Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

March 16, 2023

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Public Hearing – Winter Road Closure Amendment/Darrington Road

6:30pm

Present in person: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Susan Goulet, Road Commissioner Bim McNeil, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, residents Jeffrey Beaulieu, Morrill Nason, Ken Violette, and Cynthia Violette.

Present via Zoom: Ray Hunter, Nanci Weed, Richard Dyer, and Lennie Eichman.

Cathy called the hearing to order at 6:35pm.

The subject of the hearing was to discuss the opening of winter maintenance at 298 Darrington Road North to the end of the road.

Discussion: review of history of winter maintenance closure, petition was received in 2022 to ask the Board to vote to open the road but the Town cannot legally alter a winter road closure for one full year from the time it was approved, winter road maintenance closures must be voted on every ten years, an easement is needed between the town and the Riley’s to create a turnaround for the snow plow, the town meeting warrant article should require the easement, cost of plowing (7,100.00), and the cost of road repair ($70,000.00), MMA legal has been contacted for advice concerning the writing of the article, the Town cannot give permission for residents to maintain or plow public roads due to liability issues, CMP will not repair power outages on the section of road since the road is not plowed, road would have to be widened, have culverts installed, and ledge blasted.

Cathy adjourned the hearing at 7:05pm.

I Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

II Susan motioned to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Cathy motioned to approve Warrant 18 and Payroll Warrants March 8, 2023 and March 15, 2023. Lee second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: The Road Commissioner stated that he and Jeff Sterns are working on a list of projects to include in an infrastructure grant for road repair.

2. Road Report

a. Pratt Hill Road Project: The Road Commissioner stated that the grant which Town applied for to repair the Pratt Hill Road culvert has too many loops to jump through in order to comply and would be costly for the Town. This grant only covers 90% of the cost of repair, the culvert is not going to collapse, and we should place barriers on each side of the road for now.

Cathy motioned to not accept the grant for the Pratt Hill Road culvert project. Sue second.

Lee motioned to amend the motion to add “and to establish safety measures to make it a one lane passageway. Sue seconded the amendment. All in favor=3. Cathy will contact Mr. McLean.

3. Constable Report: None.

4. CEO Report: None.

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report

 a. February 6, 2023 meeting minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes.

b. Shoreland Zoning Ordinance amendments: The Planning Board has amended the ordinance changing CEO to Planning Board on page 12, line 13A. The Board agreed with the amendment and will proof read the document. The Planning Board is scheduled to hold a hearing on the amendment to be held April 3, 2023 at 7pm.

7. Ordinance Committee: The March 15th meeting was canceled for lack of a quorum due to sickness and schedules and will meet on March 22nd at 7pm.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board received an updated expense report.

a. Bank Reconciliations February-request to move overage of .90 to revenue: the Board reviewed the February bank reconciliations.

Cathy motioned to move the.90 overage in the checking account to revenue. Lee second. All in favor=3.

b. Recreation and Newsletter groups accounting: Lianne suggested to have the Town books include transactions for the Newsletter and Recreation groups since they are not actual social services.

Lee motioned to consider Hartford Recreation and Hartford Newsletter part of the town and not consider them as social services. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

10. Cemetery Committee Report: Ken received the tripod and other items yesterday from Atlas Supply. Ken also stated that Atlas Supply tours the 48 states in July demonstrating stone repair etc. Ken suggested applying to have them include a visit to the Sparrow Cemetery for a one day seminar. Volunteers attend from around the state.

Lee motioned to give Ken permission to apply for the free seminar conducted by Atlas supply. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

V Calendar Reminders

 a. Special Selectmen’s Meeting/Budget March 20, 2023 5pm

 b. Budget Meeting April 5, 2023 7pm

 c. Public Potluck Lunch March 23, 2023 11-2

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Legal Counsel-Letters for Junkyard Law violations: draft letters have not been received from the attorney.

2. CEBE Grant process: Lee motioned to adopt the resolution with amendments. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

3. 2019 Lien Foreclosure process: Another hearing will be held next week to finalize payment arrangements with Blanchard.

4. Beach Policy: Discussion included: keep the $15.00 per vehicle fee in the policy, give the current policy a chance and if it is not working we can change it, residents should follow the official complaint process, (forms are available on the website or at the town office), cameras would cost $800.00 which includes installation, maintenance, and the purchase of cameras. Monthly internet charges may incur.

 5. Cyber Policy: Tabled for review.

VII Open Session:

1. Zoom meetings: Discussion: public comments are not always helpful, don’t always have to hear from people online, people appreciate attending meetings remotely, very difficult communicating, cannot hear well, nothing like face to face, should do zoom the whole way or not at all, have screens so that everyone can see everyone, comments via zoom insulting people, if attendees are sitting here in person they may not do that, Board can visit Buckfield to see how their meetings are set up.

VIII New Business:

1. Winter Road Closure Amendment/Order of Municipal Officers:

Lee motioned to sign the order of opening Darrington Road to winter maintenance. Cathy second. All in favor=2; Opposed=1.

2. Budget Worksheet for Board: The Board received a copy of the budget worksheet to prepare for the March 20, 2023 meeting to be held at 5pm.

3. Region 11 Warrant for secret ballot election 6./13/2023 & Hearing 5/11/2023: The Board signed the warrant for Region 11 School.

IX Appointments/Resignation: None.

X Training: No interest.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed correspondence.

XII Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

Minutes approved by:

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Cathy Lowe Date

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Lee Holman Date

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Susan Goulet Date