Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

June 2, 2022

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

6pm Public Budget Hearing on Warrant Articles, ARPA funds, Winter Road closings and meet the Candidates.

Present for the Hearing at 6pm in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lori Swan, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road Commissioner Bim McNeil, Budget Committee members Doreen Maxwell, Christine Mumau, Lennie Eichman, Robert L’Heureux, Candidates for Selectmen Loando Brann, Susan Goulet, residents Jeff Beaulieu, Ken Violette, Nancy Sullivan, Kathleen Landry, Jason Landry, and Rusty Goulet.

Present via Zoom: Arthur Harvey, Richard Dyer, Jen Bonaventura, Chad Casey, Carol Buzzell, Leslie Boness, and DJB.

Cathy called the hearing to order at 6pm.

Cathy read all articles to be voted on at the June 18, 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Discussion included the proposed discontinuance of Darrington Road to winter plowing for a period of ten years. A resident of Darrington Road asked how to go about getting the road plowed and stated that the town does not maintain the public road as needed. It was shared that it would cost a lot of money to bring the road up to standards for plowing and the money proposed for summer roads was designated for other projects. Safety issues were discussed as to whether or not emergency vehicles would be able to access homes if the road was not plowed. The Board suggested that the Road Commissioner estimate the cost of improvement to the road before town meeting.

Some of the Budget Committee members shared that they thought the Board of Selectmen should have had a separate vote of the Board to approve the recommendation of Town Clerk wage increases addition to the vote of the Board to approve the town meeting warrant which included the recommendation. The Board had voted to approve the warrant with the recommendation at the May 5, 2022 Board meeting and signed the warrant. It was stated that the Board approves wages at the first meeting of the fiscal year for all employees regardless of the amount of money approved at town meeting as long as it does not go over budget.

Social services were discussed briefly including the Food Bank located at the East Sumner Congregational Church which is running low on ARPA funds and are requesting money to purchase essential items. Residents asked how to inform people of social services available to them and it was assumed that doctors, etc. inform people in need.

The American Rescue Plan Act was discussed and it was stated that the proposed $5,000.00 for the Beach, Walkway, and Boardwalk might be higher than needed but we will find ways to use the money.

Candidate for Selectmen Loando Brann spoke to the residents, thanked Lori for serving on the Board, and stated that he has had ties to Hartford since he was 12 years old and purchased the Bickford homestead on Darrington road in 2001. He volunteers at the Canton Food Bank and delivers food to Hartford residents, he had coached youth football, likes to help people, and stated that he will never talk down to people, is frugal, has an open mind and would like to see the town invest its money.

Candidate for Selectmen Susan Goulet spoke to the residents, stated that she purchased her grandparents place on Bear Pond 10 years ago and is working to improve the property. She is the 7th of 8 children, has hard working parents, and is trying to be a good example for her son Rusty. She started her own company, has written grants, volunteered as a handicap ski instructor, likes to give back to the community, make wreaths for veterans and the town office buildings. Susan works for CN Brown, serves on the Hartford Ordinance Committee, attends budget meetings, selectmen meetings, served on the Oxford County Chamber of Commerce and some of her goals are to begin updated the Comprehensive Plan and modernize the meetings by purchasing a large screen for zoom participants so that they can be a part of meetings.

The Hearing ended at 7:40pm.

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June 2, 2022

7pm@ Hartford Town Hall and via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lori Swan, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road commissioner Bim McNeil, residents Susan Goulet, Rusty Goulet, Loando Brann, and Ken Violette.

Present via Zoom: Jen Bonaventura, Chad Casey, Leslie Boness, Richard Dyer, and Marla Winship.

I Lee called the Selectmen’s meeting to order at 7:40pm.

II Lee motioned to approve the Selectmen minutes of May 19, 2022.Lori second. All in favor=3.

III Lee motioned to approve Warrant 28 and Payroll Warrants of May 18, 2022, May 25, 2022 & June 1, 2022. Lori second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: none.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Road Commissioner (attached). It was shared that Pine Trees taken down on Perry Road were disposed of by Glen Luce.

3. CEO Report

a. The Board reviewed correspondence and the report submitted by the CEO

4. ACO Report

5. Planning Board Report: A Board member shared that the Planning Board Chair did not have time to make the required changes to the Shoreland ordinance before town meeting.

6. Ordinance Committee: None.

7. Fire Warden Report:  None.

8. Treasurer Report: The Board received the updated expense report. Lianne shared that the town of Hartford has received over $2,100.00 for processing other towns MV registrations since December of 2021.

V Calendar Reminders

1. Election June 14, 2022 8-8

2. Town Meeting June 18, 2022 9am

3. Free Sale @ Town Hall June 4, 2022: It was suggested that the free sale donations be used to stock the food shed and perhaps matching funds were available.

VI Unfinished Business

1. Spirit of America award certificate/celebration: The Board agreed to have the winner of the Hartford Spirit of America award be announced at town meeting by the moderator and to present a framed certificate and a town report to the recipient.

VII Open Session: None.

VIII New Business:

1. RR Bed informational workshop: set date: The Board agreed to schedule a workshop on Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 9:30 am and to notify abutting land owners of the meeting. Participants may agree to walk down and inspect the RR Bed.

2. Bear Pond Improvement Association/boat ramp closure in 2023: The Boat Ramp will be closed at the end of the 2022 season. The Association is searching for another location to create a new boat launch but the property around the pond is all privately owned.

3. Shelving/lumber trade: Lee motioned to allow the trade of leftover lumber for steel shelving for the town office. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

4. Lee motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:19pm pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 concerning a poverty abatement application. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to exit executive session at 8:45pm. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned not to grant the poverty abatement. Lee second. All in favor=3.

IX Appointments/Resignation: None.

X Training: None.

XI The Board reviewed correspondence:

XII Lee motioned to adjourn at 9:00pm. Lori 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 Date

Town of Hartford

Road Report

June 2, 2022

We have finished some of the paving a couple of weeks ago.

The road crew has started work on Perry Road. Glen Luce has cut some big pines on the road. The road is being ground to dirt and the entire road will be ditched and cross culverts will be replaced within the next few weeks.

Submitted by

Bim McNeil

Road Commissioner

Report from the Code Enforcement Officer

Date: May 31th, 2022

Year to Date Report:

Year to Date Building Permits Issued: 8 - last yr. 23

Year to Date Plumbing Permits Issued: 9 - last yr. 27

Open Complaints:

1) 201 Cory Hill Rd; Received a call from David Walker 5/1/22 stating his neighbor had built a shed over the property line onto his property. I advised Mr. Walker I could not settle property line disputes and he would have to pursue the matter by civil action.

I fielded this same complaint from Mr. Walker last year, as well, with the same advice for him to pursue civil action.

Other:

None

Respectfully Submitted

G. Scott Mills

CEO/LPI Hartford, Me