Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

May 18, 2023

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Susan Goulet, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Cemetery Committee member Ken Violette, Constable Steve Elsman, residents Rebecca Elsman, David Theriault, Kathleen Theriault, and Bonny Bishop.

Present via Zoom: Nanci Weed, Richard Dyer, Lennie Eichman, Tim Kirwan, Natasha Cote, and Jessica Brooks.

I Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II Cathy motioned to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting and May 11, 2023 Special Selectmen’s Meeting. Susan second. All in favor=3.

III. Cathy motioned to approve Warrant 22 and Payroll Warrants May 10, 2023 & May 17, 2023. Susan second. All in favor=2. Abstained=1.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: Richard reported that an informational budget meeting will be held Monday, May 22, 2023 6:30pm at BHS and the Hartford share of the budget should be similar to the prior year amount. Residents will receive a mailing from RSU#10 soon.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Road Commissioner (attached).

A complaint was received from the Pine Shore Association concerning a blocked culvert on the town road causing washouts on the private road in the subdivision on May 1, 2023. Lianne shared that the storm of May 1st caused debris from the ditches to wash into the culverts around town and the Association has applied to MEMA to cover damages caused by the storm.

3. Constable Report: None.

4. CEO Report: None.

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: None.

7. Ordinance Committee: None.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report

a. Bank Reconciliations April: The Board reviewed the bank reconciliations and the report submitted by the Treasurer (attached).

10. Cemetery Committee Report: Ken reported that brush cutting at Hartford Center Cemetery has been completed and is ready to be picked up. A workshop will be held Saturday, May 20, 2023 to clean and straighten stones at Hartford Center Cemetery. Cathy and Susan will place flags on veteran’s graves Saturday and next week and will also complete the cemetery inspections to make sure they are mown and clean of debris. Cathy will speak to Ramsey Ludlow concerning the property lines of the Hartford Center Cemetery so that tree removal may be completed.

V Calendar Reminders

 a. Town Office Closed Monday, May 29, 2023

 b. RSU 10 Budget Vote May 31, 2023 6:30pm MVHS

VI Unfinished Business:

 1. ATV Road Use: It was requested that all town roads be opened to ATV use.

Discussion included: A portion of Church Street was opened to ATV use in 2019 but signs were never installed, Susan researched the process and stated that the speed limit for ATV’s would be 25mph, signs must be installed at the beginning and end of each section of road opened to ATV’s, access would be allowed dawn to dusk with no nighttime access, ATV’s are required to travel in the same direction as vehicles, a form must be submitted to the State, state roads are allowed to be included, signs may be available free of charge from the state, we can make our own signs, ATV’s now travel very fast in order to not get caught on town roads, should be limited access to prevent accidents, we could rescind the decision if abused, 500’ is currently allowed from trail to trail, town meeting approval is not required, some are against the idea, prepare a list of proposed roads to open, Susan and David will work on a list of roads to open.

Lee motioned to hold a hearing on opening roads to ATV use on the same day as the Public Hearing, which will be held on June 8, 2023 @7pm. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

VII Open Session:

1. A resident would like to help to raise donations for an outside meeting notification sign at the town office. The cost would be up to $18,000.00.

2. A resident complained of junkyards in town and asked how many expired junkyard licenses there are that were never renewed and why the law is not enforced. Back fees should be collected for all previous license holders. Why are junkyards not monitored? Are all vehicle fluids drained? Are there cement pads? Neighbor has a well within 300’ of a junkyard and if contaminated could cause health issues. A Board member stated that before the license was approved the owner of the junkyard moved all disabled vehicles to the junkyard area, logs are being kept and are being submitted to the town office since the road postings have lifted, and the other two lots are in the process of being cleaned up. It was stated that the licensed junkyard holder is bringing loam to the junkyard, it was asked has anyone verified that vehicles are being drained, the Board inspected and saw containers with fluids, the Board can perform another inspection, a public hearing was held before the license was approved and he was required to comply with the law, an agreement was signed by the license holder, not the only property with junk vehicles on it-there are many, the CEO, who is getting a raise should be inspecting the junkyard, Tucker Road property has many cars unregistered that they store items in and they are causing water pollution, Hartford center properties need to be cleaned up, why are we not trying to make Hartford nice, we should beautify the town.

