Town of Hartford

Annual Town Meeting

For Fiscal Year

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

The meeting was held at the Hartford Sumner Elementary School parking lot at 9 AM Saturday September 19, 2020. Lee Homan read Article I calling for the election of a moderator.

**Article #1:** LeeFernald nominated Lennie Eichman as moderator to preside at said meeting, approved by all present. The meeting was recessed to a date to be determined by the Selectboard.

The new meeting was held at the Hartford Town Hall beginning at 2:00 PM Tuesday September 29, 2020. Isaac Haylock read the greetings of Warrant for Annual Town Meeting. Isaac Haylock read Article #1 calling for the election of a Moderator.

**Article #1**: Isaac Haylock nominated Daryl Boness as moderator to preside at said meeting, approved by all present. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Article #2**: To elect by secret ballot one Selectman for the term of three (3) years.

Daryl showed that the ballot box was empty.

Daryl locked the ballot box and declared the polls open.

Daryl closed the polls at 8:00 pm.

Results of the secret ballot election:

**Selectman, three year term: Expiring June of 2023**

**Cathy Lowe 42**

**Write in 4**

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**Daryl recessed the meeting until October 3 at 9:00 AM.**

**October 3, 2020 at 9 AM at the Hartford Sumner Elementary School, the town meeting reconvened.**

**Deputy Moderator, Terry Hayes, took the oath of office and shared the results of the municipal election, as previously printed.**

**Article 3:** To elect and/or appoint the following Town Officers for the ensuing year or to take any other action thereto:

One General Assistance Director

Board of Assessors

Five (5) Budget Committee Members

One Fire Warden (pursuant to MRSA 25, Part 6, Chapter 315, subsection 2391).

A motion was made by Lee Holman to nominate the board of selectmen as General Assistance Director. This motion was seconded by Cathy Lowe.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

A motion was made by Lee Holman, seconded by Lori Swan to nominate the board of selectmen as Board of Assessors.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

Nominations were made for Budget Committee and seconded for the following:

Robert L'Heureux

Christina Mumau

Doreen Maxwell

Michael McCarron

Al Borzelli

No other nominations were made beyond the five (5) needed.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

A motion was made by Lee Holman, seconded by Cathy Lowe to nominate Clarence Hill as Fire Warden.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 4:** Article 4:  To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectboard to enter into an agreement for the purpose of obtaining a bond to accomplish the paving and/or overlay of the pavement on certain roads identified by the Road Commissioner. The bond would be for the amount of $1.4 Million dollars and payments on this bond to be taken from the existing annual road budget. (See page 24 for details on this, including which roads are included in this schedule.  Information on repayments at various rates is available from the Town Office.) Moved by Lennie Eichman as written, seconded by Polly Chasse

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate a sum of money ($356,752), to cover the Summer Roads Account, to be retroactive to July 1, 2020. Chris Mumau moved the recommended amount. Cathy Lowe seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate a sum of money ($319,905) to cover the Winter Roads account, to be retroactive to July 1, 2020. Alan Fernald moved the recommended amount. Lennie Eichman seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate a sum of money ($235,434), to cover the General and Administrative Account to cover operational expenses of the Town, to be retroactive to July 1, 2020.  Alan Fernald moved the article. Polly Chasse seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate a sum of money ($95,813), for the Contracted Solid Waste Curbside Pickup & Recycling, also Annual Bulky Waste Pickup, to be retroactive to July 1, 2020. Alan Fernald moved the article. Lennie Eichman seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate a sum of money ($92,376), for the Public Safety Account, to be retroactive to July 1, 2020. Doreen Maxwell moved the article. Judy Hamilton seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate a sum of money ($10,563 \* represents $500 for Buckfield Recreation not in the budget committee recommendation), for Social Services.  The article covers requests by various community organizations for funding, to be retroactive to July 1, 2020. Lennie Eichman moved the recommended amount. Al Borzelli seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to use Overlay for accounts exceeding appropriated amounts, including tax abatements, and applicable interest and to set the amount of overlay at no more than 2.5% of the Tax Commitment and be retroactive to July 1, 2020.  Explanation:  The Selectboard, as Assessors, are authorized to raise Overlay under Title 36 MRSA section 710 but require your authorization to spend Overlay.  Overlay cannot be more than 5% of the Tax Commitment.  Lee Fernald moved as written. Lennie Eichman seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes.  Sale or sales of said properties is to be by sealed bid and advertised seven (7) days in advance by posting in two conspicuous public places and by placing an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation, and to execute Municipal Quit Claim Deeds for such property.  The Selectboard may, without auction or advertisement, sell to the person or persons to whom a property was taxed at the time the property was acquired by the Town or to their heirs or assigns, such property at the amount of the accrued taxes, interest, lien costs and administrative fees as determined by State Law and the Selectboard and therefore shall execute and deliver a Municipal Quit Claim Deed for such property.  Judy Hamilton moved as written. Doreen Maxwell seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes. Sale or sales of said properties is to be by sealed bid and advertised for seven (7) days in advance by posting in two conspicuous public places and by placing an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation, and to execute Municipal Quit Claim Deeds for such property. The Selectboard may, without auction or advertisement, sell to the person or persons to whom a property was taxed at the time the property was acquired by the Town or to their heirs or assigns, such property at the amount of the accrued taxes, interest, lien costs and administrative fees as determined by State Law and the Selectboard and therefore shall execute and deliver a Municipal Quit Claim Deed for such property.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to fix the following dates on which real and personal property taxes shall be due and payable:  one half of the tax shall be due and payable on December 1, 2020 and one half of the tax shall be due and payable on May 1, 2021. Christine Mumau moved as written, Polly Chasse seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to fix an annual interest rate of the maximum allowed by State Law (currently 9%) on real and personal property taxes not paid on or before December 1, 2020 and May 1, 2021. Lee Holman moved as written. Lennie Eichman seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or the Deputy Tax Collector to accept prepayments of property taxes not yet due or assessed and to fix an annual interest rate of zero (0) percent on taxes paid prior to the due date.  (MRSA 36, Section506, amended). Lennie Eichman moved as written. Alan Fernald seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will fix an annual interest rate of three percent (3%) on excess taxes paid when tax abatements are issued by the Board of Assessors (MRSA 36, Section 506A, as amended). Christine Mumau moved as written. Doreen Maxwell seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to accept all revenues from Cost Sharing Projects and from State and Federal agencies.  This revenue will be distributed to the appropriate accounts as intended by said agencies.  As shown in Appendix A-Table 8. Doreen Maxwell moved as written. Christine Mumau seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature and appropriate and apply the total estimated amount of $279,800 against the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation.

Fund Category                                                             Estimated Amount

State Municipal Revenue Sharing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$   133,300.00

Urban Rural Initiative Program\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­\_$     35,000.00

Tree Growth Reimbursement\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$     21,000.00

Veterans Exemption Return\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$      1,000.00

Snowmobile Registration Refund\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$        500.00

Homestead Exemption Return\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$   89,000.00

Total\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$279,800.00

Lennie Eichman moved as written**.** Lori Swan seconded.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to apply the local revenue amount against the total amount authorized to be raised by Taxation to reduce the FY21 Tax Commitment. Lennie

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Hartford by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

The Vote on this Article must be by written ballot. Judy Hamilton moved the article. Christine Mumau seconded.

**Vote by written ballot: Yes**

Motion to adjourn was made by Terry Hayes

**Vote by show of hands: Yes**

**Adjourned at 10:10 AM.**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Lennie Eichman**

**Interim Deputy Town Clerk**