Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

March 7, 2024

7:00@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present: Selectmen Susan Goulet, Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Ordinance Committee member Bonny Bishop, Planning Board members Margaret Matthews, Constable Steven Elsman, Alan Archibault of Archie’s Inc., residents Al Borzelli, Kathleen Theriault, David Theriault, Jason Landry, Kathleen Landry, Donald Webster, Paul, Dana Dudley, Victoria Wright, David Bowen, and Theresa Bennett.

Present via Zoom: Planning Board member Lennie Eichman, residents Dan Larochelle, Thomas Hamilton, Rebecca Elsman, Tim, IPhone, and Samsung SMA.

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

II Lee motioned to approve minutes from the February 15, 2024 Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Lee motioned to approve Warrant 17 & Payroll Warrants January 31, 2024, February 21, 2024, February 28, 2024, and March 5, 2024. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: A Board member reported that progress is being made on the new school. Mr. Culleton has taken out nomination papers for Director.

2. Road Report: The Road Commissioner had stated that he will begin dragging the gravel roads soon so they will dry faster.

Discussion: If a posted road is frozen heavy trucks are allowed to travel on them, excessive salt on the gravel roads causes them to be muddy, many complaints concerning slippery roads in town hence the salt on the roads, Tucker Road should be paved, and Town Farm Road is in bad shape.

a. Request for light at Rte. 219 & Rte. 140: Due to several accidents at that location a Board member has contacted our Representative to request to have a light installed at the intersection. DOT has responded and will not being installing a light but suggests larger reflective signs.

3. Constable Report: None.

4. CEO Report: None.

a. Subdivision Issue-Donald Webster Map R12 Lot 40.3: This subdivision lot on Stetson Road has a stream on the property and may be considered an illegal subdivision. The Planning Board contacted MMA Legal Services and learned that this issue was not in the Planning Board’s jurisdiction. The CEO suggested that the Board of Selectmen take no action.

Lee motioned to choose to set this violation aside and pursue no legal action on the Map R12 Lot 40.3 subdivision lot and allow Mr. Webster to sell the property. Cathy 2nd. All in favor=3.

The Town Clerk will notify the CEO of the decision and prepare a letter of no action for Mr. Webster.

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: A Planning Board member explained changes the Planning Board made to the Hartford building lots ordinance to comply with LD2003 and our 2008 Comprehensive Plan. One and a half acre lots will be the minimum lot size in the growth areas if approved at town meeting and multiple accessory buildings will be allowed on lots in Maine due to the new legislation. The Board received the final amended building lot ordinance from the Planning Board. The Town Clerk will retype the amended ordinance into the correct tracking format for the voters.

Lee motioned to send the amended building lots ordinance (in the correct format) to the Lawyer for review. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

7. Ordinance Committee: A committee member shared that the committee worked on the amended Administrative Ordinance Part II to include detailed provisions of the proposed recreation committee section. The Town Clerk will incorporate the changed into the proposed ordinance for the next Board meeting. Tabled.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report

a. Bank reconciliation February 2024: The Board reviewed the reconciliations. Interest rate is set at 4.9% at this time.

10. Cemetery Committee Report: None.

11. Solid Waste Committee Report: None. Next meeting may be canceled due to lack of members.

V Calendar Reminders

1. Solid Waste Committee meeting March 13 @ 6:30pm

2. 2021 Tax Liens Foreclose March 16 @ 1pm

3. Public Hearing, Darrington Road open to winter maintenance March 21 @6:30pm

4. Planning Board mtg. March 4, 2024 7pm

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Curbside Collection Bid Opening: The Board opened four bids.

a. Gregory’ Disposal bid: $99.95 per ton tipping fee

$83,940.00/year hauling fee

$30,000.00/year recycling handling cost

$22,000.00 (approx.)/year bulky waste collection

b. Archie’s Inc. bid: $98.00 per ton tipping fee

$57,240.00-first year hauling fee

Hourly wages and tipping for bulky waste collection

c. Steven Elsman Sr. bid: $105.00 per ton tipping fee

$55,623.37/year hauling fee

$17,576.57/year bulky waste collection

d. Casella Declined to bid at this time.

Susan motioned to accept the bid from Archie’s Inc. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

2. Bulky Collection June 20, 2024 guidelines: The Board reviewed the updated flyer.

Discussion: Limit to one truck load of bulky per household was included and the contractor agreed to this wording, Selectmen in a couple of other towns manage roll offs on town property for a day or two for residents to bring their bulky waste and the contractor agreed to allow this change for 2024 but equipment and manpower will be needed, the Board was advised to drive around town before the bulky collection to see how much people put out at each household, some residents place an extreme amount of bulky waste by the roadside, a nearby town decided to contract with someone other than Archie’s for a year and was not happy with the new contractor, a resident volunteered to submit a proposal for the next meeting concerning planning for a drop off bulky waste collection day or days. Tabled

3. Swim Lessons:

Discussion: Must first decide whether or not to hold lessons then whether or not the instructors should be employees or contractors, Hartford is the only town left willing to hold lessons, cost for the first year would be $4,749.96 including certifications, 2023-2024 revenue from swim lessons was $1,815.00, other towns to pay a portion, and we can tell other town how much to contribute.

Susan motioned to hire Dana Dudley and Victoria Wright to run the swim lesson program. Lee second. All in favor=3.

VII Open Session:

1. Darrington Road winter opening:

Discussion: why are we voting on this again after it has been voted on twice, why is a hearing scheduled for March 21st when there was no vote to hold a hearing, vote to hold a hearing was made on February 1, 2024 by the Board and approved minutes of the meeting were read aloud, the reason the road wasn’t approved to be plowed at the last town meeting was the cost of $70,000.00 to prepare the road for plowing, the road was damaged by rain storms and repaired-all it needs now is gravel, road ordinance does not allow maintenance on discontinued roads, Darrington Road is not a discontinued road, what will happen when people move there who have children, they would move to a road that was not maintained for 40 years then expect it to be plowed?, hearings are called to discuss issues only, the Board does not respect the legislative body by bringing it up again, the Board may or may not vote to sign the order to include an article on the town meeting warrant after the hearing, persons present at this meeting were here during the February 1, 2024 meeting to set the hearing, and the Board does not remember setting the date for the hearing but it is the minutes that were approved.

VIII New Business:

1. Budget 2024-2025 Selectmen recommendations: Susan motioned to hold a Selectmen’s Workshop on March 11th at 7pm. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

2. Selectmen meeting date July 4, 2024: Susan motioned to move the July 4, 2024 to Tuesday, July 2, 2024. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IX Appointments/Resignations

a. Ordinance Committee resignation/Sullivan: Lee motioned to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Nancy Sullivan from the Ordinance Committee. Susan second. All in favor=3.

Discussion: Regarding moving an alternate to a permanent committee position requires a resignation first, it is highly discouraged for paid employees to serve on boards and committees especially the ordinance committee according to MMA Legal (this was said to have been reported by a Planning Board member at the last Selectmen’s meeting). Employees serving on boards and committees was tabled for the next agenda.

X Training: Lee motioned to approve $55.00 for the new Deputy Clerk to attend the basic excise tax training on April 11, 2024. Susan second. All in favor=3.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence which included a food bank report from Bill Glass of the Sumner Food Bank-29 households with 72 residents have been served from Hartford. It was noted that Polly Chasse agreed to provide a detail accounting of the Hartford food bank deposits and payments for budget time but this has not been received yet. A Board member will remind her.

XII Susan motioned to adjourn at 9:05pm

Minutes approved by:

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date