3. Free sale drop off will be Friday June 2, 4-7pm. Yard sale June 3rd 9am. June 4th is clean-up day. Last year all leftovers were taken to Goodwill except clothing which was placed in the donation bin.

4. Catering permit/Mac’s Grill: Cathy motioned to approve the catering permit. Susan second. All in favor=3.

VIII New Business:

1. Budget request/Lake Anasagunticook Association 2023-2024/Tim Kirwan: $500.00 request was received on May 13, 2023. Request deadline was December 31, 2022, the warrant has been signed, and the town report is being printed. The Board declined to act on the late request.

2. Employee evaluation date: The Board agreed to hold employee evaluations on June 5, 2023 beginning at 5:30pm. (note: date may be changed due to the hall being unavailable that day).

3. Fee Schedule Hearing date: The Board agreed to hold the hearing on June 5, 2023 at 7pm.( note: date may be changed due to the hall being unavailable on that day).

4. RSU# 10 Warrant June 13, 2023: Cathy motioned to approve the RSU 10 warrant. Lee second. All in favor=3.

5. Cathy motioned to enter into Executive session at 8:55pm pursuant to MRSA 1§chapter 13 Section 405(6)(e) Legal advice/Roads. Lee second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned to exit executive session at 9:10pm. Susan second. All in favor=3. No action.

6. Cathy motioned to enter into Executive session at 9:10pm pursuant to MRSA 1§ chapter 13 Section 405(6)(e) Legal advice/Tax Foreclosure: Susan second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned to exit executive session at 9:15pm. Lee second. All in favor=3. No action.

IX Appointments/Resignation: None.

X Training: None.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence.

XII Meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm

Minutes approved by:

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date

Town of Hartford

Road Report

May 18, 2023

We will be meeting with Jeff Sterns on June 1st to plan for hazard mitigation grants.

FEMA will be in town on May 26th to inspect damage from the December 23, 2022 storm.

Roads have been temporarily repaired from the latest storm until FEMA declares the storm a disaster and agrees to help the town with costs.

A small amount of work will be done on the gravel roads to keep them smooth until we get into our new budget.

Submitted by,

Bim McNeil

Road Commissioner

Town of Hartford

Treasurer’s Report

May 18, 2023

The second half of 2022 taxes was due on May 1, 2023. As of this date we have collected 93 percent of the amount due for current year. All accounts with balances unpaid by September of this year will have liens placed upon them.

We still have a few older taxes due from 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 and we hope to have those cleared up soon.

We have collected $31,511.48 over the budgeted revenue amount so far this year. The excess revenue will increase the undesignated fund balance and will offset the amount used to reduce taxes in 2023-2024.

I have contacted the auditor for guidance concerning the anticipated overage in summer roads caused by the repair of washouts from the two storms, 12/23/2022 and 5/1/2023, since FEMA will obviously not reimburse the town before the current fiscal year ends. I have not received an answer as of today.

I am still negotiating interest rates for each CD as they mature. I have tried to negotiate a higher interest rate for the savings and checking accounts but have not been successful.

Even though I have requested, multiple times, for an estimate of Hartford’s share of the 2023-2024 RSU#10 budget, I have not received an answer.

We have sold 70 beach stickers so far this season which equals $1050.00.

Beach sticker revenue 2019=$275.00

Beach sticker revenue 2020=$365.00

Beach sticker revenue 2021=$395.00

Beach sticker revenue 2022=$455.00

An estimate to repair the town office, from the vehicle accident on April 1st, was submitted to the insurance company recently. I have not been notified of their final offer so that construction may begin.

The audit for year ending June 30, 2023 has begun and the auditor will be working remotely again this year which requires all documents to be scanned and emailed.

Christina Howe of RHR Smith, who has worked with the town of Hartford for several years and was a pleasure to work with, no longer works for the company and will be missed. Michelle McMahan, who seems very pleasant, will be working with Hartford this year.

Submitted by,

Lianne Bedard

Treasurer