

Hartford Select Board and School Board
Warrant Information Meeting
January 18, 2024 6PM
Hartford High School Auditorium

Town and School District Moderator Chuck Wooster opened the meeting at 6:11 PM. He outlined the purpose of the meeting, to share information on potential items for the upcoming town meeting. The official warrant articles will be finalized soon. Some items will require additional hearings. No voting will happen tonight.

Budget/ Candidates Night, Feb 26, 2024, HHS Auditorium

Town Meeting, Saturday, March 2, 2024, HHS Gymnasium

Town Meeting Voting, Tuesday, March 5, 2024, HHS Gymnasium

1. Town Bond, \$1,300,000 for Design/Renovation of Fire Station No 2
Scott Cooney, Fire Chief, addressed the body, station number 2 is in Quechee, language has been reviewed by the town attorney, will appear on the ballot, fire calls have increased over the years, have staffed the Quechee fire station, fire and EMS service out of the Quechee station, have rented a temporary trailer for living quarters, working with planners to transition to a building that will house equipment, living area, and office space, he shared the financial information from the bond bank, Quechee represents approximately 25% of calls, 7 minute response time,
Questions from the body, answers from Chief Cooney
2. Charter Revision
Mike Hoyt, Select Board Chair, addressed the body, proposed Charter changes on the ballot, will address this at the next board meeting and Feb 6th, Charter committee recommended language changes (added/deleted), regulating rental houses in the town, short term rentals, local option tax (will be separate on ballot), adds 1% sales tax, school and town meeting committee references the warrant meeting, make up of said committee, time of budget/candidates night time struck to allow for flexibility, elected officers lengthens the moderators term, quorum of select board for action passing, collector of delinquent taxes is duty of town treasurer, assistant town treasurer appointed to act in absence of town treasurer, school district would be informed, if Charter changes pass in Hartford would become a law in Montpelier for approval by House, Senate, and Governor, local option tax could bring in \$650,000
Questions from audience, answered by Mr. Hoyt
3. Proposed Uses of Local Option Taxes
A Ambulance

Scott Cooney, Fire Chief, addressed the body, ambulance purchase request on the ballot, \$200,000 of local option tax revenue to be used to purchase a new ambulance, estimated cost of \$315,000, remaining from the reserve account, has been on order since May 2022

B Lyman Point Park

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Rec, addressed the body, improvements to park, funding in reserve account of \$100,000, requesting \$225,000 from local option tax, new and upgrades to Lyman park, playground, picnic area, grandstand relocation, accessible river access and walkways

C. Beautification of Town Villages

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Red, addressed the body, added planters in town this year, no real program, planning for near and long term projects, signage in villages repaired, seasonal light post banner and hometown hero program, public art implementation, \$30,000 request for FY25, develop a working group to create the program,

4. School District Bond, \$21,000,000 Infrastructure Repairs and Improvements
Sara Campbell, School Board Member, addressed the body, bond proposal, backfill aging infrastructure issues and future growth, codes and standards have changed, previous bonds have been targeted for specific renovations, life safety systems, HVAC/MEP, looking forward, catchment study for future town growth, long term goals of the buildings, energy savings in the future, community engagement with ongoing planning work,
Tom DeBalsi presented the financial piece: bond amount \$21,000,000 financing costs over 20 years will be \$9M+ for a total of \$30M+, annual payment of \$1,436,475,
Some targeted projects: roofs on DBS/OQS, stormwater drainage systems, HVAC upgrades, paving, program study,
two more formal hearings, discussed at school board meetings
Questions from audience, answered by Sara Campbell and Tom DeBalsi

Mr. Wooster thanked the audience for attending and the town leaders for their work.

He adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherrie Torrey
Board Recorder