##### **Town of Hartford**

## **Annual Town Meeting**

## **For Fiscal Year**

## **July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

**Minutes**

July 6, 2021 8am - Lianne Bedard, Town Clerk, opened the meeting by reading the greetings.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of Hartford, in said County, qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Hartford Town Hall on the 6th day of July, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. to act on Articles 1 and 2. The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. and the Moderator will recess the meeting until Saturday, the 10th day of July, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hartford Town Hall to act on Articles 3 through 49.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at said Meeting. Carole Perry nominated Daryl Boness as Moderator. No other nominations were received.

**Vote by paper ballot=3 for Daryl Boness.**

Daryl Boness continued the meeting by reading Article 2.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot one Selectman for a term of three (3) years, one RSU#10 Director for a term of three (3) years, and one Road Commissioner for a term of two (2) years.

Daryl Boness verified the ballot count from the clerk, showed that the ballot box was empty, and opened the polls for voting.

Daryl Boness closed the polls at 8pm, recessed the meeting until July 10, 2021 9am, and called for the counting of votes.

Results of the election:

**Selectman: Lee Holman- 148 votes (Elected)**

 **Sybilla Pettingill- 80 votes**

 **Blank- 2 votes**

**Road Commissioner: Alan McNeil- 198 votes (Elected)**

 **Write ins- 6**

 **Blank- 26**

**RSU#10 Director: All write in votes**

**Chad Culleton- 17 votes (Elected)**

**Various write ins- 34**

**Blank- 179**

Residents present on July 10, 2021=38.

Daryl Boness opened the town meeting on July 10, 2021 9am, presented the American Spirit Award, certificate and flowers to Lorelee Swan honoring her 20 years of volunteering at the Hartford Clothing Center, Hartford Food Bank and for serving on the Hartford Board of Selectmen.

Daryl appointed Scott Cole as deputy moderator for the remainder of the meeting.

Scott Cole took the oath of office, read the results of the election, had Alan McNeil and Lee Holman take their oaths of office, and read articles beginning with number 3.

Article 3: Lee Holman nominated the board of selectmen as General Assistance Directors. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes**

Cathy Lowe nominated the board of selectmen as Assessors. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes**

Alan McNeil nominated **Lennie Eichman** as Budget committee member. Robert L’Heureux second.

Leslie Boness nominated **Doreen Maxwell** as budget committee member. Brandon

McNeil second.

Leslie Boness nominated **Robert L’Heureux** as budget committee member. Brandon McNeil second.

Jason Landry nominated **Elise Harvey** as budget committee member. Lee Holman second.

Brandon nominated **Christine Mumau** as budget committee member. Michael Mccarron second.

**Vote by show of hands on the 5 nominated budget committee members=Yes.**

Lee nominated Clarence Hill as Fire Warden. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes**

Article 4: A motion was made by Lee Holman to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum up to $7,803.89 from Fund Balance to cover over expenditures of the Sanitation Account for FY20. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes**

Article 5: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum up to $30,626.82 from Fund Balance to cover over expenditures of the Winter Roads Account for FY20. Nancy Sullivan second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes**

Article 6: A motion was made by Lee Holman to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum up to $725.00 from Fund Balance to cover over expenditures of the Social Services Account for FY 20. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes**

Article 7: A motion was made by Polly Chasse to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to $89.89 from Fund Balance to cover over expenditures of the General Assistance Account for FY20. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 8: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to $209.90 from Fund Balance to cover over expenditures of the General Assistance Account for FY21. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 9 : A motion was made by Nancy Sullivan to see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum up to $2,244.00 from Fund Balance to cover over expenditures of the Social Services for Account FY21. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 10: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will vote to raise $453,590.00 for the Winter Roads Account. Polly Chasse second.

