Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

August 17, 2023

7:00@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

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

Present via Zoom: Nanci Weed, Lennie Eichman, Anita Lewis, and Polly Chasse.

I Susan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

II Susan motioned to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Susan motioned to approve Warrant 28(2022-23), Warrant 3(2023-24), Warrant 4 (2023-24) & Payroll Warrants August 9, 2023 & August 16, 2023. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: None.

2. Road Report: None.

a. Howard Road Obstruction: A resident constructed a rock wall 15’ from the center of Howard Road. Susan motioned to make a phone call and send a letter including the statute and fine/violation information to the property owner instructing him to remove the rock wall as soon as possible. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

3. Constable Report: The Constable reported that three warnings were given this month, five bags of trash were collected and removed, toys and clothing are at the beach, and saplings have been removed with permission from the CEO. The Board suggested leaving the toys at the beach for children to play with.

4. CEO Report: None.

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: The Board reviewed the July 10, 2023 approved meeting minutes. There will be an on-site inspection of the proposed Rocky Mountain subdivision sketch plan on August 28, 2023 at 10am.

7. Ordinance Committee: A member of the Ordinance Committee reported that the committee met on August 16th, all 5 members were present, they elected positions, and the No Spray Ordinance was discussed. CMP will be contacted to meet with the committee. They will be working on a road inventory in the future. Next meeting will be held September 20th at 7pm.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report

 a. Bank reconciliations July 2023: The Board reviewed the bank reconciliations.

b. Sanitation over expenditure=$4,190.73: Susan motioned to use the 2022-23 contingency budget to cover a portion of the over expenditure of the sanitation account and add the remainder to the next annual town meeting warrant for approval. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

 c. Fund Balance Policy: Samples were provided. Tabled.

d. Tax Foreclosure Deadline 8/17/2023: The prior owner did not comply with the deadline of the last chance letter but did send an email and requested that the property be sold by a realtor when the time comes. Lianne responded to the prior owner stating that the State form would be sent to him as required when it is available.

e. Salt Shed Savings: Lee motioned to move the salt shed savings to the general bank account to avoid penalties due the low balance and create a designated salt shed reserve account for the funds. Susan second. All in favor=3.

10. Cemetery Committee Report: A Cemetery Committee member shared that the mowing contractor cut brush at Blake Cemetery and Keith and his grandson cleaned and straightened stones at fuller. Bim will be contacted to see if the cemetery committee could have the 4x4x8 posts in the garage.

11. Solid Waste Committee Report: A Waste Committee member reported that 3 members met on August 9th and is awaiting instruction from the Board. Next meeting will be held Sept. 13th at 6:30pm.

V Calendar Reminders

 1. Town office closed Monday, September 4, 2023

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Bulky Waste Dumpster & Collection issues: Susan is waiting to hear back from Archie’s concerning picking up trash at each household on Labrador Pond Road and Moses Young Road.

VII Open Session:

1. A resident spoke with the CEO about junkyards and was told turning violators of the law in was not recommended due to the cost of litigation. The resident does not agree with this and stated that residents may sue the town if laws are not enforced. A Board member suggested again that the former Buckfield town manager attend a Board meeting to speak about enforcing junkyards. A Board member stated that she had no interested in hearing from the former Buckfield town manager on the excuse that enforcement would cost the town money and that we should be enforce the rules, not pick on one person only, and consistency is key. A resident asked if lawn mowers are included in the law and do we not trust the CEO? A resident stated that enforcement is being questioned and complaints can be made to the Oxford County Commissioners if not enforced.

2. The Board signed the efficiency Maine rebate form since the deadline to apply is August 31st. We can cancel the transaction if necessary.

VIII New Business:

1. Key Policy: The town hall locks have been changed in preparation for town business to be temporarily performed out of the hall during the office repair. The Hall will not be rented during this period and meetings will be held with town officials present. A Board member suggested that no keys be given out to committees in the future. Town officials will open the hall for meetings.

 2. Town Hall Use: Discussed above.

3. Oxford County Commissioners/Appeal: An Appeal application has been made by a resident to the Commissioners concerning the winter road maintenance of the northern section of Darrington Road. All parties are invited to submit statements to the Commissioners before the end of the month. Susan will compose a report and Lee will contact the Commissioners for more information.

4. Tax Abatement 2022: The section of land on Town Farm Road near the river purchased by the town from Robert Russell several years ago was never on the tax maps. The Assessors created an account for the property and corrected the maps but it was not entered as exempt from taxes. Susan motioned to approve the tax abatement for map R03 Lot 18-A in the amount of $2.91for 2022. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IX Appointments/Resignation: None.

X Training: None.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence.

XII Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date