

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

A special meeting/budget workshop of the Sharon BOS was held on February 23, 2021 at 3PM In-person and via ZOOM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Stanley MacMillan, Jamie Casey, Barbara & Brent Prindle, Carol Flaton, David Moore, Harding Bancroft, Robert Lindgren, Christine Beers, Gretchen Hachmeister, Thomas Trowbridge and the secretary.

Due to ZOOM issues, First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 3:21.

Before the Board continued working on the proposed budget, they met with individuals concerning their budget requests. They were taken in order.

- a. Stanley MacMillan – Building Official/Fire Marshal. Mr. Colley explained the operations of our Building/Land Use Office and how it differs from other towns. With the personnel we have, we have “one stop shopping” which is valuable to our residents. There are various approvals/permits required even before an application gets to him for a building permit and they don’t anticipate the work load in the office to slow down. The main budget increase request in this department was for the Building Official/Fire Marshal’s salary – the same increase as all other town employee plus \$5,000. The Board thanked Mr. MacMillan for all the hard work he and his office has put in this year. Mr. MacMillan pointed out that he is being paid less than the newer individuals in his position and in some towns, there are two individuals – a Building Official and a Fire Marshal. He feels that his knowledge over the 30 some years is far more than those in these positions of only 3 to 4 years. Board members asked various questions and made various comments. Mrs. Casey pointed out the substantial increase in building permits and the fees collected for the town over the last few years. She also pointed out that this office has been offering one-on-one visits by appointment during this time as there is better communication with individuals seeking permits or just information. Those who need their services have been very pleased. It was also noted that there is a need for increased hours for the Office Assistant. This has been figured into the proposed budget but it may come to a point where this position is full time as the individuals also helps with the other Land Use aspects of the office. Mr. MacMillan offered that he feels that the fees derived from his office should cover the costs of the office, provide all the necessary services and not be looked at as a money maker for the town. The Board thanked Mr. MacMillan and Mrs. Casey for attending this meeting.
- b. Christine Beers, Robert Lindgren and David Moore – Sharon Historical Society. Mrs. Beers thanked the Board for what the town has done in the past to help them with maintaining their building. Their request this year has three parts totaling \$31,886: chimney repairs, well pump replacement and electrical upgrades. The three aspects of the request were explained: 1) chimney repairs – this work is being done now and they would like to be reimbursed - \$14,680; 2) well pump replacement – the pump installed in 2000 as part of an energy efficient, water cooled, heat pump system for air conditioning has failed and they cannot protect their collection of historical artifacts or operate efficiently without air conditioning – expected cost \$3,131; and 3) electrical upgraded – several upgrades are required to allow them to expand the exhibit space in the Gay Hoyt House and expand the lighting capabilities in the Gallery space. Additional work is required to upgrade wiring on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors to allow them to safely store and access collections – first estimate \$14,075. Their previous and future fundraising was explained. Their long range plans would be to re-vamp the HVAC system so that there would be air conditioning in the Gay

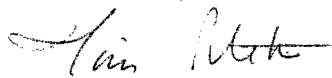
Hoyt House and to replace the cooling system in the Gallery space as it is now 21 years old. The Board thanked the individuals for attending this meeting.

- c. Gretchen Hachmeister and Thomas Trowbridge – Hotchkiss Library. Their budget request comes in three parts: \$100,000 towards their annual operating budget; \$35,000 towards their Capital Campaign/Building Project; and \$1,794.32 towards a Capital Grant to cover cost of conduits installed the summer of 2019 during the replacement of the waterline. The main conversation was on their building project which has not yet received all the necessary approvals—an addition to the rear of the building that would allow for handicapped access, new restroom, new kitchen and additional space for programs and work place for the staff. Their fundraising for this project was reviewed. They hope to break ground in June or July of 2021. The Board thanked the individuals for attending this meeting.

The Board continued to work on the proposed budget going page by page as some of the outstanding items were filled in. Mr. Jones commented that he appreciates that the various Departments/Boards/Commissions have held their line item requests pretty flat. Some items for further review: Elections – ROV & Election Workers line items – Mr. Colley will get more information so that there will be a better explanation for the Board of Finance; Building/Land Use Office – the Board encourages additional hours to assist in the office; Town Hall computer/maintenance – the type of server needs to be looked at along with a cyber assessment; the whole Employee Benefits section needs to be filled in – this has to wait until the Highway Union Contract gets determined; the Building Official/Fire Marshal salary request – the Board agreed with the request; Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer – it was felt that \$35 per hour for the individual with good experience is fair – the number of hours to budget for needs to be determined; LCD – no budgeted amount yet; Highway – still need wages, building repairs and guardrails; need Transfer Station; need the whole Health Department budget request; Sharon Historical Society – leave whole amount requested in budget; Geer request for the same amount is for Dial-A-Ride; Greenwoods Referral – it was agreed to allocate \$3,000; Hotchkiss Library – keep the budgeted amount of \$100,000 and request the BOF for the separate amounts totaling \$36,794.32 and Parks & Recreation will be dealt with Monday, 3/1 along with the rest of the budget.

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

Submitted by  
2021 APR 13 10  
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