



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 24, 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; Dan Fraser, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Jeremy Delisle, DPW; Rick Kenney, Water Dept.; Mike Morris; Lannie Collins.

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/8905?channel=1>

I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting

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

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Citizen Comments: Resident, Mike Morris, addressed the Board about the past few meetings where some of the Hartford Residents could not sit in the Board Room due to the number of non-residents there and they also did not get a chance to speak. Mr. Morris feels the Selectboard is losing the trust of the citizens and the residents should feel welcome at the Board Meetings.

Resident, Lannie Collins, commented that the Selectboard is recently lacking decorum and should follow due process at all of the meetings.

Selectboard Comments: Selectboard Vice-Chair, Dick Grassi commented that the letter recently sent out by Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis should say the Majority of the Board, not the whole Board because he, Mr. Dennis, does not speak for him on this subject.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson said there are improvements to be made with handling the situation of the past three Selectboard meetings. He wanted to commend

Mr. Dennis for handling the situation and he did an overall good job. Mr. Johnson also asked for there to be only one agenda item on the July 30th agenda. Mr. Godfrey insured him that there is only the one agenda item on the agenda for the 30th.

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza asked if on the 30th they could perhaps use clipboard sign ups for speaking as Mr. Christie advised. This could help the process.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis said that the Board should have done a better job presenting this topic to the Town. Mr. Jameson did say that the stories heard at the past meetings were relevant and should be heard. Mr. Jameson is doing what he thinks is right for the Town and is trying to do things the right way so they “stick.”

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis commented that mistakes will be made and he could have done better.

Selectboard

a. Ladder Truck Purchase (Motion Required)

Background: On April 29, 2019 during a routine maintenance inspection of the fire department 75-foot ladder truck a crack in the frame was discovered. The ladder truck was immediately placed out of service. This ladder truck was originally planned for replacement in FY25. In May, the Town Manager, Fire Chief and Finance Director began reviewing options for replacement and financing of this essential and specialized emergency vehicle. On June 3, VLCT-PACIF notified the Town that it would pay a \$147,843 settlement to total the vehicle for damage. Staff advised the Selectboard at its meeting on June 4 that we would be soliciting competitive proposals for a new replacement ladder truck that is either in-production or currently available, and would use the settlement funds towards the purchase.

Funding: Funding to replace fire vehicles has been established in the CIP. The first payment \$94,953.17 would occur from the fire reserve account in FY20. There are funds set aside in the reserve account for the eventual replacement of the ladder in FY25; these funds will be applied to the first lease payment. The rental fees will be funded through encumbrances and the fire reserve. In future years the \$94,953.17 lease payment would be appropriated in the operating budget.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a financing agreement and transfer from reserves for the purchase of a ladder truck from the awarded ladder truck manufacturer for a total amount financed of an amount not to exceed \$801,765. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Adoption of State Template for Road and Bridge Standards (Motion Required)

Background: The formal adoption of the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation Town Road and Bridge Standards is done annually. It certifies

that the Town is maintaining our roads, bridges, and drainage systems in keeping with best management practices.

Discussion: This year the road and Bridge Standards are much more robust than previous years, taking changes from the Municipal General Roads Permit into account for water quality improvement and disaster resiliency. Adoption of the standards qualifies the Town for lower grant match amount and better disaster funding as well.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion that the Selectboard adopts the Vermont Town Road and Bridge Standards. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Wilder Well #1 Pump Station Expansion Contract Award (Motion Required)

Background: Over the last decade, Wilder Well #1 has slowly lost its ability to regenerate effectively, supplying less than half the amount of water it did when it was drilled decades ago. In FY18, a project was approved to drill a new well at the same site, confirm its viability, and then tie it into the Town's water supply system. Late last fall, the drilling for the new well was completed and it supplies us with over 1,000 gallons per minute of clean water.

Over the winter, plans and permits were finalized for the building addition, the new pump, and necessary connective 'plumbing'. The bid process was primarily carried out by our consultant, Otter Creek Engineering.

The bid price for this portion of the project is \$449,000.00. It is budgeted to come out of the Fund 50 Reserve account which has a current balance of \$911,729.25.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to approve the bid award to Russell Construction Services of Rutland, Vermont in the amount of \$449,000. Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d. Department of Public Works Dump Truck Award (Motion Required)

The cost of the purchase is \$159,818. The budget for the overall truck is \$135,000. The truck that is recommended for replacement will be sold to the Wastewater Fund for \$28,500 giving the Highway Department \$163,500 to replace H-6. The Wastewater Department's 1977 truck will be traded to Reed for the value of \$2,000. This will lower the Wastewater Department's acquisition cost of the 1991 truck to \$26,500.

Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to purchase a 2020 6-wheeled dump truck from Reed Truck Service Inc. for \$159,818 less the trade-in allowance. Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e. Calcium Chloride Bid Award (Motion Required)

Background: The Town issued an RFP seeking bids for Chlorides utilized by the Highway Department for routine road maintenance.

The RFP includes request for unit cost of both Calcium Chloride and Magnesium Chloride. The Town however only purchases one product type per season based on cost.

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown made the motion to Authorize the purchase of Chloride from Innovative Surface Solutions for the current fiscal year. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f. Aggregate and Winter Sand Bid Award (Motion Required)

Background: The Town issued an RFP seeking bids for various aggregates utilized by the Department of Public Works.

The RFP includes request for unit cost of crushed gravel, bank run gravel, hard pack, winter sand and winter sand delivered. The form also requested a delivery cost per ton for all products. The Town has a budget of \$40,000 for aggregates for normal operations and utilizes a portion of the \$720,000 Paving and Reclamation budget to cover aggregates utilized in the road reclamation process. The financial impact for FY20 will be that we utilize the entire budget due to increases in aggregate prices and increased product use due to erosion repairs and installation of necessary erosion control practices due to events outside of our control. This impact will be greater in coming fiscal years as we attempt to bring our roadways into compliance with new State rules intended to protect water quality.

Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion to Authorize the purchase of aggregate materials from Blaktop, Inc. for the current fiscal year. In the event of shortages of necessary products at Blaktop, Inc., the Department of Public Works is authorized to purchase said products from Pike Industries, Inc. on an as needed basis during the current fiscal year. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g. Ratification of Strategic Priorities List (Motion Required)

Background: The Selectboard held three workshops in May and June to develop the strategic priorities for the FY20 and FY21 years. At the Special Meeting on July 9, the Selectboard reviewed the rank ordering spreadsheet developed by Selectboard Member Alan Johnson. The preliminary ranking is attached. The final individual Selectboard member's rankings were to be submitted to Alan prior to the July 16 meeting for compilation.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis commented that at Vermont Law School

there is a New Economy Department. He is sure someone from that department would be available to come to a Selectboard meeting and speak. He suggests this would be helpful to hear more about it before the next Budget Season.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to adopt the Strategic Priorities for FY20 and FY21 subject to spelling corrections. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

III. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting. (Motion Required)

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:15P.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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Grassi", is written over a horizontal line.