

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on May 28, 2019 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Harding Bancroft, Eliza Klose, Linda Amerighi, Cybele Loening, Oscar Martinez, Carolyn Mattoon, Jamie Casey, 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 presented, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

A correction needed to be made to the 5/14/19 minutes – 1st page, 8th paragraph, 3rd line, add “engineer” after “Hackett”. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor. Ms. Fowler made a motion to approve the minutes of 5/20/19 as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Mr. Jones gave a file update on one property that the Authority Having Jurisdiction has had complaints filed pertaining to both Abandon Property and Abandon Vehicles Ordinances. This is one of the properties that prompted the creation of the Ordinances. After having contact with the owner, the Authority thought they would see some progress but haven’t. The lack of progress is in no way a reflection of the Administrator or the Authority as they have tried to give the property owner time but it is now time for the BOS to address the complaints. A letter will be drafted for the BOS to sign at their June meeting. A copy of the Complaint Data Sheet will be forwarded to the BOS with a certified copy being mailed at the same time to the property owner. The BOS shall schedule a hearing with the property owner within 30 days from the date the Complaint Data Sheet was mailed to attempt a resolution of the matter prior to enforcement. If not resolved, then there are three possible steps the BOS can take, per the Ordinance. In any of the complaints, the AHJ wants to work with the property owner first. The AHJ wants to thank the neighbors of this particular property as they have been patient. The BOS thanked Ms. Casey and Mr. Jones for all their work on this and other complaints filed.

The First Selectman Colley along with Linda Amerighi, the Website Administrator, have been looking into upgrading/re-designing the town website. The Board thanked Linda for spearheading this by getting proposals from three companies and having presentations done. Ms. Amerighi reviewed the three proposals with the Board: Exposure Digital (our current web designer) offered a sample site but she has not seen it yet; BAS from New York does not have any sites in CT; and CivicPlus (Virtual Town Hall) has numerous towns in the state (list provided). The services from CivicPlus were reviewed: initial services at a total project cost of \$5,995; and total annual services cost of \$2,750. The training would be done in-house and the site is secure and is not connected to the Town Hall server. There is an option to Urgent Alert Text Messaging, which would be helpful to notify residents when a road is closed, Town Hall closed due to the weather, i.e. This cost is \$250 per year for up to 5,000 texts. Any texts over 5,000 would be at a cost of 2 cents per message. After some discussion, Ms. Fowler made a motion that the Website upgrade/re-designing contract be awarded to CivicPlus at an amount not to exceed \$8,995 beginning July 1, 2019, seconded by Mr. Jones. In the discussion, the budget figure for the Website may need to be adjusted. Linda wanted to thank Joel Minton of Exposure Digital for his long time service to the Town and his help with the current Website. Vote taken on motion = unanimously carried.

Mr. Colley gave a brief history on the town employee health insurance situation – in January of 2018 300 individuals left the Regional 1 insurance pool leaving approximately 68 individuals. Upon renewal for fiscal year 2019/2020, AETNA's plan would have a 25% increase. Sharon, Salisbury and Kent got together and looked into various options including changing insurance brokers. Mr. Colley was looking for a plan that would be fair to taxpayers and to employees. The broker for a smaller group was more transparent and was available to answer many questions the employees had. Both Anthem plans were looked at with the current broker and a new one. Both have the employees paying costs that were not there before. Mr. Jones made various comments including that in the future the BOS will need to look at ways to off-set the increased costs to the employees. It was emphasized that with either plan, there is no contribution towards the premium from the employees but more out-of-pocket costs for the employees. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS goes with the Anthem Platinum Pathway CT PPO for health insurance with Insurance Broker John Swaim III effective July 1, 2019, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor.

Members from the Sharon Energy & Environment Commission (SEEC) were present regarding an Ordinance pertaining to a ban on single use plastic bags. Mr. Martinez has had a discussion with some of the local retailers and he had no resistance from them. The State is working on a ban as well. SEEC would like an Ordinance in place for beginning of 2020 and they are looking into having recyclable bags available for those who don't bring their own bags into a store. To keep the ball rolling, SEEC was asked to bring to the BOS a sample of an Ordinance(s), the Selectmen would review it, pass it (them) along to the Town Attorney for review and comments, and then ultimately it would go to a town meeting for possible adoption. The Board thanked the SEEC members for their help on this issue.

The Democratic Town Committee has recommended the appointment of Cybele Loening as an alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mrs. Loening has attended a P & Z meeting and is aware that this position is up for election in November of 2019. Ms. Fowler made a motion to appoint Cybele Loening to the P & Z Commission alternate position, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Christ Church Episcopal has submitted a request to allow the use of the Green across the street from the church to display some vintage cars. The event is September 7, 2019 from 11AM to 2PM. Mr. Colley commented that the area where they parked the cars previously is a wet area. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the request if the ground conditions permit parking as determined by the BOS and with the help of the Green Committee, seconded by Ms. Fowler. In the discussion it noted that the Church is to check with the BOS prior to event for a final determination of the parking on the Green. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

The Sharon Housing Authority has requested the BOS to apply for a Small Community Block Grant for them for help with rehabilitating some of the units at the Ridge. Unfortunately this round of applications for this grant were due no later than April 12, 2019. The Authority is looking into other areas of funding as well as seeing about a partnership with Habitat in order to be able to apply for certain grants.

The BOS held interviews for a new Road Crew member. Road Foreman Reid has recommended offering the position to candidate #5. The Board agreed that the individuals interviewed were all good individuals. Ms. Fowler made a motion that the position be offered to candidate #5, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Community Update:

Beach stickers are now available with the transfer station forms becoming available June 22, 2019. The Selectmen's Office will be open on June 22, 2019 from 9AM to Noon just for Beach and transfer station form purchase.

Dog licensing is done during the month of June in the Town Clerk's office. Some individuals received email notification of renewal and others will be receiving a card in the mail.

There is household hazardous waste collection at the Falls Village Town Garage on June 1, 2019. In order to take materials, one must get a ticket from the Selectmen's Office.

The construction of the new transfer station is moving along. Weather permitting, it should be substantially complete in December of 2019 and totally complete in March of 2020.

The new playground at the Beach should be done by tomorrow. The Road Crew did all the site work. There will be a community garden at the Beach.

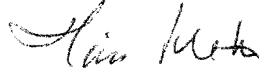
There was a meeting with Sharon OB/GYN births are down at the hospital. It is believed that this is due the fact that the public thought that maternity was shut down which is was not.

The Hospital is having a "State of the Hospital" Community Forum here at Town Hall on June 4 from 9AM to 11AM.

The Board thanked all those involved with the Memorial Day Celebration. The speaker did a great job.

With nothing further, Ms. Fowler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary



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SEAN TOWN CLERK