

SHARON BOARD OF FINANCE
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A special meeting of the Sharon BOF was held via Zoom on April 7, 2020 at 6:30PM. Present were regular members Duncan, Fowler, Bancroft, Dignacco, Bartram and Robertson; alternates O'Kelly and Ensign; First Selectman Colley, Town Clerk Amerighi, reporter Hawken, M. Miles taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

Chairman Dignacco called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Mrs. Dignacco explained a conversation she had with Ms. Amerighi pertaining to the Map Copier that was removed from the proposed Selectmen's Budget at the last meeting, hence placing this item on the agenda. Mrs. Robertson made a motion to add the Map Copier back into the proposed budget with the total purchase price for the 20/21 budget being \$14,288 as outlined and being line item 14o, seconded by Ms. Fowler. Ms. Amerighi reviewed the additional information she obtained from the purchasing agent which outlined outright purchase costs versus leasing, which was one of Mr. Duncan's questions. She also reviewed POSSIBLE revenue, which was one of Mr. Bancroft's questions, but emphasized that the equipment would provide the taxpayers with a service that they can walk away with and would be used by various offices and departments in the building. This would not be a money making piece of equipment but would be a time saver for employees and overtime may pay for itself. With all questions answered and comments made, a vote was taken on the motion – all in favor = motion carried. Ms. Amerighi thanked the Board for re-considering this purchase and the Board thanked her for all her information on this item.

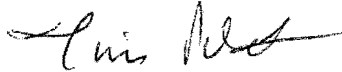
The Board discussed in length a budget procedure time line based on Executive Order 7c. This allows for an extra 30 days from May 8, 2020 to adopt a budget and set the mil rate by the Board of Selectmen without complying with any in-person budget adoption requirements, although the Board of Finance in Sharon is the budgetary authority. So no hearing will be held but all reasonable steps should be taken to publicize the draft budget and to receive public comments thereon. Upon getting the budgets out there via website, radio interviews and/or video presentations by the BOS & the BOE, newsletter and paper copies available, a deadline for questions/comments to be submitted needs to be set, as well as how the questions/comments can be received. Ms. Fowler made a motion that the cut-off date for questions/comments be April 28, 2020, seconded by Mr. Bancroft. In the discussion it was agreed to have questions/comments submitted to a centralized email address with them being forwarded automatically to the BOF members (they would be forwarded to the appropriate Board – BOE or BOS to be prepared to address) as well as submitted by mail. Vote taken on motion – all in favor, motion carried. Now the Board needs to set a special meeting via Zoom to address any questions/comments that were submitted and make a final decision on the budgets. The BOF would then make a recommendation to the BOS for adopting the budget (as the town really only has one budget) and the setting of the mil rate. Ms. Fowler made a motion to set a Zoom meeting for Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 6:30PM, seconded by Mr. Duncan. In the discussion, the basic agenda would be to make a final decision on the proposed budgets, make the recommendation for adoption to the BOS and make the recommendation for the mil rate to the BOS. At this meeting, the questions/comments will be publicly addressed. Vote taken on motion – all in favor, motion carried.

Next there was a discussion on town assistance in light of COVID-19. Whether for non-profits in and/or outside of the budget and for businesses. Individuals are handled directly through the social services office. The response from George Sinnamon on this topic was discussed. For the 19/20 fiscal year, the

Board could utilize the fund transfer method within the social services line. For the 20/21 fiscal year, Mr. Sinnamon offered 4 options all of which need to be accomplished through the normal process – Board of Selectmen to Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting. Utilizing the existing Sharon Fund was discussed as well as the Civil Preparedness Line Item. The mission and process to access the funds in the Sharon Fund Account will need to be reviewed. Mr. O’Kelly expressed his liking of the separate fund with a small committee to make the decisions on spending the funds. Keeping people’s privacy is very important and showing that there is support available for non-profits and businesses is vital. After some discussion as this needs to come from the Board of Selectmen first. They need to determine if this is worth pursuing and how to define who might be eligible for assistance. It was the consensus that if the BOS choose to pursue this, they should go with Option 1 and determine an amount. Then the BOF could approve a simple process as noted in Mr. Sinnamon’s last paragraph if ultimately approved at town meeting.

With nothing further, Mr. Bartram made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Robertson, with all in favor – motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary

RECEIVED

2020 APR -9 A 9:18

SHARON TOWN CLERK