

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

A special meeting of the Sharon BOF was held on April 2, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall. Present were regular members Bartram, Bancroft, Dignacco, Flanagan and Seibold; alternates La Roche via telephone and Duncan; Selectmen Jones and Fowler; Gretchen Hachmeister, Thomas Trowbridge, Cicily Hajek, Carl Chalet, Jim Krissel and the secretary.

Chairman Dignacco called the meeting to order at 7PM. Mr. Duncan was made a voting member for this meeting replacing Mrs. Robertson.

Gretchen Hachmeister, Executive Director of Hotchkiss Library and Thomas Trowbridge, Board President, were present to make a presentation and offer explanations for their budget increase request as well as the capital funding needs request. The request for the budget increase to \$90,000 would cover 25% of their operating budget. The programs and uses for the Library were reviewed. The capital funding needs request were discussed. The Board submitted copies of two proposals obtained for the water line replacement. They are seeking a third but it has not yet been received. BOF members asked various questions. The space assessment per the Strategic Plan is being done now. The BOF thanked Ms. Hachmeister and Mr. Trowbridge for coming to the meeting and offering information.

The Board went through the list of outstanding items for discussion in the Board of Selectmen's proposed 2019-2020 budget:

Health Insurance – this is still being worked on. There are discussions with two other brokers on coverage and deductibles.

Assistant Assessor Salary – the original request had been for \$25,000. This request was based on the office personnel being in a transition period (the Assessor and the Assistant switching positions). The Board discussed this and assumed that in the future with the responsibilities changing, the overall compensations should go down. The Board would like a time frame for this shift. Mr. Jones offered that the BOS felt that the \$22,000 figure was a compromise with the increases in other employee wages. The BOF agreed to take the Selectmen's recommendation.

Planning & Zoning Commission General Expenses – with Mr. Prindle's comments at the last meeting, the Board agreed to re-instate this line to \$5,000.

Conservation Commission – the request for up to \$5,000 for the air monitoring unit was discussed. Members of the Conservation Commission offered their reasoning for wanting the base line information before the Cricket Valley Energy Center (in Dover Plains, NY) begins operation. It was questioned and emphasized that the purchase and installation of the unit does not make the Town legally bound to anything in the future. The unit offers public online information only. The location for the installation is possibly at the Water Filtration Plant on Calkinstown Road as Wi-Fi and electricity is available there. Various issues were discussed and the Board agreed to leave this amount in the budget.

Sharon Playhouse – the Board agreed to leave this in the budget but stipulation that the funds are to be used towards the Children's Theatre Programming.

Highway Salt – the Board agreed to lower this amount to \$160,000

Greenwoods Counseling Referral – after discussion, the Board agreed to take the recommendation from the BOS and leave this amount at \$2,000.

Tax Collector on line bill availability – the initial set-up is \$150 with an annual cost right now at \$1,200. The members liked the idea but had concerns about privacy. Taxes are public information but it was commented that it is not "our" job to publicize it. As the Board had questions/concerns, it was agreed not to put this in the budget this year.

Hotchkiss Library – the budget line increase was discussed. The individuals gave a great presentation. The Board agreed to leave the amount at \$90,000. The other will be discussed later in the meeting.

The items changed in the budget since the presentation meeting with the BOS were reviewed. Mr. Bancroft made a motion to recommend the BOS proposed budget as amended to the hearing, seconded by Mr. Bartram, with all in favor. There were no questions on the Board of Education's proposed budget. Mr. Bartram made a motion to recommend the BOE proposed budget as presented to the hearing, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The only outstanding request from the Board of Selectmen for expenditures outside the budget is for Hotchkiss Library. The Board discussed various aspects of the request. Mr. Bancroft made a motion that the Board recommends to Town Meeting an expenditure of up to \$35,000 for the water line replacement with the funds to come from the Undesignated Fund and the Town paying the invoices, seconded by Mr. Duncan, with all in favor.

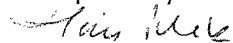
In following with the Equipment Replacement Plan, the Board of Selectmen request the BOF to approve the Town Meeting an expenditure of \$75,000 from the Undesignated Fund to the Equipment Replacement Fund and expenditures not to exceed \$197,386 from the Equipment Replacement Fund for fiscal year 2019-2020, seconded by Mr. Seibold. In the discussion it was noted that with the changes happening amongst the Road Crew, no purchase of a vehicle is anticipated at this time. The Plan was reviewed. Vote taken on motion – unanimously carried.

The Board of Selectmen requests the BOF to approve to Town Meeting proposed expenditures for 67 Main Street for fiscal year 2019-2020 of \$31,500, with said expenditures to be made from the 67 Main Street account. The proposed expenditures: air conditioning replacement of \$30,000 and \$1,500 for general expenses. One proposal was obtained for the air conditioning replacement (\$24,100) that does not include electrical work, so the Selectmen are budgeting a total of \$30,000. As the policy for any project of \$20,000 or more three proposals are to be sought, this will be done by the BOS. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the request on to Town Meeting for approval, seconded by Mr. Seibold. Having routine maintenance done on this system should be done. Vote taken on motion – unanimously carried.

The Board voted on the proposed budgets prior in the meeting.

With nothing further, Mr. Bartram made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary

Budget hearing 4/26 7PM

Special Meeting to follow – finalize budgets to go to Town Meeting for adoption and Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Town Meeting 5/10 probably at 7PM vote on budgets and other items

Special Meeting to follow – set Mil Rate

Next Regular Meeting 6/18 7PM

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SHARON TOWN CLERK