

**Town of Hartford**  
**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**For Fiscal Year**  
**July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027**

On June 9, 2026 8:00am Lianne Bedard, Town Clerk, read the greetings of the town meeting warrant and read article 1.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at said Meeting: Daryl Boness was elected as Moderator with three written ballots.

Daryl took the oath of office for Moderator and read article 1.  
Daryl showed that the ballot boxes were empty and proceeded to open the polls.

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

June 9, 2025 8:00pm Daryl closed the polls to voting. The ballot clerks counted all ballots.

Results:

Selectmen (3-year term)

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Lowe, Cathy | 306 |
| Write ins   | 12  |
| Blank       | 23  |

RSU#10 Budget Referendum

|             |            |     |
|-------------|------------|-----|
| Question 1: | Yes        | 158 |
|             | No         | 162 |
|             | Blank      | 15  |
| Question 2: | Acceptable | 120 |
|             | Too Low    | 16  |
|             | Too high   | 174 |
|             | Blank      | 25  |

June 13, 2026 at the Sumner Elementary School Gymnasium with 63 voters present: Selectman, Nicholas Tiff, welcomed all present, asked for all to pledge allegiance to the flag, read the dedication of the town report honoring Arthur Harvey, presented the Spirit of America Award to Walter Thomas for his work on the cemetery committee and donation of veteran stones, and read the list of residents who passed during the past year.

The Moderator resumed the meeting from June 9, 2026 and appointed Richard Pickett to preside over the remainder of the meeting. Richard Pickett took the oath of office of Deputy Moderator, explained the rules of the meeting, the behavior that was expected, then proceeded to read Article 3.

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

Lee Holman nominated the **Board of Selectmen** as General Assistance Directors and Board of Assessors. Margaret Matthews second.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Five (5) Budget Committee Members

David Bowen nominated **Ken Violette**. Judy Hamilton second.

Lee Holman nominated **Lennie Eichman**. Rebecca Elsmann second.

Judy Hamilton nominated **David Bowen**. Jane Adams second.

David Bowen nominated **Cassidy Bedard**. Paula Brown second.

Carol Buzzell nominated **Casie Jo Morris**. David Bowen second.

Vote for all five by show of hands: **Yes.**

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

Lee Holman nominated **Baxter Tardif**. Andrew Conant second.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 4: Lee Holman motioned to appropriate up to \$13,768.00 from Fund Balance to cover the over expenditure of the Winter Roads Account for FY 2025-2026. Seconded by Andrew Conant.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 5: David Bowen motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$519,150.00 for the Winter Roads Account. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 6: Nicholas Tiffit motioned to raise and/or appropriate 308,699.00 for the Administration Account to include \$2,500.00 additional funds for IT. Lee Holman second.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 7: Lee Holman motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$160,000.00 for the Summer Roads Account which includes \$151,627.00 for the FY 2026-2027 principal and interest payment on the Maine Bond Bank loan dated November 1, 2021. Total amount borrowed equals \$1,400,000.00 with all unexpended funds at fiscal year-end to be transferred to the Summer Road Reserve for future road repair. Seconded by Andrew Conant.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 8: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$133,917.00 for the Sanitation Account to include Bulky Waste Collection Day(s) per year. Seconded by Margaret Matthews.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 9: David Bowen motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$123,438.00 for the Public Safety Account. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 10: Daryl Boness motioned to amend the Ordinance to Establish the Hartford Planning Board as written in Attachment A. Seconded by David Bowen.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 11: Nicholas Tiffit motioned to amend the Town of Hartford Administrative Ordinance Part II as written in Attachment B. Seconded by Amanda Conant.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 12: Amanda Conant motioned to amend the Town of Hartford Administrative Ordinance as written in Attachment C. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 13: Lee Holman motioned to accept a gift of vacant land with covenants from Diane and Douglas Fisher. Land is described as a portion of Map R09 Lot 060 containing 50 acres located on Main Street, Hartford, Maine. See Attachment D. Seconded by Andrew Conant.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 14: Lennie Eichman motioned to appropriate \$180,539.00 from Fund Balance and create a Future Transfer Station Improvement Reserve to be used for any costs related to planning, permitting, and construction required for a proposed new Transfer Station to be located on Map R04 Lot 011-007, 44 Gurney Hill Road, Hartford and to provide the Board of Selectmen with continuing authority to spend from the reserve for that purpose without further vote of the town meeting. This authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by town meeting vote. Seconded by Andrew Conant.

Jaylene Gonyea motioned to vote on the article by written ballot. Lee Holman second.

Vote by show of hands for method of voting: No.

Judy Hamilton motioned to move to question. Seconded by David Bowen.

Vote by show of hands to move to question: Yes.

Vote on the Article by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 15: David Bowen motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$33,475.00 for the Revaluation Reserve Account for future use and to provide the Board of Selectmen with continuing authority to spend from the reserve for that purpose without further vote of the town meeting. This authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by town meeting vote. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 16: Morrill Nason motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$3,000.00 for the Capital Outlay Reserve Account for future use and to provide the Board of Selectmen with continuing authority to spend from the reserve for that purpose without further vote of the town meeting. This authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by town meeting vote. Seconded by Andrew Conant.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 17: Morrill Nason motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$5,000.00 for the Municipal Buildings Improvement Reserve Account for future use and to provide the Board of Selectmen with continuing authority to spend from the reserve for that purpose without further vote of the town meeting. This authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by town meeting vote. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 18: Leslie Boness motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$5,000.00 for the Legal Reserve Account for future use and to provide the Board of Selectmen with continuing authority to spend from the reserve for that purpose without further vote of the town meeting. This authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by town meeting vote. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 19: Doreen Maxwell motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$800.00 for the Cemetery Reserve Account for future use and to provide the Board of Selectmen with continuing authority to spend from the reserve for that purpose without further vote of the town meeting. This authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by town meeting vote. Seconded by Judy Hamilton.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 20: Morrill Nason motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$3,000.00 for the Contingency Account. Seconded by Judy Hamilton.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 21: Lee Holman motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$3,000.00 for the General Assistance Account. Seconded by Arlene Nason.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 22. Morrill Nason motioned to appropriate a \$200,000.00 from Fund Balance to reduce the 2026-2027 Tax Commitment. Seconded by Lee Holman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 23: Morrill Nason motioned to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts for Mowing of cemeteries and Town owned properties. Seconded by David Bowen.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 24: Lennie Eichman motioned to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts for Snow Removal and Ice Control Services. Seconded by Morrill Nason.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

### **SOCIAL SERVICE ARTICLES**

Lee Holman motioned to vote on articles 25-46 as one. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.  
Vote by show of hands: **No.**

Article 25: Andrew Conant motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$600.00 for the Hartford Heritage Society. Seconded by Amanda Conant.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 26: Andrew Conant motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Hartford Newsletter. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 27: David Bowen motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$1,006.00 for the area Snowmobile Clubs. Seconded by Jaylene Gonyea.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 28: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$1,000.00 for Canton Hi-Riders Snowmobile Club to be used for repair of the trail groomer. Seconded by Amanda Conant.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 29: Judy Hamilton motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$500.00 for the Lake Anasagunticook Association. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 30: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Hartford/Sumner Food Bank. Seconded by Andrew Conant.  
Pauline Chasse motioned to amend the amount to \$2,000.00. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.  
Vote by show of hands to amend to \$2,000.00. **Yes.**  
Vote by show of hands on the Article as amended: **Yes.**

Article 31: Jane Adams motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$300.00 for the Increase Robinson Library. Seconded by Judy Hamilton.  
Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 32: Lee Holman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Zadoc Long Free Library. Seconded by Jen Bonaventura.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 33: Andrew Conant motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$100.00 for Mother's Community Club of Sumner. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 34: Andrew Conant motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$1,000.00 for Buckfield Recreation Department. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 35: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$2,500.00 for RCAM. Seconded by Judy Hamilton.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 36: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$150.00 for Life Flight. Seconded by Dan Brissette.

Vote by show of hands: **No.**

Nicholas Tiff motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$0 for Life Flight. Seconded by Kathleen Theriault.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 37. Lee Holman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$1,000.00 for Seniors Plus. Seconded by Morrill Nason.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 38: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and/or appropriate \$750.00 for Safe Voices. Seconded by Morrill Nason.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 39: Doreen Maxwell motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$100.00 for the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine. Seconded by Andrew Conant.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 40: Morrill Nason motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$150.00 for MPBN TV. Seconded by Jane Adams.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 41: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$135.00 for Kennebec Behavioral Health Seconded by Jane Adams.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 42: Judy Hamilton motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$100.00 for Team Hailey Hugs Nonprofit. Seconded by Aaron Harvey.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 43: Arlene Nason motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$1,500.00 for Spurwink. Seconded by Amanda Conant.

Lennie Eichman motioned to amend the article to \$500.00. Seconded by Amanda Conant.

Vote by show of hands to amend to \$500.00: **Yes.**

Vote by show of hands on article as amended: **Yes.**

Article 44: David Bowen motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$500.00 for Andwell Health Partners. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 45: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$250.00 for Sweetster. Seconded by Lee Holman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 46: Lennie Eichman motioned to raise and /or appropriate \$500.00 for Helping Hearts of Western Maine. Seconded by Morrill Nason.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 47: Morrill Nason motioned to authorize the Selectmen 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 5% of the Tax Commitment. Seconded by Lee Holman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 48: Lennie Eichman motioned to authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to dispose of tax acquired property via quitclaim deed by either (A) offering the property to the former owner(s) or if deceased, to his/her/their heirs/devisees/personal representative for a price equal to all outstanding taxes, interest, fees and costs; or (B) using the process authorized by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C. For sales other than to the former owner, any excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. §943-C, shall be returned to the former owner. Seconded by Judy Hamilton.

**Vote by show of hands: Yes.**

Article 49: Morrill Nason motioned 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, 2026 and one half of the tax shall be due and payable on May 1, 2027. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 50: Leslie Boness motioned to fix an annual interest rate of the maximum allowed by State Law (currently 7%) on real and personal property taxes not paid on or before December 1, 2026 and May 1, 2027. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 51: Morrill Nason motioned to fix an annual interest rate of three percent (3%) on excess taxes paid when tax abatements are issued by the Board of Assessors (M.R.S.A. 36, Section 506A, as amended). Seconded by Michael McCarron.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 52: Morrill Nason motioned 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 percent (0) on taxes paid prior to the due date. (M.R.S.A. 36, Section 506, amended). Seconded by Arlene Nason.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 53: Judy Hamilton motioned to accept all revenues from Cost Sharing Projects, Grants, and from State and Federal agencies. This revenue will be distributed to the appropriate accounts as intended by said agencies. Seconded by Morrill Nason.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 54: Leslie Boness motioned 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 \$352,395.00 against the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation. Seconded by Doreen Maxwell.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

| Fund category                        | Estimated Amount |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| State Municipal Revenue Sharing..... | \$178,797.00     |
| Local Road Assistance Program.....   | \$ 61,000.00     |
| Tree Growth Reimbursement.....       | \$ 25,000.00     |
| Veterans Exemption Return .....      | \$ 651.00        |
| Snowmobile Registration Refund.....  | \$ 887.00        |
| Homestead Exemption Return.....      | \$ 86,000.00     |
| <u>BETE Return.....</u>              | <u>\$ 60.00</u>  |
| Total                                | \$352,395.00     |

Article 55: Leslie Boness motioned to apply the local revenue amount of \$328,569.00 against the total amount authorized to be raised by Taxation to reduce the FY2026 Tax Commitment.

Seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

Article 56: Leslie Boness motioned to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to waive foreclosure on any real estate tax lien pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944 when deemed appropriate. Seconded by Lennie Eichman.

Vote by show of hands: **Yes.**

The moderator ended the meeting at 11:31am by thanking all who attended and proceeded to witness oaths of elected officials which were present.

Minutes prepared by,



Lianne Bedard

Town Clerk

June 20, 2026

