



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD Minutes
And Budget Workshop**

Thursday, January 9, 2020, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001

Present: Simon Dennis, Selectboard Chair; Richard Grassi, Selectboard Vice Chair; Dennis Brown, Selectboard Clerk; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Dan Fraser, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Lannie Collins; Thomas Scarlata; Lori Hirshfield; Scott Hausler; Hannah Tyler; Ali Brokenshire; Kristopher Lewis; Sara Hickey; Brett Mayfield; Paige Heverly; Hildegard Ojibway; Travis Husna.

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/10822?channel=1>

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Local Liquor Control Board: N/A

IV. Order of Agenda: No changes at this time.

V. Selectboard

1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements:

No Citizen Comments.

Selectboard Comments: Jameson Davis reminder that JAG Festival Feb 7 – 9.

Alan Johnson is collecting signatures for the Summer Lunch Program by Hartford Community Coalition.

2. Appointments: N/A

3. Town Manager's Report: None.

4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Pool Construction Estimate (Information Only) Presentation by Scott Hausler and Thomas Scarlata.

Recommended Option:

Option 1 with Maximum 8 ft Depth

Construction Cost \$ 3,107,215

4% Escalation \$ 124,289,

Adjusted Total Project Cost \$ 3,231,504

- b. Parking Facility Alternatives Construction Estimates (Information Only)

Hannah Tyler, Chris Holzwarth and Lori Hirshfield did a presentation on sites that have been mentioned as potential parking lots in the downtown area of White River Jct.

None of the sites seem to be viable options and the recommendation is still to do the South Main Street surfacing project that could add up to 50 new parking spaces.

- c. Submittal of 2020 TIF Phased Project Implementation to Vermont Economic Progress Council (Motion Required)

The following are the next set of projects to continue to support economic development in Downtown WRJ, for consideration at the March 3, 2020 Town Meeting vote. Total estimated cost is \$2,666,600, which includes related costs.

- Town Square Municipal Parking Lot/Park (Between Joe Reed Dr and Gates St): Reconstruction including drainage, layout, lighting, handicapped accessibility vehicular/pedestrian circulation & safety, sidewalks, paving, and landscaping. Estimate = \$811,700.
- South Main Street Municipal Surface Parking: Reconstruction and additional surface parking. Estimate = \$1,822,600
- Maple Street Along #87 and #101: Sidewalk, curbing, lighting and green strip. Estimate = \$32,300

The Town Square parking lot will require substantial change approval given an increase in project cost from the \$275,000 in the TIF District Plan, due to increases in construction costs since 2011 and design changes.

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to Authorize the Town Manager to submit to VEPC on January 10, 2020, the TIF phased filing and substantial change request for the next set of TIF projects, conditioned on Selectboard approval on January 14, 2020 following the required public hearing. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d. CIP (Motion Required) Capital Improvement Plan.

Town Manager, Brannon presented a CIP proposal. After some discussion the Selectboard asked Mr. Godfrey to come back with

another proposal using an updated chart that shows the latest priority order. Mr. Grassi and Mr. Brown both agreed that the Pool and Fairview Terrace should be high up on the list.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to not put the Pool on the March Ballot asking the voters for an answer on the Bond for the Pool. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. 2 were in favor (Dennis & Johnson), 5 were not in favor (Souza, Brown, Fraser, Davis & Grassi.) The motion failed. The Bond for the Pool will be on the March Ballot.

- e. Budget Wrap Up (Information Only) Postponed.
- f. Climate Advisory Committee Ballot Initiative (Motion Required)

Since its formation, the Committee has met six times in order to fulfill its charge. The Committee developed a Climate Emergency Resolution, which the Selectboard adopted at the December 17th Selectboard meeting. The Resolution included, among other things, a commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and to develop a Climate Action Plan identifying steps to meet this objective.

After the Selectboard adopted the Resolution, the Committee met twice to discuss items 2 and 3 of its charge. Several potential ballot initiatives were proposed at these meetings, but the Committee agreed that putting a specific policy or program before the voters prior to the completion of the Climate Action Plan would be premature. Instead, the Committee recommends the following:

1. Inclusion of funding in the FY 21 budget for a consultant to support the development of the Climate Action Plan. Hartford's Energy Coordinator reviewed the Town's past contract with VEIC for consulting work on a Five Year Energy Action Plan, and spoke with a consultant at VEIC. Based on this information, he believes an appropriate request is \$25,000-\$30,000.
2. Inclusion of the following Warrant item on the March 3, 2020 Town meeting ballot:

“Shall the operation, development, and maintenance of the Town of Hartford's (and, with approval, Town of Hartford School District's) municipal infrastructure and equipment be required to achieve carbon neutrality by 2027?”

The Committee felt that while specific policy or program proposals were inappropriate before the completion of the Climate Action Plan, the municipality should lead by example in meeting the town-wide target of net-zero by 2030, and therefore the Town should set a more aggressive goal for itself.

A few of the Selectboard members were concerned with the wording “be required.” This felt to some that if it was not achieved there would be penalties of which no one knows what they would be.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to approve the ballot initiative. Selectboard Alan Johnson seconded the motion. 5 were in favor (Souza, Fraser, Dennis, Johnson & Davis) and 2 were not in favor (Grassi & Brown). The motion passed.

- g. Welcoming Hartford Ordinance – Potential Amendment/Retraction of Ballot Initiative (Motion Required)

Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey reviewed the proposed Welcoming Hartford Ordinance which had the added format of an introductory Purpose and Intent section and also the addition of a savings clause that was determined necessary by the attorneys that reviewed the document for the Town.

Selectboard Alan Johnson made the motion to table this discussion of Welcoming Hartford Ordinance indefinitely. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 1 (Grassi) was opposed. The motion passed.

5. Commission Meeting Reports:

Simon Dennis asked for volunteers to present at the Monday Night Warrant Information presentations. Results: Pool - Hilde Ojibway, TIF Bonds – Jameson Davis, Climate Action – Jack Spicer and Erik Krauss, Welcoming Hartford Ordinance – Sue Buckholz & Brannon Godfrey.

6. Consent Agenda: N/A

7. Executive Session: N/A

8. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting (Motion Required):

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to close the meeting. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 10:45 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.