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

## **Annual Town Meeting**

**Minutes**

## **For Fiscal Year**

## **July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

**June 14, 2022 9:00am**

Lianne Bedard, Town Clerk, opened the annual town meeting by reading the 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 14th day of June, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. to act on Articles 1, 2, and 3. 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 18th day of June, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hartford Town Hall to act on Articles 4 through 58.

Lianne read article one:

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at said Meeting. Carole Perry nominated Daryl Boness as moderator. Three paper ballots were cast for Daryl Boness.

Daryl signed the moderator’s oath of office, read articles 1 & 2, showed that the ballot box and machine ballot box were empty, locked both ballot boxes, and opened the polls for voting.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot one Selectman for a term of three (3) years.

**Results: Brann, Loando 27**

 **Goulet, Susan 145 (elected)**

 **Hill, Clarence 32**

 **Write In’s 5**

 **Blank 6**

Article 3: To vote by secret ballot on the following Local Option referendum questions:

1. Shall the Town of Hartford authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises of licensed establishments on days other than Sundays? M.R.S.A 28-A §123.1

**Results: Yes 170 No 45 Blank 1**

2. Shall the Town of Hartford authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of malt liquor and wine to be consumed off the premises of licensed establishments on days other than Sundays? M.R.S.A 28-A §123.2-A

 **Results: Yes 168 No 46 Blank 2**

3. Shall this the Town of Hartford authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of malt liquor and wine to be consumed off the premises of licensed establishments on Sundays? M.R.S.A 28-A §123.4-A

**Results: Yes 156 No 58 Blank 2**

4. Shall the Town of Hartford authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of malt liquor and wine to be consumed on the premises of licensed establishments on Sundays?

M.R.S.A 28-A §123.7

**Results: Yes 156 No 59 Blank 1**

5. Shall the Town of Hartford authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of malt liquor and wine for consumption on the premises of licensed establishments on Sundays?

M.R.S.A 28-A §123.8

**Results: Yes 155 No 58 Blank 3**

Daryl closed the polls at 8:00pm. After ballots were counted, Daryl recessed the meeting until June 18, 2022 at 9:00am.

**June 18, 2022 9:00am**

**Voters present=55**

Moderator Daryl Boness opened the meeting and appointed Scott Cole as Deputy Moderator. Scott Cole took the oath of office.

**Presentations were made to Lori Swan who did not seek reelection to the Board of Selectmen, Charles Merritt who is retiring as Constable, and Clarence Hill who is retiring as Fire Warden and maintenance employee.**

**Scott read the results of the June 14, 2022 Election then proceeded to the articles asking for motions.**

Article 4: To elect and/or appoint the following Town Officers for the ensuing year or to take any other action thereto:

A motion was made by David Bowen to elect the **Board of Selectmen as General Assistance Director**. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

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

##### A motion was made by David Bowen to elect the **Board of Selectmen as Board of Assessors**. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

##### **Vote by show of hands: Yes.**

### **Five (5) Budget Committee Members:**

### Lennie Eichman nominated Christine Mumau.

Bim McNeil nominated Michael McCarron

Dianne Irving nominated David Bowen

David Bowen nominated Robert L’Heureux

Cathy Lowe nominated Albert Borzelli

Brandon McNeil nominated Lori Swan

Robert L’Heureux withdrew his name from the race

Leslie Boness nominated Doreen Maxwell

Chris Mumau nominated Lennie Eichman

Chris Mumau nominated Leslie Boness

Paper ballots were issued to voters and instructions were given to choose five of the eight nominees. 44 Ballots were cast.

**Vote: Doreen Maxwell 35 Elected**

 **David Bowen 28 Elected**

 **Christine Mumau 27 Elected**

 **Albert Borzelli 26 Elected**

 **Michael McCarron 24 Elected**

 **Leslie Boness 23**

 **Lori Swan 21**

 **Lennie Eichman 20**

One Fire Warden (pursuant to MRSA 25, Part 6, Chapter 315, subsection 2391)

David Bowen nominated the **Board of Selectmen as Fire Warden.**

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

Article 5: A motion was made by David Bowen to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to **$1,678.93** from Fund Balance to cover the over expenditure of the Sanitation Account for FY21. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

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

Article 6: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to **$10,000.00** from Fund Balance to cover the over expenditure of the Sanitation Account for FY22. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

Discussion included concerns of out of towners leaving bulky waste in Hartford, the number of pickups per year, cost of gas and number of trips, look at location for residents to bring items in future which would require an attendant, people leaving items in woods if no place to bring them, and the need for waste committee members.

