



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 26, 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 via Zoom: Simon Dennis, Selectboard Vice Chair; Joseph Major, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Clerk; Emma Behrens, Selectboard Member;

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

Absent: Rachel Edens, Selectboard Member

CATV LINK: <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/13745?channel=1>

The Chair read this script:

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. Selectboard Meeting:

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Local Liquor Control Board: None

IV. Order of Agenda: 5.c. will be postponed until the next regular Selectboard Meeting on February 9th. Item added: (5.c. spot) the question of mailing out ballots to all registered voters.

V. Selectboard

1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Citizen comments: Marcy Bartlett from Wilder asked why the Selectboard is postponing the discussion about the Norwich School sewer connection. There are a lot of people interested in this topic and are waiting to comment. The Interim Town Manager explained that not all parties involved had the same information and by February 9th this would be a better discussion.

Mike Morris from Hartford asked if it was possible for the zoom attendees to see the list of the attendees. Currently they can only see the participants or the one talking. Dan Fraser said he could ask CATV.

Cathy Melocik from Wilder followed up on the Norwich School request and is looking forward to that discussion. She also was sorry that Ms. Barrow resigned. She would like to see communication methods, website and Facebook, improve. She has offered to help with this.

Kaijin Janice Chen from White River Jct. voicing her appreciation for Alicia Barrow's time on the Board. She also would like an update on the Town Community Wellness position. Emma Behrens and Kim Souza have been working on the job description and they are meeting HCRS and other town officials to collaborate ideas. After that meeting, they will ask for community input.

Alan Johnson from Montpelier and a former board member called to say that he appreciated the kind words in the Proclamation Mr. Fraser read. He is also saddened by Chief Kasten's resignation. He also left with some advice for the citizens of Hartford to encourage them to look at the issues and wait for the correct information on the issues. The "Informational" Facebook page does not always contain facts. He is also encouraged with his replacement appointment of Rachel Edens and knowing she is on the Board gives him peace of mind.

Cynthia Monroe from Wilder thanked the staff for making the Agenda meetings public. She would also like to see the backup information. Mr. Fraser said this is on the website under agenda and minutes. She also asked if the Town, when making decisions, if they take into account the Town's goal of obtaining carbon neutrality by 2027 goal. The town does have a climate action plan and is working toward that goal.

Selectboard Comments: Kim Souza shared that President Biden reversed the past president's executive order of section 2 137.H. She also reported that the Town did not

lose any Federal funding due to the Welcoming Hartford Ordinance.

Simon Dennis commented on the resignation of Alicia Barrow and reminded that in the strategic goals of the Selectboard there is an important section on welcoming people of color.

Emma Behrens also commented on the resignation letter from Alicia Barrow. She recognizes that Hartford needs to respond better to welcoming people of color.

2. **Appointments**

NEW:

- a. Consider the Appointment of Dennis Brown to the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2021 and ending January 25, 2024.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to appoint Dennis Brown to the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission for a three year term beginning January 26, 2021 and ending January 25, 2024. Selectboard member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Consider the Appointment of John Sherman to the Hartford Tree Board for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2021 and ending January 25, 2024.

Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to appoint John Sherman to the Hartford Tree Board for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2021 and ending January 25, 2024. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. **Town Manager's Report:** Interim Town Manager, John MacLean expressed his appreciation towards all the Town Staff and Selectboard.

Significant Activity Report

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/203>

4. **Public Hearing:** Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser opened the Public Session at 6:45 pm.

A presentation of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan by Wayne Elliot of Aldrich & Elliott was done in the public session.

Recommendations:

Wilder PS (S/N 002) Disconnection of remaining catch basins
Installation of new precipitation monitoring system
Reclassification to SSO

Passumpsic PS (S/N 003) Identification and evaluation of catch basin disconnections.
Closure

Nutt Lane (S/N 004) Continued coordination with property owners to disconnect roof drains.

Identification and evaluation of catch basin disconnections.

Installation of level monitoring equipment.

Municipal Building (S/N 006) Installation of level monitoring equipment.

Maple Street (S/N 007) Closure

Draft Implementation Plan for 1272 Order:

2021 Complete LTCP.

Install new precipitation and level monitoring equipment.

Monitor rainfall data and water levels at Municipal Building and Nutt Lane

2022 Install GSI for catch basin replacement in Passumpsic pump station service area.

Close Passumpsic PS overflow (S/N 003).

Coordinate with property owners for disconnection of roof drains.

Monitor rainfall data and water levels at Municipal Building and Nutt Lane

2023 Disconnect select catch basins in Wilder PS service area.

Reclassify Wilder PS (S/N 002) overflow to SSO.

Continue coordination with property owners for disconnection of roof drains.

Monitor rainfall data and water levels at Municipal Building and Nutt Lane

Evaluate past two+ years of monitoring data.

2024 Disconnect select catch basins in Maple St/Municipal Building service area.

Close Maple St (S/N 007) overflow.

Continue coordination with property owners on disconnection of roof drains.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Public Session at 7:56 pm.

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:

a. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan Presentation - No motions are required at this time.

b. Final Adoption of DPW Annual Certification

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to certify the 2021 Highway Mileage as presented. Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Further consideration of a request to extend Sanitary Sewer to the Marion Cross School located in Norwich, Vermont.

This item has been postponed until the next regular Selectboard meeting on February 9, 2021.

**** ADDED ITEM:** Dan Fraser addressed the request for all registered voters in the Town of Hartford be sent Ballots for the March 2nd elections. The

Board decided by consensus that the citizens have multiple ways to request a ballot and that they have also been notified multiple ways. Also, the polls will be open. Everyone will have the chance to vote safely.

- d. Appeal of the Hartford 2020 Equalization Study

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to direct the staff to appeal the Hartford Equalization Study. Selectboard member, Joe Major seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e. Hartford's Hazard Mitigation Plan

Selectboard Member Joe Major made the motion that the Selectboard adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan, pass the resolution and authorize the Selectboard chair to sign the resolution. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. 4 were in favor and 1 opposed (S. Dennis). The motion passed.

- f. Ratify Warning for Annual Town Meeting as corrected.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion that the Selectboard approve the warning for Annual Town Meeting 2021 as presented pending approval of the Town Attorney. Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. Network Switch RFP Bid Award.

Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to move to award the Network Switch RFP bid to C2 Competitive Computing in the amount of \$41,282.61 from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VI. Commission Meeting Reports

Selectboard member, Joe Major reported from the Parks & Rec commission. They are still planning on the fishing derby on 1.31.2021, 7am-noon with social distancing in place. Also the popular basketball program is being planned with the school.

Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens reported that the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission met and are working on some zoning changes. They will meet one more time and then bring to the Selectboard for approval.

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza reported from HBRLF that recently approved a loan for downtown WRJ expansion, new development. River Roost has purchased the building from Mike Davidson and have long term plans for expansion.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis reported that the Coronavirus Committee is still moving forward.

Emergency Shelter Committee is also looking at water solutions. Mr. Dennis reported that the way forward is increasingly looking hard – there is no quick fix to this problem.

Joe Major commended the committee working with businesses on how to sign up for vaccines.

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser reported that the Tree Board is working on a shade tree grant.

Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: **1/9/2021** and **1/23/2021**.

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 1/12/2021 & 1/19/2021 & 1/25/2021

Approve A/P Manifest of: 1/22/2021 & 1/26/2021

Selectboard Meeting Dates of: 2/9/2021, 2/23/2021 and 3/4/2021 -
Organizational Meeting.

VII. Executive Session: NONE

Adjourn:

Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens 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.