Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

January 4, 2024

7:00@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present: Selectmen Susan Goulet, Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road Commissioner Bim McNeil, Cemetery Committee member Ken Violette, residents Dana Dudley, Jason Landry, Kathleen Landry, Steve Elsman, Rebecca Elsman, Victoria Wright, and David Legloahec.

Present via Zoom: Residents Stephanie Dunn, Lennie Eichman, Robin Farrar, Dan Larochelle, and Nanci Weed.

I Susan called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

II Susan motioned to approve minutes of the December 21, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting. Lee second. All in favor=3.

III. Susan motioned to approve Warrant 13 & Payroll Warrants December 27, 2023 and January 3, 2024. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: It was reported that construction has begun on the new school in Mexico.

2. Road Report: None.

a. The Road Commissioner is looking into a complaint of a washout on private property. The landowner has submitted information to MEMA.

3. Constable Report: None.

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

5. ACO Report: None. Susan has reminded the ACO that monthly reports must be received and that kennel licenses need signatures. Susan will ask the ACO to attend the next Board meeting.

6. Planning Board Report: None.

7. Ordinance Committee: There was no quorum at the 1/3/24 meeting.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board received an updated expense report and the Treasurer reported that she has hired Jaylene Gonyea as Deputy Tax Collector.

10. Cemetery Committee Report: It was reported that 8 cemeteries were cleared of limbs from the recent storm and tree cutting is still being done at Hartford Center Cemetery. Next meeting will be held 1/21/24 at 9am. Cathy will unlock the town hall for the meeting.

11. Solid Waste Committee Report: None.

V Calendar Reminders

 1. Planning Board meeting January 8, 2024 7pm

 2. Solid Waste Committee meeting January 10, 2024 6:30m

 3. Town Office closed January 15, 2024/Holiday

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Town Hall Use Policy amendments: Changes were made to include instructions for the heat pumps. Lee motioned to approve the amended town hall permit policy. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

It was mentioned that the electricity bill has doubled for December and the heat pumps and furnace were left on by volunteers in error during the night in the main hall during the power outage.

2. Gather Guard Insurance/MMA Risk Management: If the town would like to join the gather guard program, residents would have the option to purchase the required insurance for renting the town hall for $76.00 per event. Lianne will contact our insurance company to see if they offer a blanket policy to cover rentals of the town hall. Tabled.

3. Cyber security: Susan has spoken to Chris Sanborn and plans to meet with him to continue the discussion concerning video recording and cyber security. Tabled.

VII Open Session:

 1. Fema funds from the 2023 disasters have not been received yet.

 2. Newsletter deadline for submissions is 1/15/24.

Susan will prepare a letter to be approved at the next meeting.

3. Lee motioned to approve quitclaim deeds to Eastbrook Timber Co. to release 1998 and 1999 liens

which were paid in full for property described as Map R05 25A and Map R05 Lot 22. Susan second. All in favor=3.

4. A Board member attended an LD2003 workshop and more will be held on the subject. The Town has applied for a grant to help with the cost of legal services etc. involved with updating the town ordinances. It was stated that the Planning Board may be interested in updating the ordinances. AVCOG also received a grant to assist towns with amending ordinances and shared a model ordinance with the town office which was forward to committees and officials. A Board member stated that tiny housing is not included in the new law. Board members and committee members are invited to attend the future workshops.

5. A Board member suggested that Board members and the EM Director attend the warming center training. The information will be forwarded to them. The EM Director stated that he was in contact with Oxford County Emergency Mgmt. during the power outage and was aware of the need of policies and rules before offering sites to residents as warming centers.

6. The Board discussed and decided to stay with the original plan of installing snow guards on the town hall roof along with the solar panels to prevent ice build-up on the ramp. It is noted that if 2-3’ of snow accumulates on the panels that it will have to be carefully removed. It was suggested that the town apply for more CEBE grants to perhaps receive funding for insulating the main section of the town hall.

VIII New Business:

1. Swim lessons 2024/Dana Dudley: Guidance was requested concerning holding swim lessons at the beach in 2024. A Board member suggested that parents supervise children at all times. MMA legal has answered questions concerning swimming lessons at a town owned public beach. Tabled.

2. Town Meeting proposed dates and other considerations: Susan motioned to accept the following dates for town meeting business:

Budget Requests due 12/31/2023

Nomination papers available 3/02/2024 1Selectman, 1 RSU 10 Director

Nomination papers deadline 4/11/2024

Reports due for town report 5/01/2023

Absentee Ballots available 5/12/2024

Public Hearing 5/30/2024 6pm

Election 6/11/2024 8-8

Town Meeting 6/15/2024 9am

Other business: Moderator, Town Report cover & dedication, Spirit of America Award, Etc. Tabled until 3/21/24.

3. Contracts expiring June 30, 2024: Waste Collection, Winter Sand, and Plowing: It was shared that the current sand contractor is not interested in extending the contract for an additional 2 years. The plow contractor agreed to the 2 year extension. The curbside collection provider submitted new rates for the 2 year extension. Lianne suggested contacting MMA Legal to see if the curbside contract could be updated with new rates for the 2 year extension.

 Lee motioned to accept the 2 year extension of the Plow Contract with McNeil Farms Inc. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to place the sand contract out to bid with a deadline of 2/15/24. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Susan motioned to place the solid waste collection contract out to bid with a deadline of 2/15/24. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IX Appointments/Resignations

1. Solid Waste Committee resignation: Susan motioned to accept the resignation of Kathleen Therriault from the Solid Waste Committee with regrets. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Susan motioned to accept the resignation of Pauline Chasee from the Appeals Board with regrets. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Susan motioned, with the receipt of a resignation as alternate member, to appoint Anthony Pirruccello as a regular member of the Appeals Board with a term to expire in June of 2024. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

X Training: Susan motioned to approve funding for the Planning Board training on 2/15/24 for Lennie Eichman. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

XI Review Correspondence: None.

XII Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date