



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Thursday, November 19, 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 via Zoom: Simon Dennis, Selectboard Vice Chair; Alicia Barrow, Selectboard Member; Joseph Major, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Clerk; Emma Behrens, Selectboard Member; Rachel Edens, Selectboard Member.

Present at Town Hall: Dan Fraser, Selectboard Chair; John MacLean, Interim Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant

CATV LINK: <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/13297?channel=1>

Read by Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser:

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 <https://zoom.us/j/87953119229> - Please mute your microphone, [youtube.com/catv810](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=810) – click “live now”. 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.
- 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: Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Order of Agenda: John MacLean asked to add Town Manager’s comment.

VERMONT COVID-19 ARREARAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Vermonters suffering economic hardship due to loss of income from COVID-19 can get help now to pay past due utility bills for residential and business or nonprofit accounts.

Residential applicants may apply for one grant for their primary residence.

Businesses, nonprofits, farms and ag enterprises may apply for each account on separate applications using the nonresidential application.

Go to:

<https://vermont.force.com/economicrecovery/s/dps-register?covid=false>

Deadline is December 15, 2020

IV. Selectboard

1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Public comments: None

Selectboard Comments: Kim Souza commented on the Selectboard Agendas that have been full and they should try not to overpack them. She would like the agendas to prioritize staff items and put them first. She also would like the agendas to follow the order as they were posted. By changing the order, it is possible that a citizen might miss a topic of interest for them.

Joe Major encouraged all Selectboard members to ask questions. It is helpful for everyone.

The board members welcomed Rachel Edens to the Selectboard.

2. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

a. First Quarter Financial Report (Information Only)

Presented by Gail Ostrout, Director of Finance.

b. Budget Presentations: (information Only)

- Communications (Fund 10 – 271)

Presented by Police Chief, Phil Kasten.

- Police Department (Fund 10 – 211)

Presented by Police Chief, Phil Kasten.

- Fire Department (Fund 10 - 221)

Presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney.

V. Executive Session

Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to enter into Executive Session for Motion 1: 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)

and

Motion 2: Move that we 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. (For the purpose of discussing mediation/settlement) Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Note: Brian Monaghan, VLCT attorney, joined Executive Session

Kim Souza made the motion to exit Executive Session at 9:35pm. Emma Behrens Seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Simon Dennis moved to adopt the resolution for settlement as presented & read aloud (attached). Emma Behrens Seconded the motion. 6 in favor 1 opposed. (Fraser, Dennis, Souza, Behrens, Edens & Major in favor, Barrow opposed). The motion passed.

RESOLUTION OF THE SELECTBOARD OF THE TOWN OF HARTFORD

The undersigned, being the members of the Selectboard of the Town of Hartford (the "Town"), a municipal corporation duly created and validly existing under and pursuant to the laws of the State of Vermont, hereby resolve as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town authorizes and ratifies the settlement of a charge by Kristinnah Adams filed with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and designated by the WWO as Adams v. Town of Hartford, VT, Charge No. 523-2020-01891;

RESOLVED, that the Town admits no liability and enters into the settlement for the sole purpose of avoiding protracted litigation, and authorizes the payment of settlement funds, in part by VLCT-PACIF, Inc. and in part by the Town, pursuant to the EEOC Settlement Agreement and the General Release and Waiver executed by Kristinnah Adams; and

RESOLVED, that the Town hereby authorizes interim Town Manager John Maclean to execute on behalf of the Town any and all necessary and incidental documents required in connection with the above-described Settlement Agreement and the General Release and Waiver. Dated 11/19/2020.

VI. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting (motion required)

Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to close the meeting. Selectboard member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 9:30 P.M.

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.