Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

February 17, 2022

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Planning Board member Robin Farrar, and resident Norma House.

Present via Zoom: Selectmen Lori Swan, Planning Board member Donald Perrone, Ordinance Committee member Lennie Eichman, and residents Chad Casey, Jen Boneventura, Robert L’Heureux, Leslie Boness, Richard Dyer, and Connie Hoellerman.

I Lee called the meeting to order at 7pm.

II Lee motioned to approve Selectmen minutes of February 3, 2022. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III Lee motioned to approve Warrant 20 and Payroll Warrants of February 2, 2022, February 9, 2022, and February 16, 2022. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports:

1. RSU 10 Report: Richard reported that at the most recent meeting the following were discussed: portable units to be used for 6th graders will have heat for use after vacation, the next meeting on 3/14/22 @5:30pm will include a straw vote to see who is in favor of the new building construction, the referendum vote will be held on June 14th, there will be a survey to look for a new principal for the Buckfield High School, the preliminary school budget looks like it will increase by 10.57% due to increases in wages, insurance and more, and discussion included the awarded $1,000.00 sign on bonus for new bus drivers, for current bus drivers and administration.

2. Road Report

 a.Winter Road Closure List (10 year): Tabled.

3. CEO Report: None.

4. ACO Report: None.

5. Planning Board Report

a. Shoreland Zoning Ordinance proposed: The Board received the final copy from the Planning Board but after review it was found changes were to be made. The Planning Board will create a final version of the ordinance and choose a date for the required Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing at their next meeting.

6. Ordinance Committee: It was reported that the committee has completed the Beach Ordinance amendments and it has been sent to the attorney for review. They are currently working on the Administrative Ordinance. The No Spray Ordinance will be next. Next meeting will be held March 15 at 7pm via Zoom and in person.

7. Fire Warden Report:  The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Fire Warden (attached).

8. Treasurer Report: The Board received updated expense reports, reviewed the January bank reconciliation, and Lianne reported that we have received the $4000.00 Connectivity Grant for broadband.

V Calendar Reminders

 1. Workers Compensation meeting 2/23/22 at 1pm. Lori and Lee will attend.

2. American Rescue Plan Act planning meetings with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee will be held in person and via Zoom on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022 7pm.

VI Unfinished Business

 1. GOPIF Grant: Tabled with plans to have it ready by the deadline in 2023.

2. Edward MacDonald safety grant application: Lee motioned to apply for the Ed MacDonald Safety Grant from Maine Municipal Association. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Items requested in the grant are outside lights for the town office, road construction cones, and traffic stop/slow paddles.

3. Furnace Repair/Town Hall: One estimate was received from Murray Oil. More estimates will be submitted in the future. It was stated that Thermal does not make the same size furnace any longer. Research is being done to find out if we could go with a 2000BTU furnace. Tabled.

4. Heating Oil supplier: The Board considered changing oil suppliers due to the high estimate of an emergency service call and because a delivery driver handed a slip to a GA recipient. To switch to Blanchard Oil we would save 1 cent per gallon. The Board agreed to keep the current supplier for the season and revisit issue before next winter. Tabled.

VII Open Session:

1. It was suggested that Hartford hold a free yard sale at the Town Hall before the Bulky Waste Collection date. The Board shared that the Board and Budget Committee will discuss holding more than one collection date for the next fiscal year. The Board suggested contacting the residents who are interested in serving on the solid waste committee to plan a free yard sale.

2. The Board wants to add to the next agenda: definition of full time employee.

3. The Food Bank needs volunteers this Friday.

 VIII New Business:

1. Air BNB’s: A Board member stated that we had an issue recently. Renters of a house were skiers and during a giant blizzard on Saturday they drove from New Hampshire to the remote road with drifting snow in Hartford. They got stuck and our road crew had to go up with a bucket loader to save them. We pay by the hour for the loader so the incident cost the town money. The Board member stated that we now to deal with issues like this and no one would like to see them disallowed.

The owner of Shalizar’s Retreat LLC in Hartford shared her experiences with Air BNB and gave suggestions concerning managing shore term rentals and stated that she has not had any issues. (This was not the rental with the snow issue).

The Board member stated that the bill for the loader maybe should go to the owner of the rental in this case.

Comments included: need to regulate, stifling local market in some towns, send a letter to owner of rental. Lianne stated that if a road is not plowed in Hartford and she is stuck in the road she is going to call Bim also.

The owner of the rental was allowed to speak and stated that she appreciates the town coming to the rescue. She does own a tractor but the renters were not responsible by deciding to drive to the rental in the blizzard and she takes responsibility. The road was plowed to a residence located three miles before the rented house but no further. She does have a local manager who tried to rectify the situation but was unable to do so. She has owned the property for two years and wants to share the beautiful spot with others. No action was taken.

2. Local Option Liquor sales: Certain residents are in the process of getting a liquor license in place which requires town meeting approval. The Board agreed to add the required articles to the town meeting warrant without a petition. The vote will be by secret ballot and the residents will submit which articles pertain to them.

3. Canton Fire contract 2021-2022: Lee motioned to approve the fire contract with Canton for 2021-2022 year. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

4. Personnel Policy amendment/Juneteenth: Lee motioned to amend the personnel policy to include the holiday Juneteenth. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

 5. Comprehensive Plan/Avcog: Table until after town meeting.

IX Appointments/Resignation: None.

X Training: lee motioned to approve funds for Lee and Cathy to attend the ARPA webinar on March 2, 2022.

XI The Board reviewed correspondence.

XII Lee motioned to adjourn at 9pm. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Minutes approved by:

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Lee Holman Date

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lori Swan D Town of Hartford

Fire Warden Report

February 16, 2022

There has not been any fire permits issued since the previous report.

Submitted by,

Clarence Hill

Fire Wardenate