Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

October 20, 2022

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Public Hearing 6:45pm General Assistance Ordinance amendments

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

Present via Zoom: Residents Robert L’Heureux, Jen Bonaventura, Richard Dyer, Thomas Hamilton, Lennie Eichman, and NT207.

Cathy called the hearing to order at 6:45pm.

It was explained that each year the state recommends new maximum allowable amounts for the General Assistance Ordinance that may be adopted by the Board of Selectmen.

The hearing ended at 6:55 pm.

I Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II Sue motioned to approve the minutes of October 6, 2022 Selectmen’s meeting, October 7, 2022 Special Selectmen’s Meeting, and October 11, 2022 Special Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Cathy motioned to approve Warrant 8 and Payroll Warrants of October 12, 2022 and October 19, 2022. Sue second. All in favor=3.

Cathy motioned to amend the agenda to discuss the moderator for the special town meeting. Sue second. All in favor=3.

Lee contacted Terry Hayes who would perform the duties at no cost but would segregate the unvaccinated voters and Scott Cole who is normally paid a fee for his service. Lianne reached out to Richard Pickett who offered to act as moderator at no cost and would not require masks or segregation. The Board agreed to ask Scott Cole to perform moderator duties if elected to do so at the special town meeting.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: Richard shared that the public hearing for the 11/8/2022 referendum vote will be held on October 24th 6:30pm at MVHS.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Road Commissioner (attached).

3. Constable Report: None.

4. CEO Report: None.

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: None.

7. Ordinance Committee: Lee stated that the committee met last night and tabled all three ordinances on the request list. Lennie stated that the town can sign an agreement with CMP to take care of what growth used to be sprayed if we enact a No Spray Ordinance and there is a difference between Dept. of Agriculture and DOT. It was stated that the Road Commissioner spoke with the DOT and was told that the town would have to chip and hand cut road side growth in some areas. It was stated the Board of Selectmen have not directed the Waste Committee to work on any projects and the Ordinance Committee would like to hear the Waste Committees ideas concerning the Solid Waste Ordinance amendments. It was also mentioned that residents may be able to bring bulky waste items to MWAC in Auburn or to Archie’s in Mexico.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Treasurer (attached), current expense report and the bank reconciliations for September 2022.

V Calendar Reminders

a. Automotive Recycling License/Harlow public hearing Oct. 25, 2022 7pm

b. Special Town Meeting Saturday, October 22, 2022 9am

c. Planning Board meeting Wednesday, November 9, 2022 7pm

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Tax Foreclosure Bankruptcy Blanchard R07 Lot 1.3: Cathy motioned to table this item until the November 3, 2022 meeting. Lee second. All in favor=3. Lianne will contact the attorney to see if he is able to zoom in for an executive session.

2. Alternate Committee members/Administrative Ordinance Part II: Lianne shared the advice of MMA Legal which stated that the Board of Selectmen should not appoint alternate members of Boards or Committees if the ordinances do not give them authority to do so. It was suggested that the Board allow non-residents serve on the Cemetery Committee. Lianne stated that the new Administrative Ordinance Part II clearly states that all Board and Committee members must be residents of Hartford. It was suggested that adjunct committees be formed for out of town volunteers. Tabled.

Also discussed were the cemeteries that have been opened through the abandoned cemetery process. Fuller, Thompson Yard, and Sparrow have been opened. Research would have to be done before selling lots in some areas.

VII Open Session:

1. Richard asked why the newspaper does not cover our Board meetings any longer and was answered that there is an employee shortage.

2. The Board agreed to hold an executive session to discuss the maintenance position at the next Board meeting. The employee will be invited to attend.

VIII New Business:

1. Tax Commitment 2022-2023: Michael O’Donnell will be at the office Friday, October 21, 2022 to finish work on the property changes and the Board should be able to commit taxes on Saturday, October 22, 2022.

2. Catering Permit 11/19/2022 Mac’s Grill: Lee motioned to approve the Catering permit for Mac‘s Grill. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

3. Catering Permit 10/29/2022 Fire and Company: Cathy motioned to approve the catering permit for Fire and Company. Lee second. All in favor=3.

4. General Assistance Ordinance amendments: Lee motioned to accept the State recommended amounts for all appendices of the General Assistance Ordinance. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

5. Town Hall use permit amendments: Cathy motioned to accept the addition of funeral related events may not be charged a fee for using the town hall but do have to provide a certificate of insurance. Lee second. All in favor=3.

6. Zoom renewal: Cathy motioned to renew the Zoom agreement for the next year. Sue second. All in favor=3.

7. Tax abatement U10 Lot 4 Stavisky: Lee motioned to approve the 2020 ($1,063.60) and 2021 ($1,097.36) tax abatement for U10 Lot 4. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

8. Quit Claim Deed Bedard,C: Sue motioned to approve the quit claim deed to the highest bidder of the tax foreclosure sale of Map R02 Lot 8.2, Cassidy Bedard. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IX Appointments/Resignation:

X Training: Lee motioned to approve up to $60.00 for Sue Goulet to attend the Elected Officials Webinar on November 16, 2022. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

XI Review Correspondence: The emergency lighting grant has been awarded for lighting at the town office parking lot up to $600.00.

XII Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date

Town of Hartford

Road Report

October 20, 2022

We are wrapping up the ditching and rock removal on the top of Pratt Hill Road.

Paving is being held off until after the October 22, 2022 Special Town Meeting

Northeast Paving is planning to begin paving on October 27, 2022.

As soon as work has been completed on Pratt Hill Road grading will begin.

Submitted by,

Bim McNeil

Road Commissioner

Town of Hartford

Treasurer’s Report

October 18, 2022

Business is beginning to pick up at the town office due to the upcoming election. We have issued 68 absentee ballots as of today.

The assessors visited the office on October 11th and will return to complete all tax record changes and prepare for tax commitment on October 21st. The Board may want to sign the commitment papers on Saturday Oct. 22nd so that I am able to print tax bills. Last year we committed taxes on October 1st so the bills will be mailed much later this year.

Things are going well at the town office. Lorraine Parsons continues to visit and help organize old records and books. I appreciate her help.

Interest rates have dropped as our CD’s have renewed. If the interest rates do not bounce back by early next year I suggest not renewing the CD’s for another term until they do. Savings accounts are paying more interest than the CD’s in some cases. I will monitor the rates when it is time to renew.

The Town of Buckfield clerks completed MV training recently and once they have been agents for a full 6 months they will be able to issue plates themselves. I have had a few Sumner residents visit the office recently for registrations since their system was down.

We should be receiving the final copy of the Audit for year ending June 30, 2022 very soon.

I have a list of items to discuss for the 2023 town meeting preparation including beach parking area, Darrington Road repair, Capital Outlay replenishment etc. Budget season will be here before we know it.

Submitted by,

Lianne Bedard

Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector