

**TOWN OF HARTFORD
SELECTBOARD MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 6:00pm
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; Dan Fraser, 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; Scott Hausler, Director of Parks & Recreation; Gail Ostrout, Director of Finance; Molly Smith; Tom Kahl, Erik Krauss; Lannie Collins; David Briggs.

<http://catv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/10694?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 – no changes.**
- V. **Selectboard**
 1. **Public, Selectboard Comments and Announcements: TBD**
 2. **Appointments**
 - a. Consider the Appointment of Molly Smith to a three-year term on the Energy Commission beginning December 17, 2019 and ending December 16, 2022.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to appoint Molly Smith to a three-year term on the Energy Commission beginning December 17, 2019 and ending December 16, 2022. Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b. Consider the Re-Appointment of Karen Watson to a three-year term on the Tree Board beginning December 17, 2019 and ending December 16, 2022.

Selectboard Member, Jameson Davis made the motion to re-appoint Karen Watson to a three-year term on the Tree Board beginning December 17, 2019 and ending December 16, 2022. Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. **Town Manager's Report:** This Significant Activity Report ending December 13th.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/175>

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

- a. TIF Update and Draft Warrant Language (Information Only)

Lori Hirshfield, Director of Planning and Development presented an overview of the Town's TIF District approved by the state in 2011. The District encompasses downtown WRJ on both sides of the river. Since 2014, the Town voters have authorized projects and financing for \$9,203,000 of Town infrastructure improvements to stimulate private investment in the TIF District. This leaves \$3,797,000 of the approved \$13,000,000 Financing Plan for additional projects in the District.

The focus of the discussion was to:

- review the current status of the TIF program,
- review remaining projects for implementation of the TIF District Plan, and
- consider how to proceed with the remaining TIF projects for the March and November 2020 Town voting days given limited TIF Funds and the Town's ability to incur TIF Program debt ending on March 31, 2021.

Next Steps: is for the Selectboard to provide input/direction on projects for the March 2021 Town Meeting vote for further review and action at the January 7, 2020 Selectboard meeting.

Citizen, David Briggs spoke to the Board about the Hartford Development Corporation. A WRJ downtown committee of business people. Mr. Briggs suggested that the Corporation could be reconstituted and be of benefit to the Selectboard by offering constructive citizen input.

- b. Parks and Recreation Van Lease Agreement (Motion Required)

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation presented the plan for Funding to lease a municipal van that was approved in the FY20 budget. The Parks & Recreation Department sought proposals for the purchase of a 14-passenger +1 driver van. Following evaluation of proposals, staff recommended the purchase/lease from Alliance Bus Group, Hudson, New Hampshire for a 2020 Mobility Transit U4X with Sliding Door. The terms

of the lease agreement with Key Government Finance include annual payment of \$8,679.87 over a 7-year term with a non-appropriation clause.

Selectboard Member, Alan Johnson made the motion to Authorize the Town Manager to execute the lease agreement with Key Government Finance for the Parks & Recreation Van. Selectboard Member, Dan Fraser seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 1 not in favor (Brown), the motion passed.

- c. Joint Selectboard & School Board Resolution Declaring Climate Emergency (Motion Required)

At its regular meeting on September 24, the Selectboard created the Ad Hoc Climate Advisory Committee and approved a charge. The Committee was charged with drafting proposed language for a Climate Emergency Declaration no later than December 4, 2019. On December 5th, the Ad Hoc Climate Advisory Committee met for the fourth time and voted to propose the attached draft Joint Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency for consideration.

Selectboard Dan Fraser (with a friendly amendment made by Alan Johnson) made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A Joint Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency

TOWN OF HARTFORD, TOWN OF HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

In the year 2019, the Town of Hartford and Town of Hartford School District jointly resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, a 2018 report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that in 2017 the planet had warmed by 1°C (1.8°F) above pre-industrial levels and is accelerating to reach 1.5°C (2.7°F) in 20 to 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Report further states that to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from human activities must fall to 45% of 2010 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming scientific consensus that global warming results from human activities, primarily deforestation and GHG emissions from fossil fuel use; and

WHEREAS, globally there is an exponential increase in natural disasters driven by more energy in the atmosphere from global warming; and

WHEREAS, Vermont is currently experiencing rising temperatures and more intense storms with measurable negative impacts on health, water quality, farms, and forests; and

WHEREAS, Hartford has three rivers flowing through it, and therefore, is disproportionately affected by extreme rain and snow thaw events; and

WHEREAS, Hartford roads face degradation from higher temperatures, active damage from storms, and operational impacts from flooding, fires, and landslides; and

WHEREAS, more frequent and increasingly violent storms are disrupting water supplies and causing wastewater to be released into rivers and lakes; and

WHEREAS, to achieve such reductions will require rapid transformational change across all sectors toward energy efficiency, renewable energy, and more resilient development; and

