



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Hartford Town Hall
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, VT 05001

Present: Simon Dennis, Selectboard Chair; Dennis Brown, Selectboard Clerk; Dan Fraser, Selectboard Member; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Lori Hirshfield, Director of Planning & Development; Hannah Tyler, Director of Public Works; Matt Osborn, Planner; Paula Nulty; Johnathan Griffin, VTrans; Gene McCarthy; Darren Benoit, Dubois & King; Jordan Cuddemi, Valley News; Alison Brokenshire; Sara Hickey; Kevin Leverd; Leslie Block; Kathleen Gorman; Makale Camara; Nate Gifford; Kristopher Lewis; Janet Goldberger; Mingwei Huang; Matt Chambers; Jo-Anne Unruh; Joan Ecker; Rachel Obbard; Ray Chin; Veronica Colby; Treb Allen; Marcela DiBrasi; Margery Phillips; Kathy Beckett; Stuart Close; Jeff Bell; Rosemary Affeldt; Katell Ane; Isaiah Miller; Carol Rougvie; Hallie Zens; Scot Zens; Christine Taylor; Jacob Chamberlin; Rebecca Seibel; Madeline Shannow; Allene Swienckowski; Diane Root; Will Lambek; Gisela Jones.

Absent: Richard Grassi, Selectboard Vice Chair
Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/8682?chanel=1>

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Local Liquor Control Board: N/A

IV. Order of Agenda: Items 4.b and 4.c will switch in order.

V. Selectboard

1. Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements:

There were no citizen comments.

Selectboard comments:

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza mentioned the recent article in Forbes Magazine about the economic growth in White River Jct. She also said that people are noticing that creative economics is alive and well in WRJ.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis mentioned that he had talked to the WR Elementary school principal recently. She said that she has noticed that the lack of Section 8 housing, opioids and cost of high rent, therefore lack of housing, is affecting the elementary students. Mr. Dennis said the principals of the Town schools are another resource to see what is going on in the Town of Hartford.

2. Appointments: N/A

3. Town Manager's Report: Significant Activity Report period ending June 18, 2019.

Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey reported the Highlights of his Significant Activity Report. For the complete report – here is the link.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/161>

- a. Status Report on Proposed Amendments to Fair & Impartial Policing Policy: Research to date; Process going forward

Town Manager Brannon Godfrey reported the progress of this item.

The proposed timeline for work on this amendment process is:

- July 10-15 continued meetings with Chief Kasten, Town Manager Brannon Godfrey, Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis and others to discuss proposed FIPP.
- July 16th Selectboard Meeting to discuss draft proposed amendment.
- Additional meetings if needed.
- July 30th Selectboard Meeting to discuss and vote on amended FIPP.

There was discussion and testimonies supporting this amendment by both Hartford residents and non-residents. (Please see the CATV recording of the meeting for these.)

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/8674?channel=1>

4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. VTrans Briefing: traffic impact of I-89 Bridge rehab project (Connecticut River crossing) (Information only)

The design of the project by the New Hampshire DOT is nearly complete and they plan to advertise for construction on August 29, 2019.

Construction would begin next year, and will include a period of time in which northbound I-89 is closed overnight and traffic routed through Lebanon and Hartford. NHDOT has presented the project and the potential traffic impacts in Lebanon, NH to the City of Lebanon earlier this month. The total project is anticipating finishing in 2024.

- b. South Main Street parking lot engineering contract award (motion required)

During the Selectboard 2018 and 2019 discussions of Downtown White River Junction's growing parking needs and remaining TIF projects, it was determined that implementation of a parking structure on the site of the existing South Main Street surface public parking lot would be reviewed at the next TIF project discussion in the fall of 2019. This is the lot located off South Main Street behind the Barrette Center and former Legion Hall.

The selection committee recommended Dubois & King based on the initial response to the RFP and the interviews based on the selection criteria within the RFP.

The cost of the design and permitting services is \$124,400. Funding will be provided through voter approved TIF funds and received State Sales Tax Reallocation Funds.

Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser Made the motion to Authorize the Town Manager to execute an engineering services agreement to allow the design services necessary for proper budgeting and timing of construction. Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. Three (Souza, Fraser & Davis) were in favor, Two were not in favor (Brown & Dennis). The motion passed.

- c. Sykes Mtn. Ave. Roundabouts R/OW Acquisition Proceedings.

Over the last year, the project management team, with VTrans, has been engaging in right-of-way negotiations for a number of properties for the Sykes Mountain Roundabout Project. There are several parcels that, due to the high valuations assigned to those properties, have been negotiated directly by VTrans staff.

Although we believed that the negotiations with two large, essential property owners were moving along, recently they have stalled. One property owner has an unreasonable request and one is entering into their own appraisal process.

At this time, to meet the desired project schedule (construction beginning in 2020), the project team is considering engaging in the condemnation process for these parcels. We are optimistic that sending notifications to the property owners will encourage them to continue timely negotiations rather than engage in the actual process of condemnation.

All Right-of-Way expenses are 100% reimbursable through the contract agreement with VTrans.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to Authorize the Town Manager to start the notice of condemnation process to acquire the remaining large parcels for the Sykes Mountain Roundabout Project. Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Process and input (information only)

This topic was not discussed due to the late hour.

- e. Quechee Main Street Water Design contract award (motion required)

This Topic was not discussed due to the late hour.

- f. 2019 Street Paving and Reclamation contract award (motion required)

The Town of Hartford solicited bids from Paving Contractors for pavement resurfacing work for 2019. The project will include reclaiming, shimming and overlays as well as structure adjustment where necessary.

Town crew will place and compact gravels on reclaimed road as well as perform drainage and erosion repairs.

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown made the motion to Authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Blaktop, Inc. for the 2019 paving and reclamation project. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g. 5th Charter Commission Charge (information only)

This topic was not discussed due to the late hour.

h. Affirmation of Selectboard Commitments (Information only)

This topic was not discussed due to the late hour.

5. **Commission Meeting Reports:** *None due to the late hour.*

6. **Consent Agenda (Motion Required):** Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Tax Sale Properties

Approve Payroll Ending: 6/15/2019

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 6/4/2019 & 6/11/2019

Approve A/P Manifest of: 6/14/2019 and 6/18/2019

Selectboard Meeting Dates of:

- Already Approved: 7/2/2019, 7/16/2019 and 7/30/2019

7. **Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting. (Motion Required)**

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 11:03 P.M. Selectboard Dan Fraser 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.