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

A motion was made by Susan Goulet to act on articles 24 & 25 out of order. This motion was seconded by Dianne Irving.

**Vote by show of hands to vote on articles 24 & 25 out of order: Yes.**

Article 24: A motion was made by David Bowen to see if the town will vote to **discontinue winter maintenance of the Darrington Road** from 298 Darrington Road, North, to the end of the road during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, and April or any part of these months for a period of ten years. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

Discussion included: No break on taxes for the lack of plowing, no mail delivery, no trash pickup, concern of emergency access, cost of rebuilding road and cost of plowing is not included in this year’s budget, and a suggestion of paying a stipend to home owners who do not receive town services.

A motion was made by Scott Mills to move to question. This motion was seconded by David Bowen.

Vote by show of hands to end discussion: Yes.

**Vote by show of hands on article: Yes.**

Article 25: A motion was made by David Bowen to see if the town will vote to **discontinue winter maintenance of the Marble Road** during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, and April or any part of these months for a period of ten years. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

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

Article 7: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to raise **$463,130.00** for the Winter Roads Account. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

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

Article 8: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to raise **$361,079.00** for the Summer Roads Account which includes $156,079.00 for the FY 2022-2023 principal and interest payment on the Maine Bond Bank loan dated November 1, 2021. Total amount borrowed equals $1,400,000.00.

This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

Discussion included: ARPA funds are not reducing the road budget in any way, ARPA funds are planned to be used for water issues on Pratt, Darrington, & Goding Roads, and comments that the road commissioner was very conservative while creating road budget.

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

Article 9: A motion was made by David Bowen to see if the Town will vote to raise **$258,457.55** for the Administration Account. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

Discussion included: Cost of living increases is now 8% and clerk is requesting a $10,000.00 raise, currently in top 4 highest paid clerk in Oxford County, Personnel policy includes cola increase based on performance reviews, unpaid taxes have not been collected since 2016, liens were not done correctly, a lot has been overlooked with the turmoil and turnover of clerks, neighboring towns have been in turmoil, the subject is the position not the person, current clerk has righted the ship, we should be trying to follow personnel policy, have to look at number of hours working and extra time spent, the current clerk agreed to open the office on Saturday again, Hartford is receiving income from Canton and Buckfield from the clerk processing their Motor Vehicle registrations which is temporary, we have watched what the town has become from the past few years, working tirelessly to fix errors, residents are welcomed at any hour that the clerk is in the office whether open or closed, extremely helpful clerk, should pay for knowledge and all of the fixing, position requires knowledge and dedication, dealt with other offices and have to explain what they should know, we should look at process from personnel policy and performance evaluation, question of does Board of Selectmen have plans for Deputy position, and we should move forward with Selectmen recommendation.

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

Article 10: A motion was made by David Bowen to see if the Town will vote to raise **$98,552.00** for the Public Safety Account. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

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

Article 11: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to raise **105,910.60** for the Sanitation Account to include one Bulky Waste Collection Day per year. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

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

Article 12: A motion was made by Paula Dobbins to see if the Town will vote to raise **$3,000.00** for the Contingency Account. This motion was seconded by Lennie Eichman.

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

Article 13: A motion was made by Susan Goulet to see if the Town will vote to raise **$1,000.00** for the General Assistance Account. This motion was seconded by Christine Mumau.

Discussion included: Comments that the amount seemed low, only half of this amount was used in current year, low amount of requests for help, requests are increasing across the County and it may be worth increasing the amount for this account.

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

Article 14: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$2,500.00** for the Capital Outlay Reserve Account for future use. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

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

Article 15. A motion was made by Morrill Nason to see if the Town will vote to appropriate **$30,000.00** from Fund Balance to reduce the 2022-2023 Tax Commitment. This motion was seconded by Christine Mumau.