WHEREAS, the climate emergency is adversely affecting the health and wellbeing of millions of people, and is threatening the lives and livelihoods of billions with malnutrition, floods,

destructive winds and precipitation, tsunamis, species extinction, landslides, extreme heat and cold, droughts, wildfires, increases in ground-level ozone, and infectious diseases; and WHEREAS, the climate emergency disproportionately affects the most disadvantaged members of society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Hartford and Town of Hartford School District jointly declare that a climate emergency exists which threatens local, regional, national, and international communities, with a real and immediate danger to human health and safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Hartford and Town of Hartford School District both make mitigation of global warming and adaptation to the effects thereof a defining focus for planning, funding, and action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Hartford and Town of Hartford School District commit to reducing town-wide GHG emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by 2025 and achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hartford's response to the climate emergency be just and equitable, especially with respect to the most vulnerable and impacted members of society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that both the Selectboard and the School Board will take into account the fiscal impacts of the climate emergency, balancing costs of action and inaction on the climate, environment, local economy, human health and safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Hartford and Town of Hartford School District will produce an action plan by the end of September 2020 that identifies action steps in response to the climate emergency and explains how progress will be tracked and measured; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Hartford and Town of Hartford School District will update the public annually on progress toward the mitigation and adaptation goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Selectboard and School Board issue a call to action to all residents and businesses of Hartford to take steps toward eliminating fossil fuel use, such as weatherizing buildings; installing efficient electric heating, cooling, and renewable generation systems; walking, biking, public transit, and switching to electric vehicles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Selectboard and School Board call on state, national, and international leaders to declare a climate emergency, to enact just and equitable policies to eliminate fossil fuel use and other efforts to halt global warming as quickly as possible, and to fully prepare for those effects of the climate emergency to which we fail to avoid.

- d. Joint Meeting with the School Board: Jan. 13, 2020 Informational meeting on Town Meeting Warrant (Information Only)

As part of the annual Town Meeting cycle, an Informational Meeting on the items proposed for consideration on the Town Meeting agenda has traditionally been held in early January, prior to the preparation of the

This meeting will be a Joint Meeting with the School Board, and will be on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Hartford High School Auditorium. This is not a statutorily required meeting, however it is an opportunity to gauge public interest in ballot issues including potential bonds, budgets and other questions, such as the Welcoming Hartford Ordinance and Climate Emergency Resolution. The Town will have a TIF bond and potentially other capital projects such as parking improvements and outdoor pool for indebtedness to be considered on the Town Meeting ballot. There are no bond

issues proposed by the School Board for the 2020 Town Meeting at this time.

- e. Authorization for the Chair to sign AP & payroll manifest on behalf of the Selectboard on December 31st (Motion Required)

The Selectboard will not meet on December 31, 2019, a regular meeting night on the eve of a holiday. The Selectboard will have already met for three meetings in December, and will have five meetings in January: two regular meetings (Jan. 14 & 28); two budget workshops (Jan. 7 & 9); one informational meeting (Jan. 13).

Selectboard Clerk, Dennis Brown made the motion to Authorize the Chair to sign the Accounts Payable and Payroll manifests on December 31, 2019 on behalf of the Selectboard, with ratification by the Selectboard at its next meeting on January 7, 2020. Selectboard Member, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f. Budget Workshop: (Information Only)

- Governmental - Selectboard, Boards, Manager, Legal, Building, Finance, Assessor, Tax Collection (Fund 10: 111,115, 121,141,161, 171,173, 174, 175)
- Parks & Recreation (Fund 10: 511, 514,515, 516, 521, 524, 527, 528,530, 531)
- Planning & Development (Fund 10: 611, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627)
- Debt Service (Fund 10: 912) – Discussed under Governmental.

- 5. **Commission Meeting Reports:** Kim Souza reported that the Design Review Committee's latest review was of the Main Street Museum's Tower improvements. Dick Grassi said the Parks & Recreation Commission will see you on the 9th of January.

- 6. **Consent Agenda: 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 Payroll Ending: 12/14/2019

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 12/3/2019 and 12/10/2019

Approve A/P Manifest of: 12/13/2019 & 12/17/2019

Selectboard Meeting Dates of:

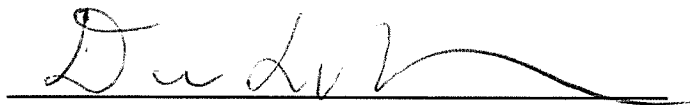
- Already Approved: 1/7/2020, 1/9/2020, 1/14/2020 (1/16 snow date) and 1/28/2020.

- Other: 1/13/2020 Town Meeting Warrant Informational Meeting (HHS)

7. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting (Motion Required):

Selectboard Vice Chair, Dick Grassi made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 10:15 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Grassi", is written over a horizontal line.