



**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 13, 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; Jameson Davis, Selectboard Member; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Member; Kim Souza, Selectboard Member; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Lana Livingston, Administrative Assistant; Lori Hirshfield, Director of Planning and Development; Lannie Collins; Scott Fletcher; Jesse Vazzano; Scott Farnsworth; Joie Finley; Geraldine Williams; Scott Neal; George Luck, Gabrielle Lucke; Michelle Kersey; Michael Redmond; Mike Chamness.

Absent: Dan Fraser, Selectboard Member

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/8973?channel=1>

- I. **Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting:** Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Local Liquor Control Board: N/A**
- IV. **Order of Agenda:** There were no changes to the Order of the Agenda.
- V. **Selectboard**

1. **Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements:**

There were no Citizen comments.

Selectboard Comments: Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi reminded people that the Town Taxes are due this coming Friday, August 16. He also reported that this year the payments are coming in slower than last year by a week.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis addressed the Board and the viewers about some issues that he felt he needed to speak to. Mr. Davis spoke briefly about the

reasons that the proposed amendment needed to be passed and the future of the Town as a Welcoming Town.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis enjoyed this past Saturday at the Abenaki and Indigenous People day here at the Park.

Mr. Dennis also congratulated the Hartford Fire Department upon earning the 8th certification.

Mr. Dennis was saddened because of the people that were taken into custody over the weekend.

2. Appointments: Homelessness Committee Interviews and Appointments.

- a. Mike Chamness
- b. Joie Finley
- c. Scott Fletcher
- d. Michelle Kersey
- e. Michael Redmond
- f. Jesse Vazzano
- g. Renee Weeks: could not attend
- h. Ex officio Karl Ebbighausen, Hartford Police Sergeant
- i. Ex officio Whitney Hussong, Vermont Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services/Police Social Worker

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to appoint Mike Chamness; Joie Finley; Scott Fletcher; Michelle Kersey; Michael Redmond; Jesse Vazzano; Renee Weeks; ex officio Karl Ebbighausen; ex officio Whitney Hussong to the Ad Hoc Hartford Committee on Homelessness until completion of the Charge, not later than March 7th, 2020. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. Mr. Davis then added to the motion to also appoint a School District employee as appointed by the Superintendent and an employee from Planning. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson offered to be the Selectboard Liaison to the Committee until Dan Fraser is back and then they would decide who would be the permanent liaison to the Town of Hartford Homelessness Committee. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Joie Finley agreed to organize the first meeting.

3. Town Manager's Report: Significant Activity Report period ending August 13, 2019.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/165>

Town Manager, Brannon Godfrey reported that one of the Properties for the Condemnation Hearing has asked for an extension. The Selectboard agreed to meet an extra time on Tuesday, October 1st.

4. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Regional Plan Update (Informational/Motion)

The Selectboard was briefed on the proposed update and recommended edits. **Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter as presented to the TRORC Board and to authorize the Town Representative to vote No on the Regional Plan should they see fit. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

5. Commission Meeting Reports:

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown attended the Historic Preservation Commission. They met with the Oral History Project people. They are next discussing a look forward to the cemeteries needs.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson attended the Energy Commission. They are looking into creating a revolving loan fund for energy needs. The State of Vermont may help them financially to do this. Mr. Johnson also reported that the Town has received a grant to help replace the roof of the Bugbee Center.

Selectboard Chair, Simon Dennis commented on the annual workplan. The Board will be focusing on using the newly formed rubric to organize the Capital Improvements list.

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

Approve Tax Sale Properties

Approve Payroll Ending: 8/10/2019

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 7/30/2019

Approve A/P Manifest of: 8/9/2019 and 8/13/2019 Selectboard

Meeting Dates of:

- Already Approved: 8/14/2019, 8/19/2019, 8/27/2019, 9/10/2019 and 9/24/2019.

7. Executive Session: Selectboard Member, Kim Souza made the motion Based on advice of counsel, Motion is hereby made, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E) and (F) that premature general public knowledge concerning (pending/probable) litigation involving [Defelice v Town of Hartford] would place the Town of [Hartford] at a substantial disadvantage in that it involves attorney/client communications on matters of strategy, discovery, trial preparation and settlement or litigation options. Motion is made to enter into executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(E) and (F), for the purposes of evaluating and engaging in confidential discussions based upon attorney/client communications and advice with respect to potential settlement of that lawsuit. Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to close the Executive Session. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- a. Action pending from the Executive Session

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to approve that the Town consent and ratify the settlement of the Defelice Lawsuit as recommend by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

8. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting. (Motion Required)

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson 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.


