Town of Hartford

Special Selectmen’s Meeting

2023-2024 Budget

Approved Minutes

March 20, 2023

5pm

Hartford Town Hall

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Susan Goulet, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, and Road Commissioner Bim McNeil.

Present via Zoom: Residents Michael McCarron and Richard Dyer.

1. Cathy called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

2. Selectmen’s recommendations 2023-2024 Budget:

 Road budget discussion included: beach parking area, marking out the section to construct, clear trees and use ditching material for fill and purchase surface gravel, beach parking lot may not be finished this year but we can begin the process. Paving of 1.2 miles of Church St. will not be completed in 2023-24 due to the cost of paving, Pratt Hill Road must be finished. There is $10,000.00 budgeted for Darrington Road from Goding Rd to Jaspers at corner but if the Darrington Road, from 298 Darrington Road North, is opened to winter plowing the Board must decide how to write the article for town meeting, cost of $70,000.00 be raised from taxation or from Fund Balance. People are waiting for work to be done on Town Farm Road and the request of $18,000.00 will get some work started. We still have the ARPA funds to pay for culverts. Road repair should be on a 10 year cycle. Small amounts were requested for several roads for culvert replacement etc. Budget contains $156,000.00 for the Bond payment and does not leave much room for road repair. A raise for equipment operator was discussed. The RR Bed needs fill once the bridge is replaced. It was suggested that crushed rock be placed and then sandy gravel. The Recreation Group has some funds that may be used for this purpose. It was suggested that the snowmobile clubs contact the Maine ATV & Snowmobile Associations to request funds to help pay for the RR bed repair.

Administration discussion: Beach buoys, signs, cameras budget, and other costs associated with the beach is estimated for $5,000.00 and we do have $5,000.00 in ARPA funds also. The signs at the beach are not friendly and do not match. Budget for town office door reduced since the town may be able to apply for a grant with CEBE. Raises were approved at 3% for all employees. A Board member stated that anyone who received a large increase in wages recently should not be looking for a raise, but there was no one looking for a raise except one employee who does not work in the office. The COLA for 2023 is 8.7%. The Board recommended hiring a second Deputy Clerk who would be willing to run the office during a vacancy.

Other accounts: The Board agreed to budget $12,500.00 for the Capital Outlay CD (money was spent in 2019 but CD was never withdrawn from the CD) and $10,000.00 for the revaluation reserve account. The Board chose which social services to recommend for approval.

The amount to use from Fund Balance to reduce taxes will be determined at a later date.

3. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Minutes approved by:

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date