Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

September 1, 2022

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Susan Goulet, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road Commissioner Bim McNeil, residents Morrill Nason, Ken Violette, Bonnie Bishop, Theresa Bennett, Jeff, and non- residents Manley Dakin, Steven Lafreniere, Cheryl Vhale and Jen Smith.

Present via Zoom: Elizabeth, Tom Hamilton, Lennie Eichman, Richard Dyer, Judy Hamilton, NT207 and Dave.

I Cathy called the meeting to order AT 7:05PM.

II Cathy motioned to approve minutes of the August 18, 2022 Selectmen’s meeting. Susan second. All in favor=3.

III. Cathy motioned to approve Warrant 5 and Payroll Warrants of August 24, 2022 and August 31, 2022. Susan second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: It was reported that the School Board has had trouble enforcing the policy of allowing a maximum of three minutes for comments during public comment section of their meetings.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Road Commissioner (attached) and a written complaint of the condition of the upper section of Darrington Road. A Board member asked the Clerk to respond to the complaint with “ We hear you and will plan to budget to do work on the road. Until then perhaps we can place a little material on the road”. It was questioned if residents were legally allowed to plow public roads. The Board member answered “probably not, he knows the condition of the road before he moved there”.

3. Constable Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Constable (attached).

4. CEO Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the CEO (attached).

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: None.

7. Ordinance Committee: None.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Treasurer (attached).

a. Bank Reconciliation July 2022: The Board reviewed the bank reconciliations and initialed them.

V Calendar Reminders

 a. Rabies Clinic 12/10/2022

 b. Town Office closed 9/5/2022 Labor Day

 c. Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 due to the Holiday

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Tax Foreclosures: Lee motioned to sign a quit claim deed, once prepared, to Manley Dakin for payment of taxes on Map R04 Lot 8-4. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Steven Lafreniere was present on behalf of his brother Lance Lafreniere’s property tax foreclosure. Steven stated that the signature on the certified returned receipts the clerk received back was not recognized. He stated that he never received the letters. He promised to pay all taxes due on Saturday September 3, 2022 if the Board allowed to quit claim the property back to Lance. They have owned the property since 1982. Lee motioned to sell R05 Lot 22 and R05 Lot 22-A to Lance Lafreniere and issue a quit claim deed, once prepared,if the taxes are paid up to date by 1pm on September 3, 2022. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Susan stated that the Board appreciates the taxpayers who pay their taxes on time and noted that the Town is not in the business of selling properties.

The Board agreed to sell the two remaining properties, R02 Lot 8.2 and R08 Lot 22-1 by sealed bid with bids due by 5:00pm on October 6, 2022 and require a 10% down payment with all bids. The remainder of the purchase bid will be due by 5:00pm on October 20, 2022.

VII Open Session:

1. Lee motioned approve a permit to serve alcohol to Gritty’s at the Bonaventura property. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

2. Lee would like to hold a public seed swap in November to distribute seeds Raymond Hunter received from Tractor Supply. The Board agreed to not charge a fee for the Town Hall nor require insurance.

3. A resident mentioned burning of rubber and stock cards on Berry Road. This was determined to be a police matter not a Town Officer matter.

4. A resident shared concerns of road work needed at the intersection of Main St. and Bartlett Drive. The resident was given the phone number to DOT.

5. A resident requested the constable report to be emailed to her (the report was received at 6:50pm tonight and left no time to email to residents).

6. Lee stated that she has been elected to serve on the County Budget Advisory Committee again.

VIII New Business:

1. Beach Fire: The porta-potty and portions of trees were burnt at the Town Beach. The Fire Marshall is investigating along with the State Police.

2. School House Church St.-Vandalism: It was reported that the door to the building was open and desks and books knocked over. A person has offered to volunteer his time as a caretaker of the building.

3. Fire/Rescue Contracts-Buckfield: Lee motioned to accept the three year Buckfield Fire/Rescue contracts as amended to include Labrador Pond Road and Nezinscot Mesa. Susan second. All in favor=3.

4. Fire/Rescue Contracts-Turner: Lee motioned to approve the three year Turner Fire/Rescue contracts. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

5. File maker Pro purchase-Cemetery Database: Judy Hamilton and her sister Jane Adams worked to create a cemetery database which is now on the Town website for viewing. Judy would like the Town to purchase Filemaker Pro 18 to allow the Town to make changes to the database and perhaps for use in other areas. It was not determined who would be making changes to the cemetery database.

Lee motioned to approve the purchase of Filemaker Pro 18 at the cost of $99.00. Cathy second. All in favor=3. Judy was thanked for all of the hard work they have done for the Town.

 6. Newsletter Deadline 9/15/2022: Sue will work on a letter.

IX Appointments/Resignation: Lee motioned to accept with regrets the resignation of Arthur Harvey from the Ordinance Committee. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned to appoint Arthur Harvey as an alternate Ordinance Committee member for a term of one year. Susan second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned to appoint Jeremy Johnson as Ordinance Committee member with a term to expire in June of 2025. Susan second. All in favor=2. Opposed=1.

X Training: none.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence.

XII Meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm

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

September 1, 2022

The Jeff Sterns project on Darrington & Goding Roads has had the big culverts installed. Rip Rap will be placed on Goding Road next week to finish the project.

Ditching and culvert installation has been started on Green Acres Road from Rte. 140 to the Boness driveway.

The Pratt Hill Road maintenance has been set back a few days due to work on Green Acres Road.

The Pratt Hill Road culvert replacement needs to be put off for now. We need to tell them that we do not want the grant money since it will cost the Town too much to match. We will come up with a different plan. There are no erosion issues, the culvert is not collapsing, and the only issue is the narrowness of the road near the culvert. We would be able to install jersey barriers for safety until we can come up with another plan that we will be able to afford.

Submitted by,

Bim McNeil

Road Commissioner

Report from the Code Enforcement Officer

Date: August 31st , 2022

Year to Date Report:

Year to Date Building Permits Issued: 21 - last yr. 28

Year to Date Plumbing Permits Issued: 16 - last yr. 24

 Complaints:

1) Town Farm Road - Received a complaint from two different residents regarding 2 trailers, mobile home, and vehicles were parked within the road right of way causing a potential hazard. I sent a notice to the property owner to remove the vehicles.

UPDATE: Owner acknowledged the notice and stated he would take care of the situation within 30 days as required.

2) Town Farm Road – Second complainant reported an additional incident at another location where multiple vehicles, farm, and logging equipment were being stored. She reported this in the past and was told there was no violation. I sent notice to the property owner to apply for a junkyard permit. If they fail to apply for a permit, the Selectboard will need to determine if they want to pursue legal action.

UPDATE: August 17th - A valid Junkyard permit was presented by the operator of the yard. No further action will be taken at this time as the permit is up for renewal October 1st 2022.

3) Bear Pond Road – Report from Turner Rescue of an elderly man living alone in unhealthy conditions. Health Officer was informed as well and will perform an inspection of the residence. Complaint was deferred to the Health Officer for follow up.

4) Bear Pond Road – Received 3 calls from concerned citizens regarding the Goodwin project on Rt 219 and the number of trees being trimmed and cut on the shoreline. I went through the process of tree trimming and cutting allowed in the new Shoreland Zoning Ordinance passed by the town at the last town meeting, and the fact it has changed to become less restrictive. They were reassured knowing the project is being monitored.

Inspections:

Rt 219, Goodwin Driveway – July 12th I inspected Ira Goodwin’s driveway to his new project on Little Bear Pond. I noticed a location where the apron was improperly sloped to the unscarified, undisturbed forest floor. I advised Mr. Goodwin and he stated that Main Land was there the day before and also advised him of the same issue and that he is having the contractor address it. I also reminded Mr. Goodwin of the need to place a berm of erosion control mulch between the site of the new building and the pond before excavation on the foundation. He stated he would.

UPDATE: August 18th all issues have been addressed.

Other:

 None

Respectfully Submitted

G. Scott Mills

CEO/LPI Hartford,

September 1, 2022

Good Afternoon

With this unusual heat spell we’ve had, the town beach has been a very busy place. Every time I have gone to the parking lot, one of five cars have had a beach sticker posted on their vehicle. After talking to the vehicle owners, three out offive5 stated they did not attach one to their vehicle because it was too large and the mess it would leave on their vehicle when removed. I also find that one out of three vehicles, do not even have a sticker and I get every excuse. When you tell the rule, that they cannot be on the beach, to people at the beach, they start making up names and addresses of Hartford residents. Stating they are guests of these residents.

Many have turned their Hartford Town Beach stickers into rear view mirror hangers. Some look as if they are photocopies.

I asked many what types of sticker they would attach to their car. The consensus seems to be a smaller sticker to attach to their back window.

I witnessed many boats with people from all over come to our beach and hanging out. You may have no cars in the parking lot and people on the beach.

Along with the porta potty fire and some small camp fire, on the beach, I also delt with children that continued to scream, it seemed like for hours.

 I received reports of thefts from cars parked in out parking area and from items left unattended on the beach.

I have picked up many soiled diapers and empty alcohol containers among other debris each time I have visited.

Suggestions for the future:

Have more than 1 picnic table

Cameras in parking lot

Warning signs about jumping from train bridge

Sign at beach/bridge area about boaters using beach

If I go with trash bag and clean trash, should I bill through my maintenance position?

Sincerely,

Steven Elsman Sr

Constable

Town of Hartford

Treasurer’s Report

August 25, 2022

Auditor, Christina Howe of RHR Smith Inc., and I worked on the 2021-2022 Audit during the week of August 22, 2022 through August 25, 2022. We should expect a draft copy of the Audit in October of 2022.

Discussion included the suggestion of adopting a policy (sample policy attached) concerning the use of Fund Balance. Christina stated that normally towns keep enough in the Fund Balance to cover 2-3 months of invoices. At the end of June 2022 we had enough to cover 6 months of invoices. I did mention to her that we voted to use over $100,000.00 from Fund Balance at the June 2022 town meeting for reserve accounts in the current fiscal year and to cover over expenditures in the last fiscal year. We did discuss the need for an article at the next annual town meeting to approve funds for the overage caused by the large bulky waste collection invoice.

Also recommended was a write-off policy which would authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve small differences that may be discovered in the town accounts.

We discussed during our conversation on the last day of the audit were expenditures to be paid from the Capital Outlay CD Account as approved by the Board on July 25, 2019. The expenditures (attached) were the cost of the HEBE Engineering Firm for the planning of the Pratt Hill Culvert Replacement Project in the amount of $12,500.00. Christina stated that the funds were never withdrawn from the Capital Outlay CD. The current balance of the CD is $6,431.58 due to the withdrawal for the town hall furnace replacement. Voters did approve $2,500.00 to be raised at the June 2022 town meeting to be placed into the CD (this transaction has not been completed yet) which leaves us short $3,568.42. This issue must be resolved.

I have completed the July 2022 Bank Reconciliation. You will see in the Accounts Payable Warrant that I have reissued some of the older uncashed checks.

Residents are steadily sending payments to prevent liens from be recorded for 2021 unpaid taxes.

We continue to issue new plates to Buckfield residents. Since December 2021 we have processed approximately 400 Buckfield registrations which the town receives $7.00 for each=$2,800.00.

 Submitted by,

Lianne Bedard

Treasurer