

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

A special meeting of the Sharon BOF was held via Zoom on May 5, 2020 at 6:30PM. Present were regular members Dignacco, Robertson, Bancroft, Fowler, Duncan and Bartram; alternates O'Kelly and Ensign; the three Selectmen, Barbara Prindle, Marlene Woodman, Karen Manning-SCS Principal, Doug Cahill-BOE Chairman, S. Hassler, Nancy Green, Gretchen Hachmeister, Brian Ross, Tom Trowbridge, Lorna Edmundson, Arete Warren, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

Chairman Dignacco called the meeting to order at 6:39.

The questions/comments received on the proposed budgets (the only ones received pertained to the Board of Selectmen's budget – none on the BOE proposed budget) were taken one by one:

Barbara Prindle: Line Item 9A - Assessor salary 4% increase as the new individual has only been in this position for a few months – the BOS looked at the experience, existing required Certifications and the quality of the individual. There are not many certified Assessors available. This position does not have benefits and they felt the position deserves the raise; Line Item 14M – Town Hall Web Site is over budget this current year but down for the proposed budget – in the current year the Web Site was re-designed – that expense is not required in the proposed budget; Line Item 24A – Dog Warden line item amount down – the Animal Control Officer is not paid this amount of money. These funds go into the Dog Fund where the salary and expenses are paid out of. This account has a balance that will cover these items for at least another year; and Equipment Fund spreadsheet shows a new loan in the amount of \$125,000 which is for the purchase of a new truck which is on order but the loan had to be taken in order to keep the low interest rate offered by Salisbury Bank & Trust. This loan was approved by the BOF and Town Meeting.

Marlene Woodman: commented in favor of the purchase of the map copier for the Town Hall and the funding for the Sharon Connect survey. Offered support for the creation of a separate fund to support residents/small businesses, non-profits etc. due to COVID 19. As discussed at the last meeting, this topic sits with the BOS to pursue.

Robin Zitter: commented in favor of the purchase of the map copier for Town Hall. As follow-up on the COVID fund, Ms. Fowler questioned the status. This topic is up to the BOS to proceed with. They discussed it at their last meeting and will be discussing it again at their next meeting next week. First Selectman Colley commented that the situation is being monitored and everyone should be proud of what the town people have done and continue to do.

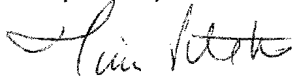
Ms. Fowler made a motion to approve/adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 as submitted to the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Mrs. Robertson. In the discussion, for the new members, it was pointed out that the Town actually only has one budget although there are two aspects to it – the BOS budget and the BOE budget. Vote taken on motion – all in favor – motion carried.

Each member offered their opinion in setting of the Mil Rate for fiscal year 2020-2021 and recommending said Mil Rate to the Board of Selectmen. The only real unknowns at this point is what the collection rate will be and any additional funding for the new transfer station. Mrs. Robertson made a motion that the same Mil Rate be maintained – 14.40 – and recommended to the BOS for fiscal year 2020-2021, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all favor – motion carried.

The Board needs to appoint the Auditor for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Mr. Bancroft made a motion to appoint Sinnamon & Associates, LLC, seconded by Mr. Duncan, with all in favor – motion carried.

Ms. Fowler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Duncan, with all in favor – motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 16 7PM

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SHARON TOWN CLERK