Discussion included: Why not more than the amount listed and money is needed in fund balance in order to pay bills that are due before tax payments begin to come in.

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

Article 16: A motion was made by Richard Dyer to see if the Town will vote to appropriate **$50,000.00** from Fund Balance for a Town Office Improvement Reserve Account for future use. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

Discussion included: current balance for this account is zero and we have to comply with the comprehensive plan.

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

Article 17: A motion was made by Paula Dobbins to see if the Town will vote to appropriate **$10,000.00** from Fund Balance for the Revaluation Reserve Account for future use. This motion was seconded by Lennie Eichman.

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

Article 18: 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 A. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

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

Article 19: A motion was made by Morrill Nason to see if the Town will vote to approve the amendments to the Beach Ordinance for the Town of Hartford as written in Attachment B. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

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

Article 20: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to approve the **Administrative Ordinance Part II** for the Town of Hartford as written in Attachment C. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

Discussion included: last year statements were made concerning conflicts with existing committee ordinances and that issue has been resolved, competitive bidding, section 2-22, the last sentence negates the first sentence, the current road committee ordinance does have limitations and restraints but will be rescinded, the word “major” is not defined, not comfortable not having restraints in bidding process, town attorney reviewed ordinance, we have to trust our town officials, $5,000.00 limit is too low, should we hold up entire ordinance over not trusting out officials, can be amended in future, we have to keep a hand on the tiller, we operated without this ordinance until now and it will not make any difference whether it is approved now or not, we just heard that the Board did not follow written policy and this ordinance has a fatal flaw and why do we have a Board if we don’t trust them to make decisions.

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

Article 21: A motion was made by Morrill Nason to see if the Town will vote to approve the amendments to the **Road Construction Standards Ordinance** for the Town of Hartford as written in Attachment D. This motion was seconded by Alan McNeil.

Discussion included: The only amendment is to add the words “nor to private roads”.

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

Article 22: A motion was made by Morrill Nason to see if the Town will vote to appropriate **$5,000.00** from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Improvements to the Hartford Beach Walkway and Boardwalk. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

Discussion included: The article contains a typo-there should be a comma after the word beach, the money should benefit every resident of the town, walkway is a hazard-never dries out-people have fallen and it is a liability issue.

A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to close debate. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins. Vote by show of hands to close debate: Yes.

**Vote by show of hands on article: Yes.**

Article 23: A motion was made by Morrill Nason to see if the Town will vote to appropriate **$123,217.58** from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following project: Culvert Replacement on town owned roads including Goding Road, Darrington Road, and Pratt Hill Road. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

Discussion included: Plans to use funds to replace culverts on the three roads with assistance of grants, the erosion affects the lakes and a suggestion to discontinue the portion of Goding Road where bridge is located.

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

Articles 24 & 25 were addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

\*\*The following three articles are contingent on the result of those Town’s respective Town Meetings, allowing the same for their contracts\*\*

Article 26: A motion was made by Susan Goulet to see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts with the Town of **Turner for Fire and Rescue Services**. This motion was seconded by Dianne Irving.

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

A motion was made by Morrill Nason to vote on Articles 27 & 28 together. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet. Vote by show of hands to vote on 27& 28 together: Yes.

A motion was made by Morrill Nason to approve Articles 27 & 28 as written. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

**Vote by show of hands on Articles 27 & 28: Yes.**

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts with the Town of **Buckfield for Fire and Rescue** Services

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts with the Town of **Canton for Fire Services**.

**Social Service Articles**

A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to vote on Articles 29-36 together. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

Vote by show of hands to vote on Articles 29-36 together: Yes.

A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to approve Articles 29-36 as written. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

**Vote by show of hands on Articles 29-36 as written: Yes.**

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$2,000.00** for Hartford Recreation.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$600.00** for the Hartford Heritage Society.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$913.00** for the area Snowmobile Clubs.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$200.00** for the Bear Pond Association.

