



**TOWN OF HARTFORD  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 23, 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; Rachel Edens, Selectboard Member

**Present at Town Hall:** Dan Fraser, Selectboard Chair; Tracy Yarlott-Davis Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant;

**CATV LINK:** <http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/13940?=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 6:01pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **Order of Agenda:** Simon Dennis asked to add the Emergency Shelter Committee Request To amend the end date. This will be added to the end of the agenda.

#### IV. Selectboard

##### 1. Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Dan Welcomed the New Town Manager, Tracy Yarlott-Davis.

There were no Citizen Comments.

Selectboard Comments: Simon Dennis thanked Town Manager, Tracy Yarlott-Davis for presenting the Budget section of the Budget/Candidates Night. He also said that with 14 candidates for Selectboard seats this year there are good choices and will only strengthen the democratic government.

Joe Major agreed with Simon Dennis. He addressed the actions taken on Candidates night. As a Selectboard person it is ok for someone to come at you because they are elected officials. But it is not ok to attack a town staff person. The attack on The Town Clerk was a travesty, unwarranted and ridiculous. The Clerk’s office has conducted three elections during a pandemic with nothing but good results. Mr. Major quoted Mark Twain, “Better to remain silent & thought a fool than to open one's mouth & remove all doubt.”

This is the last Selectboard meeting for both Simon Dennis and Emma Behrens. The Board members thanked them for their hard work they did and wished them well.

Dan Fraser reported that CATV got back to him and it is not possible for attendees at zoom meetings to see who else is on the zoom call.

##### 2. Appointments:

- a. Consider the Appointment of Sarah Oertly to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term beginning on February 23, 2021 and ending February 22, 2024.

Sarah Oertly was not at the zoom meeting so her application has been tabled until she can make a meeting with the Selectboard.

- b. Consider the Appointment of Erin Swasey to the Senior Solutions Advisory Committee for a two-year term beginning on February 23, 2021 and ending on February 22, 2023. (per the request of the Director of Senior Solutions, Carol Stamatakis)

**Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion to appoint Erin Swasey to the Senior Solutions Advisory Committee for a two-year term beginning on February 23, 2021 and ending on February 22, 2023. Selectboard Member Rachel Edens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

### 3. **Town Manager's Report:**

Tracy Yarlott-Davis reported: New Assessor Joe Turner starts part time. Thanks to Jeremiah for his service to the Town. Also thank our assistant assessor Cristina Tardie for her service. She has maintained a continuity of services throughout a pandemic and staffing change.

The Town Clerk's office will be closing on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at noon to prepare for the election. Town Hall will be closed on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Polls will be open for in person voting on Tuesday, 7am – 7pm.

The Highway department has been out working hard to clear all the recent snow activity. They have had long days and are still working on ice and snow removal and preparing for pot hole season.

The town will be towing long term parked vehicles in the South Main Street parking lot. Some have been there for a very long time. Several measures had been done to locate the owners. The lot is scheduled to be cleared (due to safety risks). The plan for clearing the lot is February 26.

Significant Activity Report.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/205>

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

- a. December 2020 Financials – Finance Director, Gail Ostrout presented the Financial report from December 2020.

The Town is currently on a Glide path of 50% which is exactly where the town should be. For more detailed information on the financial report please go to the website under Agendas and Minutes, February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting agenda.

- b. Adoption of VLCT Declaration

(This comes from the Town of Pittsford)

*The Town of Hartford condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of the law. As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community. The Town of Hartford has been and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.*

The Board decided to not endorse this particular declaration at this time and to try to make it pertain more to Hartford. They will ask HCoreI and Rachel Edens (on the VLCT Equity Board) to craft a new statement.

- c. Solid Waste Implementation Plan Final Approval

Kim Souza asked for the dates to be updated in this document when available.

**Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens made the motion that the Board approve the final Solid Waste Implementation Plan for submission to the State. Selectboard Member, Rachel Edens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion. Passed.**

**V. Local Liquor Control Board:** Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser recessed the Selectboard meeting and opened the Local Liquor Control Board.

