

**TOWN OF HARTLAND  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES FOR  
Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

To: Freeman Ramsdell, a resident of the Town of Hartland, County of Somerset, State of Maine.

**GREETING:**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Hartland in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Irving Tanning Community Center, in said Town on **Wednesday, July 29, 2020** A.D. at **six o'clock** in the evening, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 21 as set out below, to wit:

*Senator Paul Davis did a short presentation from the State of Maine 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, presenting an official expression of sentiment to recognize the Town of Hartland's Bicentennial. There were 69 voters and 4 non-voters present at the meeting. Town Meeting was called to order at 6: 05 P.M. Town Clerk read the greeting and proceeded to call for nomination of a Moderator.*

**Art. 1:** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

*Harold (Hadley) Buker was nominated, three people cast a written ballot to vote him in, and Town Clerk sworn him in. Meeting was turned over to the Moderator. Two deputy Moderators were sworn in by Hadley to help with the process of counting votes and allowing voters setting in separate room to speak during the discussion of articles.*

**Art. 2:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to apply \$100,000 of the undesignated fund balance to reduce the 2020-2021 tax mil rate.

*Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for Vote to pass article carried 65 Yes, 1 No*

**Art. 3:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply \$10,000 of the undesignated fund balance to the Fire Department reserve account.

*Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: What is balance in the reserve fund and what total value are you trying to accumulate (Top end of the fund)? Town Manager stated current balance around \$48,000 looking to save toward a new truck. Call for vote to pass article carried 66 Yes, 0 No*

**Art. 4:** To see if the town will vote to accept any or all funds or property from Federal, State or private funding in the form of grants or donations, public or anonymous that the Municipal Officers deem appropriate and in the best interest of the Town.

***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 64  
Yes, 1 No***

**Art. 5:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers, on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes and/or sewer liens thereon, "Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner" and on such terms as they deem advisable to execute quit-claim deeds for such property.

***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 64  
Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of equipment, vehicles or furniture no longer necessary to Town operations that the Municipal Officers deem appropriate and in the best interest of the Town.

***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 66  
Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 7** To see if the Town will vote to establish Sept 15 & Mar 1 due dates on taxes, and set the interest rate at 7% that shall be applied after the due dates.

***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 66  
Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 8:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A., sec 506.

***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 65  
Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 9:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of the ensuing year's taxes, if necessary.

**Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion:** How do you borrow money when you don't know if people are going to pay taxes or not? Town Manager stated this is a standard Article on yearly warrant and gives the Town flexibility to borrow if necessary, to pay Town related bills by borrowing in anticipation of receiving the tax payments. The necessity has not happened for a long time. Second question, in these economic times can't we use the reserve account, so we don't go into debt? Town Manager stated could have a Special Town Meeting in order to use Surplus funds, using surplus does require Town approval. Call for vote to pass carried 66 Yes, 2 NO

**Art. 10:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to serve as Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

**Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 65 Yes, 0 No**

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**Art. 11:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following General Governmental accounts:

Request:

Pay to Officers	\$ 9,000
Administration	\$222,480
Town Office	\$ 12,375
Assessing	\$ 16,000
Office Equip/Tech	\$ 27,550
Social Security	\$ 27,000
Contingent	\$ 10,000
Abatements	\$ <u>6,000</u>

TOTAL \$330,405

**Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$ 330,405**

**Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion:** What is the amount of increase in the Administration portion of this article? Town Manager stated \$3,000 approximately. Second question, who is in Administration and how much do they get in salary? Town Manager state he is part of administration wages at 65,000, Town Clerk wages 40,000, portion of Administrative Assistant wages, part time office staff wages are also in this article. Call for vote to pass carried 58 Yes, 3 No

### PROTECTION

**Art. 12:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Public Safety* accounts:

Request:

Fire Department	\$ 28,825
Street Lights	\$ 20,500
Dam	\$ 3,000
Hydrant Rental	\$ 110,700
Animal Control	\$ 8,700
Insurance	<u>\$ 76,700</u>

TOTAL \$ 248,425

***Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$248,425***

**Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: Why doesn't the Fire Department get more money? Town manager stated this is the budget amount the Fire Department asked for. Second question, why do we pay for hydrant rental when we can't even use them? Town Manager stated the amount is assessed to the Town by the Water District and that Maine PUC allows the Districts to bill the town for the amount spent in the past for operating expenses. Third question, what is the \$8700 in Animal Control for? Town Manager advised he is looking to add part time person, mileage expenses and payment to the Somerset Humane Society to take animal and wages for the ACO are also included. Call for vote to pass carried 60 Yes, 3 No**

