



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm
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; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Barry Schuster; Judith Belyea; Brett Mayfield; Ryan Scelza; Joan Ponzoni; Laura Cooney; Alison Litten; Skye Murray; Gayle Ottman; Michelle Boleski; Michelle Wilson, Town of Hartford Assessor.

Note: Rebecca White, Selectboard Member, joined the meeting by phone.

Absent: Kim Souza, Selectboard Member

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Lana Livingston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Local Liquor Control Board: N/A

IV. Order of Agenda: Due to the absence of Town Manager, Leo Pullar, the following items have been postponed until the next Selectboard Budget or Regular meeting: 3, 4. e. and 4. f.

V. Selectboard

1. Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements:

Citizen Comments: No Comments

Selectboard Comments: Selectboard Member, Rebecca White reported that at the Vermont Legislature it was announced that there was a resolution for this month being School Board Appreciation Month. Mrs. White suggested that it would be nice to do something for them. The Board agreed and Simon Dennis along with Rebecca White will do something.

2. **Appointments: N/A**

3. **Town Manager's Report: NONE**

4. **Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:**

- a. Consider for Approval the Request from Judith Belyea of Evergreen Recycling, Inc. for the Location of a Salvage Yard. (Mot. Req.)

Judith Belyea of Evergreen Recycling is applying for a Salvage Yard permit at the request of the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation due to a change in agency jurisdiction. Ms. Belyea's operation of the recycling facility was approved by the Town Planning Commission and the Zoning Board. The Planning Commission conditions remain unchanged and the site is in compliance with the zoning permits.

Selectboard Vice -Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion that the Selectboard approve the certificate of Approval for Location of a Salvage Yard and the applicant being Judith A. Belyea located at 239 A Street, Wilder, VT. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Consider for Approval Submission of an Appeal of the 2018 Equalization Study Results. (Mot. Req.)

The Division of Property Valuation and Review (PVR) of the Vermont Department of Taxes conducts an annual equalization study of all municipalities in Vermont to assess the correlation of the listed values to sales prices for properties located within the municipality.

Measures:

Equalization studies measure the total value of taxable property in each town and school district in the state. The results are used to do the following:

1. Determine education tax rates
2. Apportion county taxes
3. Determine whether a municipality must undergo a reappraisal

Fair Market Value vs Valid Sales:

- * Vermont listers list all taxable property at its fair market value.
- * Fair market value is the price a property is likely to bring if sold on the open market by a willing seller to a willing buyer, both equally well informed and not under any compulsion to sell or purchase.
- * In order to have equity, only fair market or valid, arm's length transactions are utilized.

2018 Study Results:

- THREE YEARS OF SALES WERE UTILIZED
- 667 TRANSACTIONS ACROSS 15 CATEGORIES

- COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL (CLA) 95.78
- COEFFICIENT OF DISPERSION (COD) 10.28
- 53 TRANSACTIONS – TOWNS DEEMS UNQUALIFIED (*APPEALING*)

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion that the Selectboard approve the Submission of an Appeal of the 2018 Equalization Study Results as presented. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Receive a Presentation on the Activities of the Sister Cities Committee. (Info Only)

Important Dates:

- April/May 2015: Initial communication to establish relationship between Cenon and Hartford
- November 2015: Brett Mayfield first travels to Cenon for their international week
- November 2016: Joan Ponzoni and Brett Mayfield attend *Toutes Latitudes* festival
- April 2017: Selectboard members approve new members Laura Cooney, Allison Litten, and Skye Murray
- June 2017: The Sister City Committee is present at the Hartford Block Party
- June 2018: Delegates from Cenon visit Hartford
- November 2018: Delegates from Hartford travel to Cenon

What does this sister City Partnership mean for the Town of Hartford??

Cities/Towns and **NOT** nations are driving the global economy, and are the engines for growth. In 2012, Brookings and JPMorgan Chase launched the Global Cities Initiative (GCI). GCI believes that cities need to get back to their roots, which is to be centers of trade and commerce. Global economic factors such as globalization and urbanization are opening up new markets, intensifying competition and adding new layers of complexity to global supply chains. Therefore, it is critical for city leaders to understand how global economic factors can affect the competitiveness of their city and determine how their unique assets can service the impacts of globalization so that they can become beneficiaries of new trade flows, direct investment, job creation and innovation and remain an attractive proposition in a world economy. Therefor the Town of Hartford’s sister city committee will continue to foster relationships and promote economic development that will help the town stay relevant in this age of globalization.

d. Consider for Approval Tax Sale Bid Authorization. (Mot. Req.)

Background:

List of proposed properties date delinquent from 2017 tax years, also includes properties left from most recent sale and some of the most delinquent utility accounts.

Tax Sale would attempt to recoup any taxes owed before, during, and/or after those tax years. Utility delinquencies includes the two longest delinquencies and a property also delinquent on taxes.

Plan is to use an attorney who does tax sales as a practice. No hourly fees.

Town can bid with specific Selectboard Approval.

Properties for Possible Town Bid:

Tax Sale: Due as of January 16, 2019									
	Name	Map Lot	Address	2016	2017	2018	Total	Assessment	Notes
1	Leninski, Steven	12-158	72 Wood Road		\$1,905.23	\$8,463.65	\$10,368.88	\$ 273,000.00	Home on 9.1 acres
2	Williams, Geraldine	20-22	116 Pleasant ViewTerrace	\$2,874.57	\$6,937.91	\$5,201.32	\$15,013.80	\$ 191,600.00	Home on .7 acres
							\$25,382.68		

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve Leo Pullar or his designated person to bid on lots #12-158 and #20-22 as briefed if they do not receive any bids at the sale. Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e. Receive the Initial Information on the 2019 Town Meeting Draft Warrant Language. (Info Only)

Postponed until the next Selectboard Meeting.

f. Receive the November 2018 Budget Update. (Info Only)

Postponed until the next Selectboard/Budget Meeting.

5. Commission Meeting Reports:

There were no commission reports.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis confirmed that the final Budget meeting would be on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:00 P.M.

6. Consent Agenda (Mot Req.):

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Member, Rebecca White seconded

the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- a. Approve Payroll Ending: 01/12/2019
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes of: 1/2/2019, 1/6/2019, & 1/10/2019
- c. Approve A/P Manifest of: 01/11/2019 & 1/15/2019
- d. Selectboard Meeting Dates of:
 - Already Approved: 1/15/2019 & 1/29/2019
 - Needs Approval: 2/12/2019 & 2/26/2019

7. Executive Session:

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi at 8:00 P.M., made the motion In accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law requirements, that the Hartford Selectboard enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment, appointment, or evaluation of a Public Officer under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes and to discuss or consider records or documents that are exempt from the public records laws under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(6) of the Vermont Statutes. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion at 8:45 P.M. to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

8. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting. (Mot Req.)

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:47 P.M. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson 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.