**Renewals:**

- a. Hanover Consumer Cooperative Society Inc. Doing Business As: Co-op Food Store, 209 Maple Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (Second Class)
- b. K-B Ventures Inc. Doing Business As: Jake's Market & Deli, 1477 Maple Street, Hartford, VT 05047 (Second Class)
- c. Revco, LLC Doing Business As: Revolution, 26 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (Second Class)
- d. Stacy Hopkins, LLC Doing Business As: Scavenger Gallery, 41 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (Second Class)

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to approve the renewals of Second-Class Liquor Licenses to:**

**Hanover Consumer Cooperative Society Inc. Doing Business As: Co-op Food Store, 209 Maple Street, White River Junction, VT 05001**  
**and**  
**K-B Ventures Inc. Doing Business As: Jake's Market & Deli, 1477 Maple Street, Hartford, VT 05047**  
**and**  
**Revco, LLC Doing Business As: Revolution, 26 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001**  
**and**  
**Stacy Hopkins, LLC Doing Business As: Scavenger Gallery, 41 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001.**  
**and**  
**Little Istanbul Doing Business As: Little Istanbul, 27 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001**

**Selectboard Member, Joe Major seconded the motion. 1 recused (Souza); 1 abstained (Fraser) and 4 voted Yes. The motion passed.**

- e. Wolf Tree Hospitality, LLC Doing Business As: Wolf Tree, 40 Currier Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (First & Third Class and Outside Consumption)

- f. Collaborative Stoke, LLC Doing Business As: Trail Break Tap & Tacos, 129 South Main Street, Suite 100, White River Junction, VT 05001 (First & Third and Outside Consumption)
- g. Vural Oktay, Inc. Doing Business As: Tucker Box, 1 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (First & Third and Outside Consumption)
- h. Little Istanbul Doing Business As: Little Istanbul, 27 North Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001 (Second Class)

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to approve the renewals of First & Third and Outside Consumption Liquor Licenses to:**

**Wolf Tree Hospitality, LLC Doing Business As: Wolf Tree, 40 Currier Street, White River Junction, VT 05001**

**and**

**Collaborative Stoke, LLC Doing Business As: Trail Break Tap & Tacos, 129 South Main Street, Suite 100, White River Junction, VT 05001**

**and**

**Vural Oktay, Inc. Doing Business As: Tucker Box, 1 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001**

**Selectboard Member, Emma Behrens seconded the motion. 1 recused (Souza); 1 abstained (Fraser) and 4 voted Yes. The motion passed.**

Selectboard Chair, Dan Fraser closed the Local Liquor Control Board and re-opened the Selectboard meeting at 8:01 P.M.

**\*\*Added Item:**

Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis presented an update to be approved by the Selectboard for the Emergency Shelter committee.

## Hartford Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter

Ratified on December 29th, 2020, Amended February 23rd, 2021

Term:

The term of this Committee shall end upon completion of the charge; not later than March 1st, 2022.

Constitution:

This advisory committee will be constituted by the Town Manager, up to one member of staff, one Selectboard Member and no more than seven individuals with expertise regarding the subject matter. Each member shall have equal weight in discussion and voting.

Charge:

To investigate the regulatory obstacles to the creation of portable

micro-dwellings to provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness

To submit recommendations to the Selectboard regarding the creation and governance of a permitted encampment to allow unsheltered individuals to dwell

legally and safely during the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter seasons.

In order to conform with the open meeting laws, committee meetings will be warned, recorded and open to the public.

The changes to the document were the term end date and the constitution of the committee.

**Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion that the Selectboard amend the HAHCOES charge as indicated as amendments in the presented document. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

## VI. Commission Meetings Reports

Kim Souza reported from the Planning/Zoning Commissions. There will be a public hearing on March 1st @ 6:45pm. This will be about a proposal for zoning amendments to mixed use in two districts. There is also a workshop on 3/17 @ 5pm with the Historic Preservation Commission regarding a grant to hire a consultant to develop standards for demolishing historic buildings.

Emma Behrens reported from the Energy Commission. They have put together a statement of support as it relates to the work of the Energy Commission in support of minority populations of Hartford and how they are in general inequitably affected by the energy market, etc. So, they will post this on the website after seeing if it needs Selectboard approval or not. That is in the works.

Joe Major reported from Parks and Rec. They have finalized the pool contract with Breadloaf. So, the contractors are all set as far as that is concerned. Also Frost Park is open and running, the ice rink.

Dan Fraser reported: A joint meeting with the School Board Tomorrow.

The Tree of the month is the Red Oak. These can be seen over by the Maxfield Property off Rte 5. Tree Board Sale will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Elections on Tuesday. You still have time to request an absentee ballot. Otherwise, he encourages people to go to the High School to vote in person on Tuesday, 7am-7pm.

**VII. Consent Agenda: Selectboard Member, Joe Major made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Clerk, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 2/20/2021

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 2/9/2021

Approve A/P Manifest of: 2/19/2021 & 2/23/2021  
Selectboard Meeting Dates of: Already approved:  
3/4/2021 (organizational), 3/9/2021 and 3/23/2021

**VIII. Executive Session: NONE**


**IX. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting: Selectboard Vice Chair, Simon Dennis made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21PM. 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.

Selectboard Signature Page.

Date: 3/23/2021

Date of Minutes: 2/23/2021

Minutes Approval Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_