



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 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; John MacLean, Interim Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant

Present via Zoom: Simon Dennis, Selectboard Vice Chair; Alicia Barrow, Selectboard Member; Joseph Major, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Clerk; Emma Behrens, Selectboard Member.

Absent: Rachel Edens, Selectboard Member

CATV LINK: <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/13693?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/549799933> - 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 meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Public and Selectboard Comments

Citizen Comments:

Remington Nevin from Hartford called to ask the Selectboard to direct the Town Clerk to Mail all residents the March 2, 2021 ballot. He would like the Selectboard to decide by the next regular Selectboard Meeting.

Erik Krauss for Hartford to express his support and excitement for hiring the new Town Manager, Tracy Yarlott-Davis. He also expressed his hope that soon the Selectboard will be back meeting together in Town Hall. When this happens, he also hopes that the meeting can continue to meet virtually along with the in-person meetings. There are advantages of both and a hybrid meeting would serve more people.

Selectboard Comments: Alicia Barrow commented that with both type of meetings together there would continue to be more civic engagement.

Kim Souza reminded people that absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk. More information about how to do this is on the town website and Facebook

Simon Dennis asked about tonight's agenda format. The change is due to it being a special, not regular meeting.

Dan Fraser commented on the Tree Board having a sale of trees and shrubs on May 1st. He also recognized all the businesses that participated in the 19 Days Campaign. They raised \$421,325.69 to support the Haven throughout the Upper Valley. This is the largest amount ever raised. In the eight years that this has been happening over two million dollars have been raised. He also thanked the Bryne Foundation for their \$150,000 matching donation to this cause. Keep in mind that the demand of the Haven has significantly increased of up to 60%.

III. Act 164 - Marijuana bill/sales in Town Question to put on Ballot (motion required)
For the complete conversation about this topic please go to the CATV Link posted above.

Discussion:

Marcy Bartlett from Wilder called in support that this question not be placed on the ballot.

Lannie Collins from Hartford commented that to put it on the ballot seems hasty with a lack of information and would be wrong to move forward.

Erik Krauss from Hartford encouraged the Board to facilitate an information session about Act 164.

Emily Zanleoni from Wilder and the Hartford Community Coalition thinks to put this on the ballot does seem hasty and she does not support it.

Kim Souza commented that there was no information or presentation on this topic sent to the Selectboard. She would like to know more about what the Town's roll as

regulators would be. Dan Fraser said there really isn't much information. She said she would be in favor of putting it on the ballot.

Emma Behrens commented that she would be in support of putting this before the voters. She also read that the only revenue stream for the Town would be the Local Option Tax.

Simon Dennis said that if this was put on the ballot it would look like the Selectboard was in favor of passing it. Mr. Dennis also said there is a bigger discussion about community health.

Joe Major asked if this could be put off until the 2022 election. He also asked if citizens collected the 350 signatures, would they be able to request a special election to vote on this. Lisa O'Neil, Town Clerk said it would cost between \$6,000 to 10,000 to conduct an election. He said he would be in favor of putting it on the ballot.

Alicia Barrow said if it gets on the ballot there is plenty of time to get the details out to the citizens and she would be in favor of putting this on the ballot.

Alicia Barrow made the motion that the Selectboard approve adding ACT 164, Article 25: Shall the Town of Hartford permit and regulate the operation of cannabis establishments within the Town to the March Ballot for the residents of Hartford to vote on. There was no second to this motion so the motion failed.

IV. Approval of 2021 Town Meeting Warrant Language

Discussion: Simon Dennis asked if the other Selectboard members would be in favor to raise their stipend from \$75 to \$100. Alicia Barrow agreed with Simon. Joe, Kim and Emma said this is not the time to raise the stipend. Perhaps to revisit this at a future date would be more appropriate.

Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to approve the 2021 warrant language as presented with the amendment to #6 changing the amount of \$4,550 to \$4, 500. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion that the Selectboard approve the warning for the annual Town & School District Meeting Day 2021 as presented. Selectboard member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- V. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: **Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 7:20 PM. Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All 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.