

Town of Hartford
Selectmen's Meeting
March 20, 2008
Minutes

Selectmen met at 6:30 to conduct employee evaluations.
Regular Business began at 7:00pm

Present: Selectmen David Bowen, Lee Holman, Hope McCabe, Town Clerk Lianne Bedard, Road Commissioner Jeremy Johnson, CEO Jack Plumley, ACO Rick Houghton, land owner Jane Mickeriz and a representative from Mainland Rick Dunton.

- I. David called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- II. Open Session: Lee made known her interest in attending a workshop in Farmington on behalf of the Heritage Society concerning Maine Historical \$10,000.00 Grant program. The grant application deadline is May 9th. The purpose of the grant is to get a team together to collect natural history of town information for a website.
- III. Reports
 - A. Road Report: Jeremy stated that he has posted most of the roads in town. We have received the last of the salt which was available at the bid price. We will be over budget in the salt account when the final bill has been paid and are currently over in the sand account. David requested summer road budget information from Jeremy.
 - B. CEO Report: Selectmen reviewed a letter from the CEO to Ken Mains which was amended according to our attorney's recommendations. This letter will be sent certified mail.
 - C. ACO Report: Rick shared that he is working on a stolen dog case.
- IV. Old Business
 1. Lake Field Subdivision: Selectmen received and reviewed estimates provided by the Mickeriz's on road construction and paving of the proposed Lakefield Drive. The construction estimate from Castonguay Excavation was in the amount of \$82,288.00. The paving estimate from RC & Sons was in the amount of \$37,645.00 with the 1" finishing coat at \$21,000.00. David received advice from our attorney who stated that the town should require a bond or CD. Jane stated that the attorney would make money from the collection of a bond that is why they suggested going that way. David stated that once the road is complete and has the binder coat on the town could release the requirement of a bond or CD since the money from the sale of lots (\$8,000.00 each of 5 lots sold) will pay for the top coat required one year later. David shared his conversation with the attorney concerning the selling of lots. Our attorney stated that the town cannot prevent the landowner from going ahead with any land sales so the bond or CD would protect the town in that case. David motioned to require Jane and Michael Mickeriz to provide the town with a Performance Guarantee whether

it is a CD or Performance Bond until the completion of the road up to the binder coat. Hope second. All in favor=3. David stated that the Mickeriz's have the option of appealing this decision within 30 days but may not meet all of the criteria required for appealing. David motioned to amend the previous motion to include the dollar figure of \$140,933.00 but of that amount \$40,000.00 is covered under the conditions of approval of the Planning Board. The Performance Guarantee is to be in the amount of \$100,933.00. Hope second. All in favor=3. Lianne is to send letters to the Mickeriz's and the Planning Board concerning this decision.

2. Mowing Contract: Selectmen signed the contract with Three Seasons Lawncare for a term of three years at the cost of \$5,000.00 per year.
3. Polling Place Accessibility Reimbursement: A grant is available to correct accessibility issues at the town office (absentee voting area). 80% of cost up to \$3,500.00 is available. Selectmen discussed creating a disabled parking area in the area of the outside kiosk. David suggested paving the parking spot for the disabled parking and replacing loam next to this area with gravel for regular customer parking. Lee mentioned her past discussion with the state on parking improvements. David also mentioned replacing the town office door with an accessible door. Lee will speak with Jeremy to make sure the plans dovetail with future improvements. David will work with Jeremy concerning the specs for the parking area. David will work on the door replacement specs. Lee insisted that an area for posting notices remain outside. Tabled.
4. Town Hall Rental Agreement: David motioned to include in the town hall use permit the allowance of the Board of Selectmen to waive the insurance requirement for all non profit organizations which have ties to the Town of Hartford. Hope second. All in favor=3.

V. New Business

5. Abatement: David motioned to grant abatement for Tmberlands property described as R07 Lot 37 in the amount of \$541.850 for the tax years 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. Hope second. All in favor=3.
6. Workshops: Selectmen agreed to allow Gale Williams to attend the T.S operator workshop, Lianne to attend the Notary workshop and any Planning Board member to attend the subdivision workshops.
7. Property Damage: Selectmen agreed to contact the insurance company concerning the fallen chimney at the Town Hall but do not make a claim as of yet. Selectmen discussed whether to repair the chimney or have it removed completely. The chimney is located at the front of the building and was used for the wood stove in the past but is no longer used. Lianne will ask Gale Williams to inspect the Transfer Station building if he is able to make it out there. Tabled.
8. Tree Growth Penalty Policy: A resident has asked whether or not he could make payments toward his tree growth penalty which has not been treated as a supplement bill. Lianne is concerned that if there is

not record of the fee being charged it will be hard to keep track of in the computer system. Selectmen agreed to have the assessors issue supplement bills as soon as the land is removed from the tree growth program. Lianne will prepare a policy to sign for the next meeting.

9. Homestead Exemptions/State Ratio: According to the assessors, the homestead exemption will be lower for 2008/09 due the drop in the sales ratio or if the Selectmen decide to allow the regular exemption the town will receive less of a reimbursement from the state. The exemption may be 12,090 instead of 13,000 according to Mike O'Donnell. This will be addressed at the Budget Meetings when revenue is discussed.
 10. Letter to Residents/Tax Reminders: Selectmen requested that Lianne add Transfer Station sticker information,
 11. Bank Account Reconciliations: Selectmen reviewed.
- VI. David motioned to approve Selectmen minutes of March 6, 2008. Hope second. All in favor=3.
- VII. David motioned to approve Warrants #82, 83, 84, & 85. Hope second. All in favor=3.
- VIII. David motioned to adjourn at 8:50pm. Hope second. All in favor=3.

Minutes approved by:

David Bowen

Date

Hope McCabe

Date

Lee Holman

Date