

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on February 25, 2020 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Wm. Kelsey, Corey Shaff, Harding Bancroft, Gretchen Hachmeister, Brian Ross, Christine Beer, Robert Levinstein, Miriam Jones, reporter Hawken, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor – motion carried.

As no one had comments on the agenda items, Mr. Colley offered to let individuals speak under the Community Update portion of the agenda.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/11/20 & 2/19/20 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor – motion carried.

A resignation has been received from Wayne Purdy from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept the resignation with thanks for his service to the Town, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor – motion carried. The letters concerning the recreational easements/trails will be sent out by the end of the week to the property owners that have easements or abutting trails. The BOS will need to find someone to fill this vacancy.

Community Update:

Via our Social Service Office, there will be a presentation from Eversource on various topics concerning Eversource bills and programs. The presentation will be March 3, 2020 from 4-6PM here at the Town Hall.

Corey Shaff was present and submitted a safety complaint with the Board on the sightline from East Street looking west on Route 4 towards town. There needs to be clearing of the sightline by cutting and chipping of saplings. According to State Statutes, this is the Town's responsibility to maintain the sightline as the Town road intersects with the State Road although the area in question is technically State property. Several issues were discussed such as safety for the Road Crew as there is not a big area to work within along the road. Mr. Colley will take a look at the area again and be in contact with Aaron Steeves of the State DOT to discuss this issue. Mr. Shaff requested to be placed on the agenda of the March 24, 2020 meeting.

William Kelsey is concerned about the MIRA situation and their past history. He commented on various issues. Mr. Colley stated that our Energy & Environment Commission along with TRAC and Brian Bartram, the Manager of the Transfer Station, are working together on getting answers to help Salisbury and Sharon residents lower these costs via lowering the tonnage that we pay to dispose of.

Budget Workshop:

Gretchen Hachmeister and Brian Ross gave a presentation on the Hotchkiss Library's programs, fundraisers, budget and capital improvement requests. Basically, their request to increase the Town's contribution from \$90,000 to \$100,000 would represent approximately 28% of their operating expenses (the ideal goal is to have this contribution be 35%) and the capital improvement request is for up to \$18,000 to cover masonry repairs to the two chimneys. The Library Board is waiting for information on

an expansion of the building. The waterline that the Town approved monies for last year is to be done in the spring. Mr. Flanagan had some questions on the data submitted and the expansion mentioned. The expansion is not huge and would be energy efficient. Getting the building handicap accessible is their highest priority and they have set aside \$150,000 for this project. They are also looking at a handicap accessible bathroom. They would hope to do this project in conjunction with the expansion but they are not totally tied together. Ms. Hachmeister and Mr. Ross were thanked for coming to this meeting and for giving a great presentation.

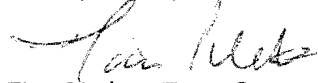
Christine Beer, the new Executive Director of the Sharon Historical Society gave a presentation on their budget request for \$20,000 to help with the cost of roof replacement. She also reviewed their exhibits and programs. The repairs to their air conditioning system done last year, which the Town gave them \$10,000 for, was less expensive so they would like to use the remaining \$5,000 towards the roof replacement. The Board asked various questions. It was asked if their Board would object to having the Town pay the \$20,000 portion of the bills directly as is being done with the Hotchkiss Library waterline project – Ms. Beer saw no problem. She was thanked for coming to this meeting and for the presentation.

Robert Levinstein, Managing Director for the Sharon Playhouse, gave a presentation on their budget request of the same as last year - \$5,000. He explained that they are always expanding their programs and are offering this year in addition to \$20 Thursday's but also \$20 on opening nights as well. Their original request was for the funds to be used as general operation costs, but also be used in part to support the ASL (American Sign Language) interpreted performances. This involves 2 interpreters and a coordinator to help with the scripts. Through the Arts Council, they have received a Grant for this and will be working with area organizations, so they now ask that the \$5,000 be used towards their education programs and the children's theatre which they are expanding. They have received a grant which will be used on building repairs/painting/renovations. The Board thanked Mr. Levinstein for coming to this meeting and for the presentation.

The next budget workshop is Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 3PM. There are four departments/offices coming. The Board asked to see if Laurie Collins, the Executive Director for the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau could attend this session – the Secretary will contact her.

With nothing further, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor – Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

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SHARON TOWN CLERK