

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on July 23, 2019 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen (Fowler via telephone), Miriam Jones, Nancy Green, John Brett, reporter Hawkins, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6 and the secretary,

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

Ms. Fowler made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the 6/11/19 minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor. Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the 7/9/19 minutes as submitted, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor.

Ella Clark has decided to retire in September after being Sharon's Social Service Agent for over 31 years. She has done a wonderful job for the residents of Sharon and it will be hard to replace her.

In light of Ms. Clark's retirement, the BOS needs to look at the job description in order to have an accurate one to move forward with advertising the position and giving time for Ms. Clark to help the new individual – there is one from 1988 and the one done in 2011. There is also one in the NW Cares booklet. The Board agreed to look at these three job descriptions and draft one by blending in all the pertinent information and qualifications. A meeting with Ella Clark on the job description is crucial. In order to get things moving, holding a Special Meeting with Ella Clark may be held the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>, depending on her availability.

A proposal from Lit Communities to do a Broadband Market Assessment for Sharon was discussed. Ms. Fowler stated that she will be meeting with Brian Snider, of Lit Communities, tomorrow in Alabama. She and the Board had various questions as to the proposal and the company itself: have they ever worked on a project that can be called a success following the model they are proposing; how is the price for the financial model determined; can there be a potential partner in the financial model to soften the financial cost; and on the operations & maintenance of the infrastructure who does this. Mr. Jones commented that as the Municipal Gain issue still has not been answered at the State level, the Assessment may be premature. In looking into Lit Communities, he has not seen any project that they have done to be "like" Sharon as we are so rural. Mr. Jones wanted more time to look at this proposal in more depth and of course the Town Attorney will need to review the contract, of which there are areas that the Board had concerns with. Northwest ConneCT looked at a regional network but it won't work. Ms. Fowler suggested the creation of a Fiber Optic Committee with members from the BOS, Board of Education, Board of Finance, business community, arts community, health care sector, an engineer, and someone with a strong land use background to look at the whole package. The scope of what this Committee would be doing needs to be figured out first, then the membership number can be determined. John Brett commended the Board for looking into broadband now rather than waiting and made various comments. Mr. Jones suggested that members of Northwest ConneCT come to Sharon to make a presentation like they did in Cornwall. This issue will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

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The Town of Amenia will be requesting funding from the New York State Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to complete a Watershed-Based Management Plan for the Ten Mile River. The Ten Mile River Watershed Collaborative, of which HVA is part of, have requested a letter of support from this Board for Amenia. The Town of Sharon is one of the watershed communities. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the Board supports the program and the Town of Amenia in their efforts in requesting the funding and in doing so, a letter of support is to be sent, seconded by Ms. Fowler. Mr. Colley will draft the letter for Mr. Jones and Ms. Fowler to review before it is sent. Vote taken on motion = carried unanimously.

Revisions to four Ordinances have been drafted and forwarded to Attorney DiBella for final review before the BOS recommends them on to a Town Meeting. (Annual Town Budget Meeting, Building Fees Ordinance, Highway Construction Requirements – Subdivision Development, and one item in the Driveways Ordinance). Once the Board hears back from the Attorney, they can proceed.

Residents have been asking how they can be made aware of senior citizen events and activities, especially if they do not have access to a computer and don't read the newspapers. These are generally posters around town but not everyone sees them. Adding this to the job description for the new Social Service Agent was mentioned.

Mr. Jones reported that the property that was in violation of both the Abandoned Motor Vehicle and Abandon Premises Ordinance has had some progress – the vehicles have been removed. The Premises portion still needs addressing. He thanked his committee for all the work they did on the creation of the Ordinances.

Community Update:

The Green Project is in progress and going slow right now as they are in the area of old water and sewer lines that they do not want to damage. Representatives of VRI for the Sewer & Water Commission, Pat Hackett, Engineer and the company have a really good understanding of what is at risk in the area where they are working.

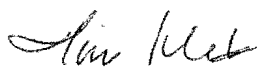
Hotchkiss Library has their Book Signing on Aug. 2 and the Arts & Craft Fair is Aug. 3.

The chip sealing work on the roads has been done. John Brett thanked the Board for the work done and commended Jamie Reid, the Road Foreman, on his work done so far.

Edward Kirby sent a letter of thanks to the Board for his recognition in serving the Town on the Inland Wetlands Commission. The Board, and current Chairman, are glad that he is still serving on this Board as Chairman Emeritus.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

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SHARON TOWN CLERK