Discussion: it was explained that costs of sand, gas etc. are going up. Three other towns plowing costs, which were higher than ours, were compared to Hartford. It was stated that the salt price has not increased in recent years. Sumner’s situation was explained in regards to how they have rejected bids twice due to the increases and it was going out to bid once again. The miscellaneous account under winter roads was for the hourly rate of clearing intersections with a loader. A resident stated that in past years the contractor had waited until the storm was over before plowing roads and the old contract only required 2 trucks which has been revised to require 5 trucks.

A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to call the question. Lennie Eichman second.

Vote by show of hands to call the question=Yes.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 11: A motion was made by Lee Holman to see if the Town will vote to raise $348,500.00 for the Summer Roads Account. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 12: A motion was made by Nancy Sullivan to see if the Town will vote to raise $237,877.35 for the Administration Account. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 13: A motion was made by Polly Chasse to see if the Town will vote to raise $92,974.18 for the Public Safety Account. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 14: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise $96,118.00 for the Sanitation Account. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 15: A motion was made by Lee Fernald to see if the Town will vote to raise $3,000.00 for the Contingency Account. Daryl Boness second.

Discussion: it was explained that this account is used for unforeseen overages in any accounts and that it will lapse to fund balance if not used.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 16: A motion was made by Marguerite Dudley to see if the Town will vote to raise $1,000.00 for the General Assistance Account. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 17: A motion was made by Nancy Sullivan to see if the Town will vote to raise $1,000.00 for Hartford Recreation. Peggy Matthews second.

Discussion: it was explained that the money is used for the swimming lessons and beach maintenance. This account is not used for the ballfield or RR track maintenance.

Lennie Eichman moved to amend the amount to $2000.00. Nancy Sullivan second.

Vote by show of hands to amend amount to $2000.00=Yes.

A motion was made by Richard Dyer to call the question. Polly Chasse second.

Vote by show of hands to call the question=Yes.

**Vote by show of hands on amended article for $2000.00=Yes.**

Article 18: A motion was made by Polly Chasse to see if the Town will vote to raise $100.00 for the Increase Robinson Library. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 19: A motion was made by Polly Chasse to see if the Town will vote to raise $600.00 for the Hartford Heritage Society. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 20: A motion was made by Jacqueline Jasud to see if the Town will vote to raise $300.00 for the area Snowmobile Clubs. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 21: A motion was made by Marguerite Dudley to see if the Town will vote to raise $300.00 for the Bear Pond Association. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 22: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will vote to raise $300.00 for Lake Anasagunticook Association. Polly Chasse second.

Discussion: it was explained that the money is used for water testing. If the water tests find issues then they are addressed.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 23: A motion was made by Lee Holman to see if the Town will vote to raise $1,000.00 for the Zadoc Long Free Library. Lee Fernald second.

Discussion: it was shared that the library is a wonderful place and state park passes can be loaned out for any state park in Maine.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 24: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise $1,000.00 for Hartford News. Lee Fernald second.

Discussion: the newsletter was not printed last year so there was money left over.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 25: A motion was made by Lee Fernald to see if the Town will vote to raise $2,500.00 for RCAM. Judy Hamilton second.

Discussion: it was stated that RCAM supports 14 towns, the Hartford food bank, Hartford food shed, and offers seedlings to residents. It was also stated that Hartford would have to raise $40,000.00 for general assistance if it wasn’t for RCAM.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 26: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will vote to raise $1,000.00 for Community Concepts. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 27: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to raise $593.00 for Life Flight. Polly Chasse second.

Discussion: it was stated that there is a life flight paramedic who lives in Hartford and 5 patients were flown from Hartford in the past year. The service costs thousands of dollars. There was a recent incident where the Hartford resident did not survive but the helicopter responded and took off from Hartford with the patient within half an hour of the call.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 28: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise $750.00 for Safe Voices. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to vote on articles 29-34 as one. Nancy Sullivan second.

A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to amend the motion to vote on articles 29-33 as one. Al Borzelli second.

Vote by show of hands on the amendment=Yes.

A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to call the question. Lee Fernald second.

Vote by show of hands to call the question=Yes.

Vote by show of hands to vote on articles 29-33 as one=Yes.

