Town of Hartford

Selectmen’s Meeting

Approved Minutes

September 7, 2023

7:00@ Hartford Town Hall & via Zoom

Present in person: Selectmen Susan Goulet, Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road Commissioner Bim McNeil, Constable Steven Elsman, residents Ken Violette, Cindy Violette, Lovessa Lafoy, Kenneth Lane, Rebecca Elsman, Nancy Sullivan, Ann Ulrich and her companion.

Present via Zoom: Residents Mary Beth Vanderhorn, Jeremy Johnson, Lee Fernald, Thomas Hamilton, and Nanci Weed.

I Susan called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II Susan motioned to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

III. Susan motioned to approve Warrant 5 & Payroll Warrants August 23, 2023, August 30, 2023, & September 6, 2023. Cathy second. All in favor=2, Abstained=1. (Lianne informed the Board of a request for payment for 1/3 of the cost of the town office damage contract which was included in the warrant).

IV Reports

1. RSU 10 Report: None.

2. Road Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Road Commissioner (attached). Cathy shared information concerning the logging operations on the northern section of Darrington Road. A newly installed culvert may have to be removed during the operations to prevent damage to the culvert.

 a. Howard Road obstruction: No updates.

3. Constable Report: The Constable reported that 11 warning letters were given out at the beach parking area recently. There haven’t been any repeat offenders. A pontoon boat was seen moored near the buoy ropes. Plans are in the works for the purchase of new rope, signs, and buoys for the next season.

4. CEO Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the CEO (attached).

5. ACO Report: None.

6. Planning Board Report: The Board reviewed the Rocky Mountain Acres subdivision sketch plan site visit report. Cathy and Susan attended the site visit along with the engineer and shared that it was a good meeting and the owners had some challenges with the rainfall this season.

7. Ordinance Committee: None.

8. Fire Warden Report: None.

9. Treasurer Report: The Board reviewed the report submitted by the Treasurer (attached).

10. Cemetery Committee Report: Ken reported on a workshop held August 23rd at Fuller Cemetery with seven members present. Stones were repaired and cleaned. A sign was placed at Blake Cemetery. Ken stated that the cemeteries needed mowing.

11. Solid Waste Committee Report: None.

V Calendar Reminders

 1. Planning Board meeting September 11, 2023 7pm

 2. Solid Waste Committee meeting September 13, 2023 6:30pm

 3. Ordinance Committee meeting September 20, 2023 7pm

VI Unfinished Business:

1. Oxford County Commissioners/Appeal: The Board of Commissioners set a deadline of September 12, 2023 for any party to submit reasons why the Commissioners may not have jurisdiction in this appeal concerning winter maintenance of the northern end of Darrington Road. The Board agreed to allow a call to Jeff Beaulieu so he could listen in as he had requested. It was shared that Darrington Road has not been plowed since 1974 and the town officially approved to discontinue winter maintenance at a town meeting for the first time in 1992. Susan will revise the draft letter to the Board of Commissioners to include corrections including a permanent resident has resided on the road since 2015.

2. Fund Balance Policy: The Board reviewed draft versions of two policies. Lianne asked the Board to identify what goals, concerning the balance of the fund, they would like to include in the policy. The Board agreed to invite RHR Smith, Auditor, to a meeting to a meeting once the current audit is completed to discuss fund balance policies. Tabled.

VII Open Session:

1. A resident commented about one bag of trash not collected, timeframe of a maintenance check of the old school house on Church St., and the depth of a ditch on each side of a culvert in front of the old church. The Road Commissioner inspected the culvert and reported that the culvert is not plugged and there are no issues to be concerned about.

2. A Board member will contact the forest service for information concerning preventing fire damage such as removing trees near homes or planting species that deter fire. The information will be shared with the public.

VIII New Business:

1. Maintenance/Janitorial job description amendments/Task List: The maintenance employee has agreed to add janitorial services to his duties. Susan will draft a task list to include regular duties such as fire extinguisher inspections, adding salt to town hall water filter system, town hall floor care, etc.

2. General Assistance Ordinance amendments/schedule public hearing: The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on September 21, 2023 at 6:45pm.

3. Building Permit Application amendment: Due to a recent issue which involved joint landowners who disagreed on the subject of building on their lot, MMA Legal was contacted and suggested we add a paragraph to the application to protect the town and town officials in such cases. Susan motioned to approve the new building lots application as suggested by MMA Legal Services. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

IX Appointments/Resignation:

1. Planning Board resignation: Susan motioned to accept the resignation of Robin Farrar from the Planning Board. Cathy second. All in favor=3.

Lee motioned to appoint Tamara McNeil to the Solid Waste Committee pending the resignation of John Adams if his resignation is received. Susan second. All in favor=3.

X Training: No interest.

XI Review Correspondence: The Board reviewed all correspondence.

XII Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

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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

September 7, 2023

The upper end of Darrington Road has been ditched and new culverts have been installed to repair storm damage. Gravel has been added to the road also.