### HEALTH & WELFARE

**Art. 13:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Health & Welfare* accounts:

Request:

General Assistance	\$ 9,072
Tri Town Food Bank	\$ 2,000
Hartland/St Albans Seniors	\$ 500
Food/Legion Bldg.	<u>\$ 500</u>
TOTAL	\$ 12,072

***Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$12,072***

**Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: do the people who get general assistance pay back or is this a hand out? Town Manager advised this is a state-run program and no, people do not pay back. Call for vote to pass carried 61 Yes, 3 No**

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Art. 14:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Public Works* accounts:

Request:

Labor	\$ 37,500
Supplies/Services	\$ 2,500
Roads	\$ 301,000
Snow Removal	\$ 247,000
Town Truck	\$ 6,000
Cemeteries	\$ <u>36,500</u>

TOTAL \$ 630,500

*Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$630,500*

Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: How come some people working and some sitting on butt at the Transfer Station? Town Manager stated we could not discuss this matter under this article as the Transfer Station is not in this article. Second question, Is there a breakdown on spreadsheet for these line items Roads & Cemetery? Town Manager said no spreadsheet available for this tonight, he has been giving the spreadsheet out at the Selectmen's meetings, you can stop by Town office to get one. Third question, article is \$30,000 more than last year is the increase in roads or what item? Town Manager advised most of the increase is in labor for public works and increase in cost of sand. Four question, Is increase in hours or raise in pay? Town Manager advised combination of both. Call for vote to pass carried 61 Yes, 3 No

## SANITATION

**Art. 15:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Health & Sanitation* accounts:

Request:

Transfer Station	\$151,575
Code Enforcement	\$ <u>9,000</u>

TOTAL \$160,575

*Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$160,575*

Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: What at the Transfer Station cost the \$151,515? Town Manager advised the Town pays over \$100,000 in tipping fees and trucking costs. Trash is expensive. Call for vote to pass carried 60 Yes, 6 No

## RECREATION

**Art. 16:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Recreation* accounts:

Request:	
I.T.C.C.	\$ 10,000
Library	\$ 54,000
Pool	<u>\$ 16,050</u>
TOTAL	\$ 80,050

***Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$80,050***

**Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: Library is included in the Recreation article? Is there wages in this amount? Town Manager advised Library is not a department of the Town it is stand alone and does not know the wage amount. Call for vote to pass carried 65 Yes, 1 No**

## PUBLIC SERVICE

**Art. 17:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Public Service* accounts:

Request:	
KVCOG	\$ 2,585
MMA	\$ 2,603
SEDC	\$ 100
Chamber Commerce	\$ 250
First Park	\$ 13,000
G M L A	\$ 3,000
TOTAL	\$ 21,538

***Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$21,538***

**Motion made and second to move the article, Discussion: How many more years on First Park does the Town have to pay? Town Manager said I believe this is a 99-year contract, we have the document at the office for all to see. Town does receive return revenue from First Park. Second question, what is MMA amount for? Town Manger said this is annual fee to belong as a member. Call for vote to pass carried 58 Yes, 4 No**

**DEBT SERVICE**

**Art. 18:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Debt Service* accounts:

Request:

ME Municipal Bond Bank	\$	00
Salt/Sand Shed	\$	<u>5,910</u>

TOTAL	\$	5,910
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***Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$ 5,910***

***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 62 Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 19:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the Property Tax Levy Limit of \$856,976 established for Hartland 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. (This article only needs to be voted on, if the budget is increased more than \$30,796 in the preceding articles).

***Motion made and second to pass over the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass over 64 Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 20:** To see if the Town will vote to apply from the following accounts for the 2020/21 budget:

Request:

Excise Tax	\$	215,000
Boat Excise	\$	3,000
Departmental Accounts	\$	77,000
Highway Assistance (For Capital use only)	\$	20,000

TOTAL	\$	<u>315,000</u>
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***Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 65 Yes, 0 No***

**Art. 21:** To see if the Town will vote to allocate the snowmobile registration funds received from the State of Maine to Smokey's Angels Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of snowmobile trails for the benefit and use of the public.

**Motion made and second to move the article, no discussion, Call for vote to pass carried 67 Yes, 0 No**

**Motion to adjourn at 7:27 PM, seconded.**

The Registrar will be in session for the purpose of maintaining the list of voters Wednesday, July 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands this 3 day of August A.D. 2020

A True Copy  
Attest:

Triss A. Smith  
Triss A. Smith, Clerk

Judith Alton  
Judith Alton, Selectman

John Finkel  
John Finkel, Selectman

Mark Brooks  
Mark Brooks, Selectman