the motion to close the Executive Session at 7:29PM. Selectboard Member, Rocket seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Member, Rocket made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM. Selectboard Member, Mary Erdei seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.



Kim Souza, Clerk
9/5/2023 meeting