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By Linda Amerighi at 1:05 pm, Aug 09, 2021

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

A special meeting of the Sharon BOS was held August 6, 2021 In-person and via ZOOM at 2:00PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Assessor Jennifer Dubray, Barbara & Brent Prindle and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 2PM.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Board to discuss benefits for the Assessor. Mr. Jones made a motion to appropriate \$12,628.44 to Line Item 17b – Employee Benefits Hospitalization & Life – from the 2020-2021 budget to North Canaan to cover Sharon's share of health benefits for our Assessor, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. Mr. Colley explained that at the special meeting held March 4, 2020 in executive session it had been discussed to partner with other towns for health insurance benefits. As our Assessor is also the Assessor in North Canaan, Selectman Perotti reached out to Mr. Colley to see if Sharon would be willing to share in this cost. Mr. Colley agreed but the issue never went any further. Mr. Colley stated that this was an oversight on his part and apologized to the Board for not talking about this sooner nor putting the amount of money in the budget. The money that North Canaan is looking for from the Town of Sharon is for benefits already received. There was discussion on the hours worked vs the hours the office is open and the required hours worked to be covered by health insurance. In Sharon it is 30 hours a week. Mr. Jones offered that the Board needs to see how this office is structured in order to cover benefits in the future but for now the expenditure is only for a portion of the total premium and is due the Town of North Canaan. Also in order for towns to keep qualified Assessors, the concept of shared town positions is a way of doing things as the position pool is basically non-existing. Mr. Flanagan emphasized that this issue now is not fair to the tax payers nor to Ms. Dubray. This should have been discussed by this Board, the Board of Finance and ultimately the Town at budget time. If an employee feels that they are not compensated enough, they should come talk to the BOS. This is the policy that this Board has started to do. The Board agreed that the Assessor is not responsible for the current situation – she thought it was all dealt with. Mr. Colley admitted to the administrative error. There was a question as to if the BOS can just approve the additional allocation to the 2020-2021 budget line item or if it needs to go to the Board of Finance – the Secretary will check with the Auditor. Mr. Jones stated that the current situation needs to be fixed – the bill is due and the BOS/town has an obligation to pay it no matter how we got here. Barbara Prindle asked what happens for 2021-2022 – this needs to be worked out yet. The Board of Finance will need to discuss this to determine if there is support of this Board as this is not part of the budget. It was reviewed that the health benefits for the Assessor was discussed in executive session but no formal vote or actual decision by the Boards or the Town was ever made. If the payment is approved, North Canaan will need to provide documentation to back-up the appropriation. With all concerns expressed, vote taken on motion – in favor 2 (Jones and Colley); against 1 (Flanagan) = motion carried.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Colley, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:36.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary