

**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 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; Rebecca White, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member; Leo Pullar, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Dawn Pullar; Geoff Martin; Lori Hirshfield; Brad Goedkoop; Dan Fraser; Lannie Collins; Ken Parker; Claire Forseth.

catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/7441?channel=1

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis called the Selectboard to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Dawn Pullar from Quechee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis recessed the Selectboard Meeting and Called the Local Liquor Control Board to order.

III. Local Liquor Control Board

New:

Global Montello Group Corp. Doing Business as Jiffy Mart #439, 6800 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05059. (2nd Class)

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion That the Selectboard Approve the 2nd Class Liquor License for Global Montello Group Corp. Doing Business as Jiffy Mart #439, 6800 Woodstock Road, Quechee, VT 05059.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Village at White River Junction, 101 Currier Street, White River Junction, VT 05001. (1st Class)

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion That the Selectboard Approve the 1st Class Liquor License for The Village at White River Junction, 101 Currier Street, White River Junction, VT 05001. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to close the Local Liquor Board at 6:14 PM. Selectboard Member, Rebecca White seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis reopened the Selectboard meeting.

IV. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.

V. Selectboard:

1. Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Citizen comments: Lannie Collins from Quechee asked if the area west of the Quechee Pocket Park could be revitalized. Perhaps a fence and some grass. Mr. Pullar said that the "Friends of the Quechee Bridge" does have a master plan for beautification around and on the Bridge.

Another concern for Mr. Collins is the culvert under Main St. in Quechee, by the church. It seems to be failing and he would like someone from DPW to come and check it out.

Mr. Collins also reported that the Bench that the Quechee Church is donating to the Quechee Pocket Park should be in place by the first week in July.

Selectboard comments: Selectboard Member, Kim Souza commented on what a great job the Hartford Fire Department did on the Antique Furniture store fire.

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown suggested that with the current number of calls that come into our dispatch/fire department, that during Budget planning the budget should be looked at carefully and take into consideration the increased number of calls.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis reported on the Town Plan 101 Forum held on Monday night. There was a good discussion. The next forums are: 6/25 6:30 at Vins (Energy & Transportation), 7/11 6:30 at West Hartford Library (Community Facilities and Services & Historic Preservation), 7/16 6:30 at Dothan Brook School (Natural Resources & Land Use), 7/23 6:30 at Town Hall (Housing & Economic Development).

2. Appointments: There were no appointments.

3. Town Manager's Report

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/132>

Highlights:

During this two-week period the Fire Department responded to 92 calls for service. This brings the current total for 2018 to 980 calls for service. Last year we responded to 809 which is an increase of 171 calls or 18%.

The Parks & Recreation Department continues promoting sponsorships of the annual 4th of July event. We have secured our goal of \$5,000 in donations so far. The White River Rotary Club has contributed \$4,000, Sabbath Law \$1,000, Mascoma Bank \$500 and two individual donors, Grant Crosby \$100 and Wayne Claflin \$50. The donations received will go towards the fireworks display.

The Regional Commission has identified another \$35,000.00 available for the Town to apply against the overall cost of the Pocket Park project. This will lower the tax revenue commitment to the project freeing those monies up for other purposes across the Town. We are working on the paperwork and will get that turned in this week. We appreciate the work the commission does for the Town with respect to keeping their eyes open for these kinds of opportunities.

We hosted the HUB Communities initial meeting here in the Town Hall on June 12th. The meeting was attend by myself, the managers from Montpelier and Brattleboro and two folks from VLCT, including the executive director. We are looking at integrating these into larger, already planned events to continue the discussion on a larger scale.

VTRANS is hosting a Public Meeting on the Quechee Gorge Bridge project here in the Town Hall on Thursday, June 21st at 7pm. Current plans are to install temporary fencing this summer/fall and a permanent solution in 2021/22. This is an opportunity for the public to address their concerns about the way ahead on the project.

The reserve funds discussed at the last meeting have been closed/adjusted and the funds consolidated into a single account. The funds from the Tower Sale have been released into the unassigned fund balance.

The staff is discussing possible ways ahead if the state budget does not get passed. This will have an impact on our ability to set the tax rate and collect taxes on the date planned in August.

4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances:

a. Cemetery Committee Update (Mot. Req.)

Ken Parker from the Cemetery Committee reported that the Cemetery Committee continues to complete its work. Much discussion has centered on existing records of the private cemeteries and finding a safe place for storing the burial plot records. One of the committee's tasks is to identify what the records are, how they are being kept now and what kind of space is needed for safe keeping. Additionally, the committee has identified an outline for tracking needed repairs for each cemetery. Members are to begin identifying needs to be included within the document. They are scheduled to have a report to the Selectboard by the end of August. An oral history grant on the cemeteries has been received for \$13,000.

b. Tree Warden Presentation on Emerald Ash Borer and Town Trees. (Info Only)

Hartford Tree Warden, Brad Goedkoop, presented to the Board the dangers of the Ash Tree Borer and the damage it has done. With the threat close by, we anticipate the EAB will be in Hartford within a few years. Once a sighting is made, details will be communicated to the FIRST RESPONDER. Currently the first responder is Hartford resident Xaxakwetet Little Tree danceatctm@comcast.net. First responders are trained to identify the pest and forward the information to state and federal authorities for verification. The only method of saving ash trees from the EAB is with the use of insecticides. There are about 2000 ash trees in Hartford ROW. In time, half of these will jeopardize utility lines. They will be the responsibility of the power company. Half will become hazards to the roads and become town responsibility. Even though the maintenance of ROW trees is the town's responsibility, the town must have the owner's permission to cut the trees.

EAB suppression: Technique of slowing EAB spread.

- 1) Girdle stressed trees to attract EAB.
- 2) Treat some healthy trees near girdled trees.
- 3) Remove girdled trees at end of season to kill larvae.
- 4) Adults who have eaten leaves from treated trees cannot reproduce.
- 5) The EAB population growth is slowed and costs related to hazard trees is spread out over a longer time frame.

It is cheaper to treat the trees than it is to replace them.

Mr. Goedkoop presented to the Board information on Town Hall Tree Replacements. Because of limitations, there aren't a lot of choices for "street trees." They need to:

- Fit into landscape architecturally
- Tolerant of root compaction

- Tolerant of salt
- Tolerant of mechanical stresses (impacts, mowers, trimmers, plows etc.)

c. Wilder Well Solar Project Discussion. (Info Only)

Geoff Martin, Energy Coordinator for the Town of Hartford reported to the Selectboard concerning the Wilder Well Solar Project.

The purpose is to provide an overview of the options available for the solar project at the Wilder Well and discuss community solar opportunity.

Background:

Certificate of Public Good (CPG) application submitted under MOA with Norwich Technologies

Approved under Net-Metering 1.0

120 KW AC (175,500 kWh annual production)

Project must be completed by 3/8/2019

Mission: “to help the Town *and its residents* achieve greater energy efficiency and move toward local renewable power generation, in keeping with Vermont state policy” and Hartford’s Five-Year Energy Action Plan.

Why Community Solar?

Location of the system.

Real savings for residents.

State-wide (and nationwide) conversation about making solar accessible to all, but little progress.

Pilot project to create a model for other projects in Hartford and Vermont.

Potential Partners:

Housing Foundation, Inc. – owner of Olcott Falls Manor Mobile Home Park

Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE)

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)

Vermont Law School

Windham/Windsor Housing Trust

Suggested Next Steps:

Contract with Norwich Technologies to enable the simultaneous development of the system and the community solar pilot project.

While moving forward with solar project construction:

Continue to work through program design questions (i.e. billing, term length/lottery).

Develop clear and concise messaging and generate interest

Secure additional funding.

Refine percentage of Town NM credits available to Olcott Falls Manor residents.

Why Norwich Technologies?

- Since figuring out structure as we go, difficult to evaluate RFP and compare options if just open ended.
- NT has been willing to offer time, engineering, and coordination with VLITE and VEIC for funding and support to do pilot project to test out and tweak.
- NT has possibility of non-traditional investor willing to take risk and be flexible
- NT offering 14% discount under traditional model; no reduction for adding community solar component.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to Authorize a waiver of our procurement policy to pursue the development of a contract with Norwich Technologies for a community solar array at the Wilder Well site. Selectboard member, Rebecca White seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 1 (Rebecca White) abstained. The motion passed.

d. April & May 2018 Budget Update. (Info Only)

Budget	Expended	Encumbered	Available	% Expended
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April 2018: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/130>

\$15,787,019.17	\$12,492,556.97	\$589,230.90	\$3,294,462.20	79.13%
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April Glide Path:

\$15,787,019.17 \$13,155,849.31 \$2,631,169.86 83.33%

May 2018: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/131>

\$15,777,019.17 \$13,456,121.15 \$557,551.17 \$2,320,898.02 85.29%

May Glide Path:

\$15,777,019.17 \$14,462,267.57 \$1,314,751.60 91.67%

5. Commission Meeting Reports:

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson reported on the Hartford Town Plan Community Forums.

Monday, June 25th at 6:30 p.m. - Energy & Transportation- VINS

Wednesday, July 11th at 6:30 p.m. - Community Facilities/Services/Historic Preservation - West Hartford Library

Monday, July 16th at 6:30 p.m.- Natural Resources & Land Use - Dothan Brook School

Monday, July 23rd at 6:30 p.m. - Housing & Economic Development - Town Hall

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown reported on the good work the cemetery committee is doing. There are no current standards for contractors so they will be working on that. The oral history grant for \$13,000 is good news.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis reported on the Community Resilience Committee of Hartford (CROH) kickoff of their monthly workshops. The first one is on Friday, June 29th - 6:00 - 8:00 PM Bugbee Senior Center, 262 North Main Street, White River Junction Potluck Dinner at 5:15. The guest speakers for these workshops are well known leaders in their fields.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi attended the Pool Committee meeting. They are working hard on a couple of items. There is survey that the citizens can take. The committee needs volunteers to hand out the survey at some of the Town's upcoming events. Some events are: 4th of July fireworks, a game at Maxfield and more.

6. Consent Agenda (Mot Req.):

Selectboard Member, Rebecca White made the motion That the Selectboard Approve the Consent Agenda as Listed on the Agenda. Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- a. Payroll Ending: 6/16/2018
- b. Approve Meeting Minutes of: 6/5/2018 & 6/6/2018
- c. Approve A/P Manifest of 6/15/2018 & 6/19/2018
- d. Selectboard Meeting Dates of: 7/3/2018, 7/17/2018, 7/26/2018

(Workshop), 7/31/2018 & 8/29/2018 (Workshop).

7. Executive Session:

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grasse made the motion In accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law requirements, I move that the 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. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- 8. Post Executive Session Actions:** Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis reported that during the Executive Session, Town Manager Leo Pullar has resigned his position as Town Manager. This will be effective November 30th (or earlier if needed).

Mr. Pullar read his letter as follows:

Dear Board Members,

It is with great sadness that I announce my retirement from public service. The last two years here in the Town of Hartford have been absolutely tremendous. I have been humbled by the support of you and the community as I worked through my cancer treatment. Although the disease has remained at bay, the recovery has been slow. That recovery, coupled with the physically disabling effects of my service in the military, has led me to feel that I am unable to perform at a level that I believe you, the citizens of the town and the great staff deserve. Dawn and I have not come to this decision lightly but are convinced that it is time for us to move along so the Town can continue to move forward. In a life of service, there comes a point where one must put themselves, their health and their family first for a change. It is my hope to work through this current challenge over the next few years and re-enter public service in the future.

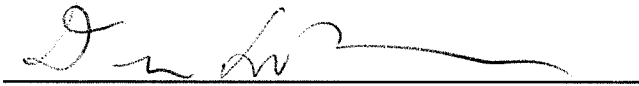
Understanding the process and the time it will take to hire the next Town Manager for the Town of Hartford, I am willing to stay through November 30, 2018 to assist in this important transition. I will also assist as I can after that date. I believe in this Town and the citizens and will do what it takes to ensure a smooth transition; to include, departing earlier if needed. I apologize for leaving the Town in this predicament.

I thank you all for your support and understanding.

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

Selectboard Vice-Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 10:30 P.M. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. W.", is written above a solid horizontal line.