Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

February 2, 2023

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Susan Goulet, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, residents Theresa Bennett, and Ken Violette.

Present via Zoom: Tim Kirwan, Sara Nickels, Juanita Cassidy, Mary Cousins, Natasha Cote, and Dan Larochelle.

I Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II Cathy motioned to approve the January 19, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting minutes. Susan second. All in favor=3.

III. Cathy motioned to approve Warrant 15 and Payroll Warrants of January 25, 2023 and February 1, 2023. Lee second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: Lianne will forward agendas and minutes from RSU 10 to the Board in the future.

2. Road Report: Letters were mailed to two residents concerning plowing snow into the road.

3. Constable Report: None.

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

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: None.

7. Ordinance Committee: The Board reviewed the October 19, 2022 approved minutes.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by Lianne Bedard (attached).

10. Cemetery Committee Report: Ken reported that he has submitted two more requests for replacement veteran stones from the Veterans Administration. The stone he ordered for Alvin Robinson at Maple Grove Cemetery is on its way. All replacement veteran stones are available at no cost.

V Calendar Reminders

a. Waste Committee February 8, 2023 6pm

b. Ordinance Committee February 15, 2023 7pm

c. Public Lunch February 16, 2023 11-2 Hartford Town Hall

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Junkyard License update/Harlow : Discussion: A Board member stated they spoke with an employee of the business on Town Farm Road and they stated that the piece of equipment would be moved on Friday, February 3, 2023. The employee was told to move all vehicles to the designated area. It was stated that many vehicles were being delivered to the property at the end of Town Farm Road and the CEO should enforce the building permit violation for the placing of the manufactured home at that lot. The Board discussed sending violations letters to the applicant concerning the other two lots in town with several vehicles on them. Lianne asked whether or we should be enforcing prior junkyard license holders also whose licensed have not been renewed in several years so that we are fair to all.

Susan motioned to send the violation/ cease and desist letter prepared by the town attorney with a deadline of February 14, 2023 to each of the names on the application for an Automotive and Recycling license at the property located at 327 Town Farm Road Hartford. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

VII Open Session:

1. A resident asked if Hartford has any documented participants of the Boston Tea Party. There will be a big celebration soon on the subject. It was stated that no one buried in Hartford is known to be a participant.

2. Lianne suggested placing the new multi-unit law on the next agenda since it will be in effect July of this year.

VIII New Business:

1. Administrative Ordinance II amendment/Alternates Committee members: The Board reviewed the changes and made suggestions including changing the wording of the alternate committee member paragraph and changing wording to say all committees instead of listing them individually. Tabled.

2. Town Hall use April 1, 2023/Borzelli: Discussion included what would happen if someone was injured during the event.

Lee motioned to allow Mr. Borzelli to use the town hall for a bee keeper’s workshop on April 1, 2023 at no cost and without the insurance requirement. Cathy second. All in favor=2. Abstained=1.

3. Winter Road Closing Amendment/Darrington Road-Hearing: Cathy motioned to hold a public hearing to open Darrington Road to winter plowing from 298 Darrington Road North to the end of the road on March 2, 2023 at 6:30pm. Lee second. All in favor=3.

4. Public Hearing Candidates Night: The prior date chosen for the annual public hearing was scheduled to be held after the election so that would eliminate the “meet the candidate” portion of the hearing. Lee motioned to hold the public hearing on June 8, 2023 at 7pm instead of the original date. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

5. Cathy motioned to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1MRSA 405(6)(d) Contractor discussions at 8:20pm. Lee second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned to exit executive session at 8:59pm. Lee second. All in favor=3.

No action taken.

IX Appointments/Resignation:

1. Registrar of Voters & Ballot Clerks: Lee motioned to appoint the following as ballot clerks with a term to expire in February of 2024: Stephanie Frobese, Richard Dyer, Margo Dudley, Natasha Cote, Arlene Nason, Polly Chasse, Morrill Nason, Carol Perry, Leslie Boness, Cassidy Bedard, Diane Lyons-Segee, Dana Whittemore, Lennie Eichman, Daryl Boness, Sybilla Pettingil, Mildred MacDonald, Melissa Chappelle, and Lori Swan. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to appoint Lianne Bedard as Registrar of Voters with a term to expire in February of 2025. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

X Training: None.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed all correspondence.

XII Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date

Report from the Code Enforcement Officer

Date: January 31st, 2023

Year to Date Report:

Year to Date Building Permits Issued: 3 - last yr. 0

Year to Date Plumbing Permits Issued: 0 - last yr. 2

Complaints:

None

Inspections:

None

Other:

None

Respectfully Submitted

G. Scott Mills

CEO/LPI Hartford, Me

Town of Hartford

Treasurer’s Report

February 2, 2023

Budget preparation has begun due to the fact the request deadline was February 1, 2023. I hope to receive budget surveys from each of the Board members tonight so that items of importance to each of you are included in the budget worksheet to be discussed with the Budget Committee in April.

Revenues received as of this date are exceeding the amounts we expected due to processing other town’s motor vehicle registrations, increased tree growth return, increased homestead return, and tax acquired property that was sold by bid. Of course any revenue received over the budgeted amount will increase the fund balance. The voters may approve an amount from fund balance to reduce the 2023-24 tax commitment.

We will have to include an article in the town meeting warrant to raise funds to cover the 2021-22 over expenditure in Sanitation Account and the 2019 over expenditure of the Capital Outlay CD. The funds will be taken from the fund balance if approved.

2020 tax liens will foreclose on April 15, 2023 and 45 day foreclosure letters will be mailed March 1, 2023. Currently there are nine unpaid 2020 tax liens.

The office has had a slight increase in business lately due to snow mobile registrations and dog licensing. Postcards have been ordered so that tax reminders may be mailed in April.

Everyone seems to like the improvements to the town office.

I am watching the CD maturity dates and interest rates. The Ministerial and School CD renewed in January and I had to request a higher interest rate than what they automatically renewed it at. So I will be visiting Northeast Bank each time a CD matures to make sure we receive the maximum rates.

Androscoggin Bank recently increased the interest rate of the checking account from .40% to .75%.

We have been approved for two grants. The Risk Reduction Enhancement Grant Program for outside lighting in the amount of $600.00 with a deadline for installation of October 1, 2023 and the Edward MacDonald Safety Grant for traffic control items. This grant covers two thirds of our cost up to $625.16 with a deadline of May 1, 2023. There are several other grants available but require planning, research, data, surveys, and more.

Submitted by

Lianne Bedard

Treasurer