Town of Hartford

Selectboard Meeting

MINUTES

May 6, 2021

Hartford Town Hall

7PM

Present: Selectmen Lee Holman, Cathy Lowe, Lori Swan, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, and resident Richard Dyer.

Lee decided at 6:50pm to also hold the meeting via Zoom but was unable to connect.

**I** Lee motioned to call the meeting to order to order at 7:15pm.

**II** Lee motioned to approve the April 15, 2021 selectmen meeting minutes. Lori second. All in **favor=3.**

**III** Lee motioned to approveA/P Warrants #28 & 29 and payroll warrants April 21, 2021, April 28, 2021, & May 5, 2021. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

**IV Reports:**

1. RSU 10 Report: Richard stated that there will be a school board meeting on May 17th in Buckfield and a meeting on May 10, 2021 in Dixfield to discuss the issue of lack of room at the Sumner Elementary School and the possibility of moving six graders to the high school.

2. Road Report: the board reviewed the report from the road commissioner (attached). Bim stated that while driving by Steep Drive he noticed and truck full of cement barriers being unloaded and was concerned that the equipment used to unload and transfer the barriers to Steep Drive would damage the new tar on Church St. The driver, Matt Dion of Hillside Excavation, was not cooperative and was not pleasant. Bim contacted the board of selectmen to investigate. Cathy visited the site and took photos. Lee also visited the site. Lee suggested invoicing the driver if any damage occurs.

A complaint from a resident on Steep Drive concerning drop offs created from road work at his and his neighbors driveways was reviewed. Bim plans to correct the problem.

Bim reported that he plans to use the remainder of the winter roads budget to fill the salt shed with sand/salt before June 30th.

Bim suggested that the summer road and winter roads articles in the warrant for fiscal year 2021-2022 be combined and voted as one in order for the left over money at the end of the year be used for either or.

3. CEO Report: the board reviewed the report submitted by Scott Mills (attached). Lee shared that while on Steep Drive investigating the road issue, she noticed that a resident who had recently had a tree cutting permit approved, was cutting healthy trees within the Shoreland zoning area of his property. Lee spoke with Jeff Sterns of DEP who suggested a silt fence may be needed to prevent erosion.

4. ACO Report: the board reviewed a complaint from a resident that the ACO, Roni Sue Vachon, made untrue comments about him on a facebook group. Lee will contact Roni. It was suggested that the town create a detailed internet use policy.

5. Planning Board Report: The planning board reported that they have changed the planning board bylaws to remove the requirement of taping planning board meetings. The planning board is requesting that the CEO attend their monthly meetings.

6. Ordinance Committee: Administrative ordinance and Shoreland ordinance will be included in the town meeting warrant.

7. Fire Warden Report:  none.

8. Treasurer Report: the board reviewed the report from the Treasurer (attached). Lee motioned to approve the quitclaim deed to release tax liens from the 1950’s on property owned by Samuel Young. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

**V Calendar Reminders:** Ordinance Committee meets May 11th at the town hall. Plant sale at the museum on May 8th 9-2.

**VI Unfinished Business:** none.

**VII Open Session:**

**VIII New Business:**

1. Railroad Track/Trail Beaver Dams-Lee will contact Rick Hesslein concerning beaver deceivers. It was stated that the loggers, over the years, have smoothed the railroad bed in order to allow log trucks and this has flattened or lowered the bed so that it floods easily.

2. Hartford Church Sale/New Town Office: it was suggested that instead of planning to build a new town office that the town consider purchasing the Hartford Church instead which is for sale for $149,000.00. Lee stated that during the brainstorming sessions, residents were adamant that the town office remain in the same location. There is also a land ownership issue at the church. Evidently the parking lot is owned by an abutter.

3. Road Contract/Bowen: Lee motioned to accept the contract for road work by David Bowen. Lori second. All in favor=3.

4. AVCOG Officers ballot: Lee motioned to vote for the slate of officers on the AVCOG ballot. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

5. Maine DOT Bridge Inspection/Hartford: the board reviewed the report and it was shared with the road commissioner.

6. Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery operations: no action was taken.

7. Oxford County Tax Commitment: Lee motioned to approve the 2021-2022 oxford county tax commitment. Hartford’s share of the county budget is $123,206.00 which is lower than current year. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

8. RSU#10 Warrant for referendum vote June 8, 2021: the warrant has not arrived yet. The budget validation vote will be held May 26th at the Mountain Valley High School and the referendum vote will be held on June 8th at the Hartford town hall.

9. Hartford Newsletter

10. Voting machine vs hand counting ballots: it was decided to use the machine for the next state/federal election.

**IX Appointments/Resignation:**Lee motioned to accept the resignation of Anthony Gray from the Appeals board with regrets. Cathy second. All in favor=3..

**X Training:** no action taken**.**

**XI Review Correspondence:** the board reviewed correspondence.

**XII** Lee motioned to adjourn at 9:30pm. 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 Commissioner’s Report

May 6, 2021

The road crew has been grading dirt roads around town. Mahoney Road was graded today and Labrador Pond Road is next on the list.

There was an incident on Church St./Steep Drive this week. A contractor was unloading cement barriers with machinery causing damage to the newly paved section of the road. The contractor was Matt Dion of Hillside Excavation and he was not pleasant. A call was made to members of the board of selectmen to look into the issue.

Submitted by

Bim McNeil

Town of Hartford

Treasurers Report

May 6, 2021

1. Budget meetings have begun, as you all know. I spent more time than I planned preparing the expense worksheet and workbooks for the budget meeting which contains accurate amounts spent from previous years and current year budget and expenses through March 31, 2021.

2. I started to work on bank reconciliations, lien logs, and reconciling accounts payables (over the past 5 years) but always seem to have to stop in order to work on more pressing items. I did finish entering all liens and lien discharges into the lien log on Friday. I found that there were several duplicate lien discharges and some errors. I don’t feel comfortable going forth with tax lien foreclosures since mortgage holders were not notified of the liens, liens were filed past the deadlines, and there were many errors.

3. The auditors have most of the information they require to finish the 2019-2020 audit. They will resume work on Hartford’s records May 3rd.

4. Tax money is coming in steadily with a due date of May 1st.

5. Bank deposits are being made each Friday at Androscoggin Bank in Turner.

6. Soon I will be working on the warrant articles for Annual Town Meeting. Please let me know of any special articles to include.

Submitted by

Lianne Bedard

Treasurer