



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 6, 2020
6:00pm Hartford Town Hall
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001

**This meeting was conducted in compliance with
Vermont Open Meeting Law with electronic participation.**

Present at Town Hall: Dan Fraser, Selectboard Chair; Patrick MacQueen, Interim Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Simon Dennis, Selectboard Vice Chair.

Present via ZOOM: Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Joseph Major, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Clerk; Emma Behrens, Selectboard Member; Alicia Barrow, Selectboard Member.

CATV LINK: <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/12991?channel=1>

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser read the following:

As Chair of the Town of Hartford Selectboard I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law, I confirm that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by [telephone/video/other electronic means], with additional access offered through telephone, zoom and youtube.com. We are using Zoom for this remote meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, participate in this meeting by

*If you're calling in from phone dial: (415) 762-9988 Type in the Room ID: 549-799- 933 followed by #. Press # a second time. Press *9 to raise your hand for public comment.*

b) Providing public notice of instructions for accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, including how to access the meeting using telephone, zoom and youtube.com in our posted meeting agenda.

[Instructions have also been provided on the town website on the "Agendas and Minutes."]

c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access and*
d) *Continuing the meeting if necessary. In the event the public is unable to access this meeting, it will be continued to a time and place certain.*
Please note that all votes taken during this meeting that are not unanimous will be done by roll call vote, in accordance with the law.
Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance of all Selectboard members participating in the meeting.

I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting** was called to order at 6:07 P.M. by Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

III. **Executive Session:**

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to: Move to find that premature public disclosure regarding pending litigation matters would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage, 1 VSA, Section 313(a)(1)(E). Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to enter executive session to engage in protected attorney/client communications under the provisions of Title I, Section 313(a)(1)(F) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to close the Executive Session at 7:08 P.M. Selectboard Member, Alicia Barrow seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Motion: Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to designate Joe Major to assist with legal counsel with the two remediations regarding employment matters that were discussed in the Executive Session with the understanding that any settlements will require full Board approval. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser recessed the Selectboard meeting and opened the Local Liquor Board.

IV. **Local Liquor Control Board**

- a. Thyme Restaurant, 85 North Main St., WRJ, VT 05001
A change in the licensed space for the restaurant. Expanding to use Suite #146 for service only.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve the change in the licensed space of a 1st Class Liquor License for Thyme Restaurant, 85 North Main Street, WRJ, VT 05001 to expand the use of Suite #146 for service only. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 recused (Souza) and 1 abstained (Fraser). The motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Local Liquor Board and reopened the Selectboard meeting at 7:12 P.M.

- V. Order of Agenda:** Interim Town Manager, Pat MacQueen requested to add VI.4.d. to the agenda for an update of a Health Insurance change for coverage for Town Employees.

VI. Selectboard

1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Public Comments: Lannie Collins from Quechee has recently observed downtown construction workers entering establishments without masks. He would like to know if there is something the Town could do. Simon Dennis said the Town policy is the same as the Governor of Vermont has said that masks are required when in public close spaces. Mr. MacQueen will contact Brett Mayfield, the health officer, to look into this.

Selectboard Comments: None

2. Appointments

- a. Consider the appointment of Ashton Todd to the Energy Commission for a three-year term beginning October 6, 2020 and ending October 5, 2023.

Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to appoint Ashton Todd to the Energy Commission for a three-year term beginning October 6, 2020 and ending October 5, 2023. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Town Manager's Report

Mr. MacQueen asked the Selectboard to authorize an RFP to be given to private and/or other parties that may have an interest in the Transfer Station Operations and the property itself to see what that may yield in the terms of interest and ideas. There were no objections from the Board.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis asked about the plowing of downtown WRJ listed in the Significant Activity Report by the Department of Public Works. The plan is to remove the jersey barriers in downtown for special seating areas for the 2 restaurants the beginning of November. This is for snow removal. Mr. Dennis asked if there would an alternative way to remove the snow and not remove the barriers. Hannah Tyler, DPW Director said that there really isn't a way to do it that wouldn't be timely or costly. The November date is already longer than the original date of when they were to be picked up. Ms. Tyler has not heard from the restaurants directly about this.

Significant Activity Report Link:

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/195>

4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:

a. Fairview Terrace

Mr. MacQueen's recommendation to the Board is that up to \$30k be taken from the \$200k in this year's budget to clean up the road as it is (blacktopping etc.) and remove it altogether from the CIP.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion that the Selectboard remove the full reconstruction of Fairview Terrace road from our Capital Improvement Plan and instead on account of it not showing signs of movement take steps to resurface the road for one lane travel. Selectboard Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Consideration of Pool Award

Scott Hausler, Department Director of Parks and Recreation presented the next steps in the Pool construction to the Board. He was asking for a motion

“to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a contractual agreement with Bread Loaf Construction for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,177,000 for the purpose of constructing a new municipal pool. Additionally, authorize the Town Manager to apply to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Pooled Loan Program for a 20-year bond for the purpose of funding the new pool project.”

After much discussion, Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion for the Board to table this discussion until the next Selectboard meeting and ask Scott Hausler to confer with Bread Loaf about the longevity of the bid and ask the Town Manager to investigate any legal ramifications of bringing this matter back to the voters in March given the unexpected economic impact of the pandemic. Selectboard member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Truck Bid award

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to Authorize the purchase of a 2020 3500 from Key Auto of White River Junction. Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADDED ITEM: d. Health Insurance Coverage.

Information Only: It has been decided that The Town health insurance plan will be switching to MVP Gold 3 HDHP: a plan comparable and more affordable than our current BCBS plan.

VII. Commission Meeting Reports

Alan Johnson reported from the Energy Commission. They have elected a new Vice Chair, Frederick D. Randall. Within the next few weeks, the energy commission will be issuing a statement of support for the BIPOC community and climate change.

The Climate committee reported that Courtney Williamson has resigned. This leaves 2 openings on the committee vacant. They are in the process of creating a Climate Action Team that will perhaps consist of workgroups and up to 20 people.

Simon Dennis reported that Resilient Hartford is having a good response from citizens about the alternate Use of Parks survey. Over 200 responses already. The new chair of Resilient Hartford is Kye Cochran and Vice Chair is Dylan Kreis.

Dan Fraser reported that the Tree Board is still doing the Tree of the Month Club.

Mr. Fraser thanked all the school staff doing a great job making things work during these difficult times.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 10/3/2020

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 9/22/2020 and 9/29/2020

Approve A/P Manifest of: 10/2/2020 & 10/6/2020

Selectboard Meeting Dates of:

- Already Approved: 10/20/2020
- Needs Approval:

11/2/2020 Monday – Regular & Budget Meeting

11/5/2020 Thursday - Budget Meeting

11/17/2020 Tuesday – Regular & Budget Meeting

11/19/2020 Thursday - Budget Meeting

IX. Executive Session: Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the Discussion of the appointment of a town manager under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to close the Executive session at 9:39 P.M. Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis seconded the motion. All (4) were in favor and the motion passed.

Please Note: Joe entered the meeting after the motions were made and Emma Behrens and Alicia Barrow did not join the meeting after the Executive Session.

Motions:

Simon Dennis moved to authorize the Chair to sign a new contract for interim Town Manger with Municipal Resources Inc. to hire John Maclean for the remainder of the Town Manager hiring process. Joe Major 2nd the motion. All (4) in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Simon Dennis moved to authorize the interim Town Manager to enter in to a contract with MRI for services to enter in to a national search for a Town Manager. Alan Johnson 2nd the motion. All (4) in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:43 P.M. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All (5) were in favor and the motion passed.

All Meetings of the Hartford Selectboard are open to the public. Persons who are seeking action by the Selectboard are asked to submit their request and/or materials to the Selectboard Chair or Town Manager's office no later than noon on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled meeting date. Requests received after that date will be addressed at the discretion of the Chair. Citizens wishing to address the board should do so during the Citizen Comments period.

Selectboard Signature Page.

Date: 10/20/2020

Date of Minutes: 10/6/2020

Minutes Approval Signature:  _____