Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

February 1, 2024

7:00@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

&

Board Workshop

Swim Lessons

6pm

Present in person: Selectmen Susan Goulet, Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Cemetery Committee member Ken Violette, Ordinance Committee member Bonny Bishop, residents Al Borzelli, Kathleen Theriault, David Theriault, Cindy Violette, Dana Dudley, Victoria Wright, Steven Elsman, Rebecca Elsman, Theresa Bennett, and David LeGloahec.

Present via Zoom: Residents Chad Casey, Michael McCluskey, Lennie Eichman, Christine Mumau, and Thomas Hamilton.

Susan called the workshop to order at 6:00 pm.

The workshop was called to order to discuss information with the proposed swimming instructor including whether or not to categorize the position as a contractor or employee since the program will be overseen by the Board this year instead of the independent recreation group.

Discussion included: Advice from MMA Risk Management, Maine laws concerning swim lessons, Lifeguard certifications, instructor certifications, if considered an employee the Town could pay for certification fees, lessons are planned for the third week of July for two full weeks, parents must stay to supervise all children, lifesaving equipment will have to be present such as throw rings, rescue tubes, kick boards, there will be 15 children per class and four classes per day, all money must be receipted for at the town office, other towns have contributed fees in the past, 47 children participated in 2023, there is $2,000.00 in the current year budget for swim lessons, we must contact our insurance company to make sure employees are covered in the position, fees to charge in 2024, new ropes, signs and buoys will be purchased this spring, and this topic is to be on the next Board agenda.

The workshop was adjourned at 6:50pm.

I Susan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

II Susan motioned to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Susan motioned to approve Warrant 15 & Payroll Warrants January 24, 2024 & January 31, 2024. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new school in Mexico on February 21, 2024 at 11:00am.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed a road/ditch complaint from Julia Samson. The Road Commissioner has been notified.

3. Constable Report: None.

4. CEO Report: The Board reviewed the most recent Harlow junkyard log. The new mobile home on Town Farm Road (on the old Irvine property) is being investigated.

5. ACO Report: The Board reviewed certifications submitted by the ACO.

6. Planning Board Report: None.

7. Ordinance Committee: A committee member stated that an agenda will be shared for the next meeting and hopefully there is a quorum to work on the no spray ordinance. It was reported that some members have missed two consecutive meetings and if they miss one more the Board will be asked to accept their resignations.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board reviewed the most recent expense report. 45 Day foreclosure notices will be mailed on Friday, February 2 for unpaid 2021 taxes liens.

10. Cemetery Committee Report: A committee member shared that a meeting was held on January 21st with 7 members and 1 guest present. The meeting lasted 1.5 hours and lot sizes, costs of plots, and the plotting of cemeteries was discussed.

11. Solid Waste Committee Report: A committee member stated that there are only 2 members of the committee so the scheduled meeting may have to be canceled.

V Calendar Reminders

 1. Democratic Caucus February 4, 2024 1pm @ Hartford Town Hall

 2. Planning Board meeting February 5, 2024 7pm

 3. Ordinance Committee meeting February 7, 2024 7pm

 4. Solid Waste Committee meeting February 14, 2024 6:30pm

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Bulky Collection June 20, 2024 guidelines: The Board reviewed the draft bulky waste flyer for 2024. It was suggested to add “no out of town trash allowed” and where to take items during the year such as Archie’s or Maine Waste to Energy. It was also suggested to allow 2 pickup loads of bulky waste per household and to not pick up wood that has not been painted or pressure treated since residents can burn that wood. Tabled.

VII Open Session:

1. A resident asked what the town has planned for the tax foreclosed property the town now owns. It was explained that the Administrative Ordinance Part II and the town meeting warrant has to be amended to comply with the new law before it can be sold.

2. A resident complained of the missing stop sign at the end of Town Farm Road. This is the third time this complaint has been made and it could have caused an accident with her and her grandson during a white out snow storm. Cathy will contact the Road Commissioner.

3. Susan motioned to approve the tax abatements and supplement tax bills for Map R11 lot 1-3 in the amount of $3,724.39 and map R11 Lot 1-1 in the amount of $2,182.52. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

VIII New Business:

1. Warming Center: The E.M. Director was not present at the meeting. He and the Town Clerk attended warming center training and some requirements are accessible bathrooms, first aid kits, AED’s, 2 attendees at all times, fire alarms, personal hygiene supplies, etc. A resident stated that allowing people to go into a building to get warm is not a warming center and Hartford does not need a warming center or policies to go with one and the E.M. Director did not communicate with the Board during the power outage. A resident stated that two Board members agreed to open the hall and were present during the event and the heat was not turned down because there were no written instructions for the heat pumps.

2. Edward MacDonald Safety Grant: The Town Clerk suggested applying for the grant to pay for ergonomic office equipment and first aid kits for all buildings. The Board had no objections.

3. MMA Risk Reduction Grant: The Town Clerk suggested applying for the grant to pay for Bollards at the town office and road construction traffic paddles or equipment. The Board had no objections.

4. Annual mailings/town report & tax reminders: The Town Clerk stated that post card reminders are not very effective since they look like junk mail and many residents do not notice them and suggested that the full tax bill be mailed in the spring.

Susan motioned to not send a tax reminder in the spring. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Susan motioned to print and mail town reports and also make the reports available electronically. Lee second. All in favor=3. The reports are mailed to active registered voters-one per household.

5. Budget Survey, Town Report cover, Dedication, Spirit of American Award, Board Report/Letter: The Town Clerk asked the Board to fill out and submit the survey by the next meeting so that she may finish the budget worksheet.

6. Winter Road opening order of Board of Selectmen/Darrington Road: Lee motioned to hold a public hearing to discuss the opening of Darrington Road to winter plowing on March 21, 2024 6pm. Cathy second. All in favor=2. Abstained=1.

7. Administrative Ordinance Part II proposed amendments: The Town Clerk amended the ordinance to include the new law concerning tax acquired property and to add a recreation committee. The Board requested to have the Ordinance Committee review the amended ordinance before it is sent to the attorney.

IX Appointments/Resignations

Lee motioned to appoint Lori Swan, Melissa Chappell, Mildred MacDonald, Sybila Pettingill, Daryl Boness, Lennie Eichman, Dana Whittemore, Diane Lyons, Cassidy Bedard, Leslie Boness, Stephanie Frobese, Pauline Chasse, Morrill Nason, Arlene Nason, Kathleen Theriault, Natasha Cote, and Marguerite Dudley as ballot clerks with a term to expire in February of 2025. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

X Training: None.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence.

XII Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

Minutes approved by:

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date