Hood Farms is mowing roadsides, the railroad bed, and around the salt shed.

We will be starting working on Darrington Road from the intersection of Davenport to Goding Road next.

Next week we will begin work on Labrador Pond Road then moving to Pratt Hill Road around the 15th to finish that project.

Grading will begin next week on some dirt roads.

We have looked at the culvert on Church Street near the church. No work needs to be done on the culvert since it is clean.

Submitted by,

Bim McNeil

Road Commissioner

Town of Hartford

Treasurer’s Report

September 7, 2023

The Auditor and I began working on the audit for year ending June 30, 2023 on August 24th. Work was slightly delayed due the connection issues of the copier/scanner to the computers after the move to the town hall. The problem was caused by the change in internet provided at the town hall and the Budget Document IT department helped change the IP address and it is now connected to the computer system. The Auditor has since then received the rest of the scanned documents and I am waiting to hear from her when she has time to continue.

We did receive a cost sharing check from Oxford County Soil and Water in the amount of $4500.00 which was to fund the Darrington Road culvert issue repaired in prior year. I expect the Auditor to make an adjustment to lower the summer roads expense overage in prior year with the funds received.

The banking with Northeast Bank is going very well. The courier retrieves the cash deposits on Thursdays and returns the same day with the receipts.

I have returned the old check scanner to Androscoggin Bank and we continue to have a balance in that bank. I will be working to close that account once the issued outstanding checks are resolved. I have not received all of the August bank statement as of today so the bank reconciliations will be ready for the Board at the next meeting.

The tax assessor has retrieved all building permits, deeds, etc. needed to perform site visits and begin the assessment for the current tax year. Once taxes have been committed the budget approved at town meeting will show on the expense reports that you receive at each meeting. Taxes are normally committed in October.

I would like to order and begin selling 2024 beach year stickers soon so that passes are able to be sold at the time of vehicle registration.

Submitted by,

Lianne Bedard

Treasurer

Report from the Code Enforcement Officer

Date: August 31st 2023

Year to Date Report:

Year to Date Building Permits Issued: 16 - last yr. 21

Year to Date Plumbing Permits Issued: 4 - last yr. 16

 Complaints:

2023 – C01 Closed, Final Report filed 8/7/23

2023 – C06 Closed, Final Report filed 9/2/23

SLZ Inspections:

None

Other:

 None

Respectfully Submitted by

G. Scott Mills

CEO/LPI Hartford, Me

9/6/2023

Date Permit Number Last Name First Name Location Purpose

1/12/2023 2023-B-01 Marsters Paula U04-020, 254 Camp Ext Road Tree Cutting

1/21/2023 2023-B-02 Harvey-Garcia Emily U09-26.2, U09-6, 120 Pratt Hill Rd Cabin

1/21/2023 2023-B-03 Pinoski Jacob U7-20.3, 302 Berry Rd Addition

2/20/2023 2023-B-04 Pennini Dorean R5-12, 1734 Bear Pond Road Pool

3/9/2023 2023-B-05 Myers Matt & Heidi R7-40, 57 Bartlet Cabin replacement

3/28/2023 2023-B-06 Airuccello Anthony U13-12.3, 96 Beachway Addition

4/15/2023 2023-B-07 Dyer Ellery U9-31, 143 Pratt Hill Tree Cutting

4/22/2023 2023-B-08 Walker Carla U6-19, 84 Blueberry Tree Cutting

5/18/2023 2023-B-09 Grant Garrick U13-7, 87 Beachway Tree Cutting

6/5/2023 2023-B-10 Brown Robert U3-26, 55 Pinehaven Tree Cutting

6/6/2023 2023-B-11 Diblasio Diane R12-15, 21 Green Acres Garage

6/24/2023 2023-B-12 Cassidy Peter R12-030.1, 283 Darrington Road Deck Extension

7/1/2023 2023-B-13 Marstaller Jerry R01-13, Perry Road & 219 New Cabin

8/31/2023 2023-B-14 Marjory Kraske R14-009, 184 Green Acres Tree Cutting

8/31/2023 2023-B-15 Brooks Jessica R12-40.4, 249 Stetson Dr New Foundation

8/31/2023 2023-B-16 Brown Robert U13-026, 55 Pinehaven Addition

Town of Hartford, Maine Plumbing Permit Log 2023

8/1/2023

Date Permit Number Last Name First Name Location Purpose

2/3/2023 2023-P-01 Salisbury Debbie R12-38.9, 9 Adam Lane Internal Plumbing

4/17/2023 2023-P-02 Hyland Interior Design R4-15, 233 Gurney Hill Rd New Septic

4/27/2023 2023-P-03 Goodwin Ira U10-10, Bear Pond Rd Internal Plumbing

7/20/2023 2023-P-04 Fina Del Abrazo 109 Howard Rd New Septic