Article 33 : To see if the Town will vote to raise **$300.00** for Lake Anagunsticook Association.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$250.00** for the Hartford/Sumner Food Bank.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$1,000.00** for the Zadoc Long Free Library.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise **$1,400.00** for Hartford News.

Article 37: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$500.00** for Buckfield Recreation. This motion was seconded by Christine Mumau.

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

Article 38: A motion was made by Morrill Nason to see if the Town will vote to raise **$2,500.00** for RCAM. This motion was seconded by Lee Holman.

Discussion included: General Assistance is low because Hartford partners with RCAM to help residents, RCAM provides funds to the food bank.

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

Article 39: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$1,000.00** for Community Concepts. This motion was seconded by Albert Borzelli.

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

Article 40: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$593.00** for Life Flight. This motion was seconded by Christine Mumau.

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

Article 41: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$750.00** for Safe Voices. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

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

Article 42: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$400.00** for Sexual Assault Prevention. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

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

Article 43: A motion was made by Susan Goulet to see if the Town will vote to raise **$1,000.00** for Seniors Plus. This motion was seconded by Lennie Eichman.

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

Article 44: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$325.00** for Lake Region Seniors. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

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

Article 45: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$300.00** for the Hope Association. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.
**Vote by show of hands: Yes.**

Article 46: A motion was made by Susan Goulet to see if the Town will vote to raise $500.00 for the Cancer resource of Western Maine. This motion was seconded by Lennie Eichman.

A motion was made to amend the amount of the article to **$100.00**. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

**Vote by show of hands to amend the amount to $100.00: Yes.**

**Vote by show of hands on article at $100.00. Yes.**

Article 47: A motion was made by Lennie Eichman to see if the Town will vote to raise **$100.00** for MPBN TV. This motion was seconded by Morrill Nason.

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

Article 48: A motion was made by Christine Mumau to see if the Town will vote to raise **$500.00** for Androscoggin Home Health.

Discussion included many positive comments.

A motion was made by Arlene Nason to end discussion. This motion was seconded by Susan Goulet.

Vote by show of hands to end discussion: Yes.

**Vote by show of hands on article: Yes.**

Article 49: A motion was made by Morrill Nason 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.

Explanation: The Selectmen, as Assessors, are authorized to raise Overlay under Title 36 MRSA section 710 but require your authorization to spend Overlay. Overlay cannot be more than 5% of the Tax Commitment. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

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

Article 50: A motion was made by Morrill Nason 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. This motion was seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Discussion included that if this wording is included in an ordinance then no article is required for town meeting vote and it included in the Administrative Ordinance Part II that was approved today.

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

Article 51: A motion was made by David Bowen 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, 2022 and one half of the tax shall be due and payable on May 1, 2023. This motion was seconded by Ramsey Ludlow.

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

A motion was made by David Bowen to vote on Articles 52-57 together. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

**Vote by show of hands to vote on Articles 52-57 together: Yes.**

A motion was made by David Bowen to approve Articles 52-57 as written. This motion was seconded by Paula Dobbins.

**Vote by show of hands on Articles 52-57: Yes.**

Article 52: To see if the Town will vote to fix an annual interest rate of the maximum allowed by State Law (currently 4%) on real and personal property taxes not paid on or before December 1, 2022 and May 1, 2023.

Article 53: 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

Article 54: 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).

##### Article 55: 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.

Article 56: 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 **$361,459.65** against the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation.

Fund category Estimated Amount

##### State Municipal Revenue Sharing……………………… $187,715.65

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

##### Tree Growth Reimbursement………….……….……...... $ 18,000.00

Veterans Exemption Return …………………………..... $ 831.00

Snowmobile Registration Refund…………….………… $ 913.00

Homestead Exemption Return…………………................ $120,000.00

 Total $ 361,459.65

Article 57: To see if the Town will vote to apply the local revenue amount of **$248,200.00** against the total amount authorized to be raised by Taxation to reduce the FY20 Tax Commitment.

Article 58: A motion was made by David Bowen 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. This motion was seconded by Michael McCarron.

**Vote by written ballot: Yes.**

Minutes prepared by:

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Lianne M. Bedard, Town Clerk