Discussion: it was stated that if towns contribute it helps the social services to get federal assistance. It was asked to consider what the town can afford. It was questioned how many residents know about these services? Residents are normally notified of the social services when they apply for general assistance. There are brochures in the town office.

Article 29: Sexual Assault Prevention **$400.00** has been Requested

Article 30: Seniors Plus. **$500.00** has been Requested

Article 31: Tri County Mental Health. $**1,500.00** has been Requested

Article 32: Lake Region Seniors. **$300**.

Article 33: Hope Association. **$300.00** has been Requested

**Vote by show of hands on the requested amounts of articles 29-33=Yes.**

Article 34: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise $100.00 for the Cancer resource of Western Maine. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 35: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to appropriate $100,000.00 from Fund Balance to reduce the 2022 tax commitment. Judy Hamilton second.

Discussion: it was explained that stimulus money has been promised to the Town of Hartford but has not yet arrived. Currently, the town does not have enough in Fund Balance to use to reduce taxes. We could use a tax anticipated note but would have to pay interest on the amount borrowed.

A motion was made by Robert L’Heureux to amend the article to state “vote to appropriate $100,000.00 from Fund Balance to reduce the 2022 tax commitment in the event anticipated stimulus funds are received before tax commitment. Al Borzelli second.

Vote by show of hands on amendment=Yes

A motion was made by Al Borzelli to call the question. Richard Dyer second.

Vote by show of hands to call the question=Yes.

**Vote by show of hands as amended=Yes.**

Article 36: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will vote to approve the amendments to the Administrative Ordinance for the Town of Hartford as written in Attachment A. Richard Dyer second.

Discussion: it was stated that the proposed ordinance covers a lot of our committee ordinances it does not cross reference to the existing committee ordinances and it has to be checked to make sure there are not conflicts between existing ordinances. There is an ordinance that contains bid committee language but that is not included in this new ordinance. On Page 76 section 2-22 A it mentions competitive bidding on all major purchases but in the same section there is a complete contradiction. There are money figures in the committee ordinances but they are not included here and that this ordinance needs more work. It was stated that figures were left out on purpose to avoid arguments and that the administrative ordinance for the town of Bethel was used as a guide.

A motion was made by Al Borzelli to call the question. Robert L’Heureux second.

Vote by show of hands to call the question=Yes.

**Vote by show of hands on article=No.**

Article 37: A motion was made by Lee Holman to see if the Town will vote to approve the amendments to the Shoreland Zoning ordinance for the Town of Hartford as written in Attachment B. Richard Dyer second.

Discussion: it was stated that the ordinance was not ready for town meeting and that the planning board is working on amendments.

**Vote by show of hands=No.**

Article 38: A motion was made by Leslie Boness to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to use overlay for accounts exceeding appropriated amounts, including tax abatements and applicable interest and to set the amount of overlay at no more than 2.5% of the Tax Commitment. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 39: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a multi-year contract for Mowing of Municipal Grounds and Cemeteries. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 40: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Three-Year contract with Turner Rescue and with Buckfield Rescue to continue to provide services to the town. Al Borzelli second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 41: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes. Sale or sales of said properties is to be by sealed bid and advertised seven (7) days in advance by posting in two conspicuous public places and by placing an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation, and to execute Municipal Quit Claim Deeds for such property. The Board of Selectmen may, without auction or advertisement, sell to the person or persons to whom a property was taxed at the time the property was acquired by the Town or to their heirs or assigns, such property at the amount of the accrued taxes, interest, lien costs and administrative fees as determined by State Law and the Board of Selectmen and therefore shall execute and deliver a Municipal Quit Claim Deed for such property. Polly Chasse second.

**Vote by show of hands=yes.**

Article 42: A motion was made by Al Borzelli to see if the Town will vote to fix the following dates on which real and personal property taxes shall be due and payable: one half of the tax shall be due and payable on December 1, 2021 and one half of the tax shall be due and payable on May 1, 2022. Lee Fernald second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 43: A motion was made by Leslie Boness to see if the Town will vote to fix an annual interest rate of the maximum allowed by State Law (currently 6%) on real and personal property taxes not paid on or before December 1, 2021 and May 1, 2022. Judy Hamilton second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 44: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will fix an annual interest rate of two percent (2%) on excess taxes paid when tax abatements are issued by the Board of Assessors (M.R.S.A. 36, Section 506A, as amended). Marguerite Dudley second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 45: A motion was made by Judy Hamilton to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or the Deputy Tax Collector to accept prepayments of property taxes not yet due or assessed and to fix an annual interest rate of zero percent (0) on taxes paid prior to the due date. (M.R.S.A. 36, Section 506, amended). Lennie Eichman second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

##### Article 46: A motion was made by Al Borzelli to see if the Town will vote to accept all revenues from Cost Sharing Projects and from State and Federal agencies. This revenue will be distributed to the appropriate accounts as intended by said agencies. Judy Hamlton second.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 47: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature and appropriate and apply the total estimated amount of $255,531.16 against the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation. Lee Fernald Second.

Fund category Estimated Amount

##### State Municipal Revenue Sharing……………………… $120,000.00

##### Local Road Assistance Program……………..................... $ 34,000.00

##### Tree Growth Reimbursement………….……….……...... $ 0.00

Veterans Exemption Return …………………………..... $ 750.00

Snowmobile Registration Refund…………….………… $ 700.00

Homestead Exemption Return…………………................ $100,000.00

 Total $255,450.00

Discussion: it was noted that the amount listed in the article did not match the diagram below and we were voting on the amount listed in the article. $255,531.16

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 48: A motion was made by Leslie Boness to see if the Town will vote to apply the local revenue amount of $250,150.00 against the total amount authorized to be raised by Taxation to reduce the FY20 Tax Commitment. Judy Hamilton second.

Discussion: it was noted that the fiscal year in the article is incorrect and should state FY2022.

**Vote by show of hands=Yes.**

Article 49: A motion was made by Nancy Sullivan to see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Hartford by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. Richard Dyer second.

**Vote by secret ballot= Yes 16, No 4. Article passes.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

Minutes prepared by:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Lianne M. Bedard, Town Clerk

It was approved to reduce the tax commitment by $100,000.00 if we receive the stimulus before tax commitment (article 35).

How your tax bill is figured. The first example is without the $100,000.00 from Fund Balance

Total amount approved= $1,246,602.53

Hartford share of RSU#10 budget= $1,429,749.47

Hartford share of Oxford County budget= $ 123,206.00

Plus estimated Overlay= $ 20,000.00

 Total $2,819,558.00

Minus Local Revenue= $ -250,150.00

Minus State Revenue= $ -255,531.16

 Total $2,313,876.84

Divided by estimated valuation $114,558,638.40

Mil Rate 2021-2022 $20.00 per each thousand of valuation.

This example is with the $100,000.00 from Fund Balance

Total amount approved= $1,246,602.53

Hartford share of RSU#10 budget= $1,429,749.47

Hartford share of Oxford County budget= $ 123,206.00

Plus estimated Overlay= $ 20,000.00

 Total $2,819,558.00

Minus $100,000.00 from Fund Balance $ -100,000.00

Minus Local Revenue= $ -250,150.00

Minus State Revenue= $ -255,531.16

 Total $2,213,876.84

Divided by estimated valuation $114,558,638.40

Mil Rate 2021-2022 $19.00 per each thousand of valuation.

The Mil Rate for 2020-2021 was 18.90 per thousand of valuation.

 Mil Rate Mil Rate

 19.00 20.00

If your property value is $100,000.00 your tax bill will be either $1900.00 or $2000.00

If your property value is $200,000.00 your tax bill will be either $3800.00 or $4000.00

If your property value is $300,000.00 your tax bill will be either $5700.00 or $6000.00

These are only estimates since we do not know how much our valuation will increase and do not have all of the actual State Revenue figures.