

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on March 10, 2020 at 3PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Mr. & Mrs. Hecht, Jamie Casey, Harding Bancroft, reporters Hawken and Epstein, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 3PM.

To be added to the agenda: 7a – Western Tourism District Representative and 7b – Tax Refunds. Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor – motion carried.

There were no public comments on the agenda items but those present can ask to speak when we get to any particular item.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/25/20, 2/27/20 & 3/4/20 was written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor – motion carried.

John Brett had asked to be placed on the agenda pertaining the Drum Road issue with violations of the Ordinances on Abandoned Vehicle, Abandoned Premises and Use of Town Property. Mr. Brett was not present but Mr. Colley explained that based on a walk of the area, locating bases of stone walls and a review of survey maps on file, Matt Kiefer has determined that with the average width of Drum Road, the right-of-way is 15' to 16' from the center of the road. This places the trailer and the skid steer 1' into the right-of-way. This information was needed in order the Town Attorney to proceed with a legal action. Jamie Casey reminded the Board that with any true enforcement, any action does take a long time. With the Abandoned Vehicle and Abandoned Premises Ordinances, going through the court system is the last step. Having to go to court will cost the Town but the Town did approve the Ordinances with this enforcement mechanism noted. One can hope that the owner will do the right thing and remove the trailer and the skid steer from the property. Jamie Casey told the Board that she believes the Ordinances are working as in other instances, the violations have been corrected. The Ordinance Committee did anticipate an issue or two when the Ordinances were drafted. The Board thanked Jamie for her information.

A request has been submitted from Discover CT Bicycle Tour Series to use certain Town roads on July 19, 2020. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the request with the stipulation that any signs put up are removed right after the tour and that individuals be stationed at any areas of safety concern, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor – motion carried.

Next the Board worked further on the proposed 2020/2021 budget and discussed various items:

Road work that could be done in this budget year was reviewed so Mr. Colley offered that this line item could be reduced in order to award raises to employees. After some discussion it was decided to leave this line amount as it for now.

Mr. Colley offered that this is the budget year to give employees a 4% raise. He wants to reward the employees. Mr. Flanagan commented on plans for the future on raises and what employees commented on – when the insurance was changed, they now have more out-of-pocket expenses. We need to have comparative salaries. Budgets will be drafted with a 3% and a 4% increase. Then the Board will decide.

Before the work can be done on Sharon Valley Road, more data is needed. The bridges and drainage need work done and pipes replaced before the paving is done.

Housatonic Youth Service Bureau – our contribution will remain the same and hopefully other towns will contribute equally.

Hotchkiss Library – the Board agreed to keep the contribution amount at \$100,000 and have the \$18,000 Capital Improvement request a separate vote at Town Meeting. With the \$100,000, this will get them at their “ideal” contribution amount.

Mr. Jones made a motion to have a Special Meeting Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 2PM to finalize the budget, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor - motion carried.

John Baroody has submitted a request to be appointed Sharon’s representative on the Western Tourism District. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to appoint John Baroody as Sharon’s Western Tourism District Representative, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor and thanks to Mr. Baroody for coming forward – motion carried.

The Tax Collector has submitted two tax refund requests, both for real estate taxes: Gregory Rassen - \$506.88 and Dana Kraus - \$2,198.88. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor – motion carried.

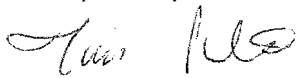
Community Update:

With all the updates on the Coronavirus, individuals are asked to stay vigilant and follow the guidelines and requests on how to handle the symptoms. Locally, if anyone has any questions or concerns, they are asked to contact Jamie Casey in the Health Department at 860-364-0909.

All were thanked for coming to this meeting.

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 4PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary