Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

July 20, 2023

7PM@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Susan Goulet, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road Commissioner Bim McNeil, Constable Steven Elsman, residents Rebecca Elsman, David Bowen, Dianne Irving, Ken Violette, Bonny Bishop, Al Borzelli, Kathleen Theriault, David Theriault, Dan Brissette, and Nancy Sullivan.

Present via Zoom: Selectmen Cathy Lowe, residents Jessica Brooks, Nanci Weed, Lennie Eichman, Lwind, and Tim Kirwan.

I Susan called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

II Susan motioned to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Susan motioned to approve Warrant 27(2022-23), Warrant 1(2023-24) & Payroll Warrants July 12 & 2023, July 19, 2023. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: None.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed the report (attached) submitted by the Road Commissioner. Bim shared that he will be meeting with FEMA on Monday once again for the December 2022 storm. Two road complaints were received and Bim is waiting on dig safe to visit before work can begin. Bim suggested that if the Board wants the end of Darrington Road repaired they should add it to the budget for next year. The Board agreed to meet with Brann & Isaacson on August 3, 2023 at 6:30pm in executive session to discuss the Samson issue.

a. Road Contracts 2023-2024: Lee motioned to accept the contract for road construction from Johnson Excavation. Susan second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to accept the contract for road construction from McNeil Farms Inc. Susan second. All in favor=3.

b. BRIC Grants: Jeff Stearns would like to meet with the Board concerning the grant application process perhaps at the next Board meeting. A Board member stated that we may not be eligible for this grant due to the fact Hartford is not under median income limit.

3. Constable Report: None.

4. CEO Report

a. Junkyard Violations: Harlow lots on the end of Town Farm Road and on Bear Pond Road have been inspected and he is now compliant with the law. A permit will be required for the mobile home on Town Farm Road. A lot on Gurney Hill Road has been cleaned up although no letter was sent. Other recipients of warning letters have until July 28, 2023 and August 11, 2023 to respond.

5. ACO Report: Logs will be required to be submitted to the town office each month to include all calls, complaints, and visits of the ACO. A resident on Tucker Road has over 40 sick feral cats that need to be dealt with. Kozy Kennels has tried helping a few of the cats. Several are blind due to disease and will most likely have to be euthanized. The Board would like to send a thank you card to the owner of Kozy Kennels for her efforts.

6. Planning Board Report: The Board reviewed the minutes of the July meeting.

7. Ordinance Committee

a. Ordinance List 2023-24: It has been suggested that if the Board decided to bring an ordinance to the voters concerning LD2003 that they hire someone to write that ordinance. Tabled

Susan motioned that the ordinance committee focus on a no spray ordinance that would continue for the 11 miles on Route 140 and Route 219 and work with DOT. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board reviewed the report from the Treasurer. It was reported that the bankruptcy/foreclosure case may not be final on the July 24th due date since all payments received must be applied to the oldest taxes due first. A last chance certified letter will be sent as required by the Administrative Ordinance Part II if payment is not received by the 24th.

 a. Bank reconciliations June 2023: The Board reviewed the reconciliations.

 10. Cemetery Committee Report: None.

V Calendar Reminders: HHS antique car show Saturday, July 22, 2023 noon @Sumner Church.

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Bulky Waste Collection/Wood not collected: It was suggested that the town clarify what is to be collected next year so that there is no misunderstanding. It was also suggested that the Board look at different options for collection. Sue will contact Archie’s.

VII Open Session:

1. A resident stated that Hartford News was accused of outing the entire town of Hartford’s email list and that didn’t happen. If recipients are emailed in BCC then the list cannot be copied or seen. June 15th Board meeting the Board voted to keep the Hartford News separate from the town. Then the Hartford News was accused of sending an email to selected residents but it was actually sent to all contacts who were residents of Hartford. The resident also stated that she, the editor of the Hartford News, then resigned but has since rescinded her resignation and will remain the editor. A Board member stated that the Hartford News is not going away and that an email was sent inadvertently form the town office to the email group and the clerk failed to send it to recipients as BCC. We will work to make sure this does not happen again and asked for forgiveness. The resident stated that she received an email from a Board member asking that she not share the list, but she had not seen this list, and this was unnecessarily nasty.

2. A Board member stated that she received an email from a resident and shared that Glen Holmes offered to speak to the Board about junkyards and messy yard issues in Buckfield.

3. A resident asked how many letters have been sent recently concerning junkyard violations. The answer was five recent letters all sent by certified mail except one.

4. A resident suggested improving the lighting in the town hall, perhaps two led bulbs with dimmers near the stage area. Also acoustics are bad in the town hall. Perhaps blue tooth speakers and microphones or a meeting owl would help. There have been some comments that we follow the remote meeting policy and only hold zoom meetings when Board members are unable to attend in person. The clerk can bring her Bluetooth microphone to the next meeting.

7. Lee motioned to approve a catering permit for the Sedgley Place. Susan second. All in favor=3.

VIII New Business:

1. MMA Annual Election Ballot-Vice President & Executive Committee Members: The Board voted the ballot.

IX Appointments/Resignation: Waste Committee/ACO: Susan motioned to appoint Roni Sue Vachon as ACO for a one year term. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to accept the resignation of Stephanie Frobese from the Solid Waste Committee. Susan second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to accept the resignation of Lennie Eichman from the Solid Waste Committee. Susan second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to appoint Kathleen Theriault as Solid Waste Committee member with a term to expire in June of 2025. Susan second. All in favor=3.

X Training: None.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed all correspondence.

XII Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes approved by:

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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

July 20, 2023

Work has begun on the south end of Town Farm Road to fix the washouts from the rain storms. We have been out on most of the tar roads to patch the large potholes.

Pratt Hill Road has been smoothed out to make traveling better until we permanently repair the road.

Jeff Stearns would like to meet with the Board soon to discuss grants. I will be meeting with him in the next week or so.

The June 30, 2023 rain storm, which we submitted damage estimates to Oxford Cty. EMA for, may not be declared a disaster and we are waiting to hear about the June 16th and June 18th storms.

Submitted by,

Bim McNeil

Road Commissioner

Town of Hartford

Treasurer’s Report

July 15, 2023

We have successfully established a checking/sweep account with Northeast Bank in July 2023. A small amount remains in Androscoggin Bank in order to pay invoices until we receive our new accounts payable checks. A courier visits the town office each week, or more if needed, to bring all cash deposits to Northeast Bank and they return the same day to bring the deposit receipts. This will save money on mileage expenses and is very convenient. All money is deposited in to Northeast Bank at this time and we expect a substantial increase in interest revenue.

I will be working with the auditor August 24-28 to finalize the 2022-2023 audit and do not foresee any issues. The Board normally receives the final copies of the audit in October of each year.

We have received $2,115.00 as of July 15th from the sale of 2023 beach stickers and $60.00 from the sale of guest passes.

The recreation group delivered swim lesson fees to the town office in the amount of $695.00. When the beach policy is reviewed for 2024 the Board will have to decide whether or not swim lessons will be held in 2024 and how to handle the details.

Submitted by,

Lianne Bedard

Treasurer