

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

A special meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on March 12, 2020 at 2PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Barbara Prindle, Harding Bancroft, Jill Drew, Brent Prindle taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 2PM.

Before the Board began finalizing the budget and the receipt of new information, Line Item 17b – Hospitalization / Life Insurance – can be reduced to \$360,000 – revised rates and one less employee on the plan.

The two versions of the budgets were reviewed (3% & 4% wage increases across the Board except Selectmen which the BOF will set and the Road Crew who are Union). The Board discussed whether to reduce Line Item 26q – Highway Road Repair. After some discussion and review of the projects, it was agreed to leave it at \$300,000 noting that if the BOF wants to reduce the budget, this is a line where it can be done. The Board discussed Line Item 26s – Highway Rental Equipment – rent equipment vs purchasing the equipment – this idea is being worked on for the future. The list of individual allocations requested to be taken, if approved, out of the Undesignated Fund were discussed. These are one time allocations and the Board feels they should be handled this way as not to affect the budget and have residents pay additional taxes when the funds are available. The BOF can change this if they choose. The cost for the program for the map copier has not yet been obtained – this could be discussed with the BOF at the budget hearing. The Board agreed to leave Line Item 38 – Reserve Fund Capital – at \$10,000 for now as there are ample funds currently in the Undesignated Fund to cover Capital Projects. The Board will be reviewing the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan in the near future. Line Item 33a – Social Service Agent/Veterans' Contact Person – placing this position (which is really two positions) to salary rather than hourly wages, places a cap on the costs. As this is a new circumstance, this may need to be re-negotiated next year. Putting 4% wage increases across the Board in the budget gets the employees level with the region and in the future the increases will be cost of living only unless there is an unusual circumstance. After all discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to submit the proposed 2020/2021 budget to the BOF for approval with the 4% increase in wages and the line item adjustment for Hospitalization / Life Insurance, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor – motion carried.

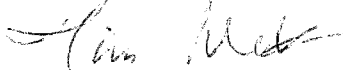
Next the Board discussed the individual allocation requests to the BOF for approval to Town Meeting to come out of the Undesignated Fund:

- a. Sharon Historical Society – roof project – up to \$20,000 with the Town paying the bills
 - b. Hotchkiss Library – masonry work on chimneys – up to \$18,000 with the Town paying the bills
 - c. Sharon Connect Task Force – mailing survey re: telephone and internet – up to \$2,775 – this is the maximum that may be needed as hopefully people will do the survey on line and not so many will need to be mailed – Mr. Jones reiterated that the Board sees the survey before it goes out
 - d. Veterans' Field – replacing playground – up to \$40,000
 - e. Highway Equipment Fund - \$75,000 – this has been done for several years so the Equipment Fund balance does not get too low. The Equipment Fund spreadsheet needs to be updated
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Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS approves to the BOF for approval to Town Meeting, the individual allocations as discussed, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor - motion carried.

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 2:53.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

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SHARON TOWN CLERK