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*By Linda Amerighi at 10:30 am, Oct 13, 2023*

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on October 10, 2023 at 3PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Jamie Reid, Tracey Abut, Jim Krissel, Lynn Kearcher, Deborah Moore, Jill Drew, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

No one present had any public comments on the agenda items nor any other item.

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

A minor correction needed to be made in the 8/22/23 minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> page, 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 7<sup>th</sup> line, add "life of" after "quality of". Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the 8/22/23 minutes as amended, the 9/9/23 & 9/15/23 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Jamie Reid, Road Foreman, was present to discuss with the Board a rather urgent situation on River Road. With the current weather conditions, the steep embankment on the river side of the road has eroded. As this is not safe for the public, he has closed the road down to a one-lane road, putting up temporary stop signs on either end of the barriers. In order to get a better understanding of the options for repairs, Mr. Reid contacted Cardinal Engineering Associates (engineering firm through COG) to get a proposal for engineering services. The two options seem to be: installing a concrete block retaining wall along the east side of the road OR examine relocating River Road to the west for approximately 400' and eliminate the need for a retaining wall (this option would require an easement on private property). They would conduct a cost analysis of both options for a total estimated fee of \$21,000.00. Mr. Krissel raised the question if the heavy truck traffic on the road contributed to any of the damage, would the engineer consider this – this will be mentioned to the engineer. Mr. Flanagan stressed that the property owners along the road should be contacted now to make them aware of the situation and two possible options. Especially contacting those whom the town may need the easement from. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the proposal for engineering services for River Road slope stabilization preliminary study from Cardinal Engineering Associates for up to \$21,000 with the funds to come from the Improved Road State Aid funds, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. Mr. Reid commented that road work in general has been a long battle with summer weather conditions that we have had. Guardrails were installed on the S sharp corner on West Cornwall Road, guardrails and fence put along a portion of Dug Road.

Tracey Abut, owner of Xcelerate Talent, was present to discuss the Human Resource Consultant position with the Board. She talked with the Board about concerns and where/what they would like to have in the future. What the Board would like to have is "outreach" available for them and for employees to have when a situation occurs so that the proper handling of the situation is done. With elected and hired/appointed employees, Mr. Flanagan would like to understand how the "organization" is formatted, get a baseline "audit" of what we have and work on a succession plan for employee positions as we have some individuals who hold multiple positions. The current job descriptions would need to be reviewed and adjustments made if need be; compensation reviewed; and the concept of exit interviews being conducted. Ms. Abut suggested also doing "stay" interviews to see what individuals like about their positions that have kept them here for the amount of time they have worked. The Board liked the idea of having a local person in this position who has knowledge of the community and would be available for

the Board and employees to contact. It was commented that as the Town is a member of CCM (CT Conference of Municipalities) this could be a resource available to Ms. Abut, if need be. Ms. Abut commented that she does have some Union experience. With all questions answered, Ms. Abut was asked to submit a written proposal including her fees for the next Board meeting which is October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn Kearcher was present to make a request of the Board for funds to conduct a lake study of Mudge Pond. With the discovery of Hydrilla in Twin Lakes there is a very good chance of it spreading to other lakes. She is concerned that there has not been any recent study done of the lake as this is one of the largest recreation facilities that the Town has access to. Having a study done this fall is not just for a survey of invasives but to be a new baseline for research on the Lake. Ms. Kearcher feels this would be prudent for the Town. She contacted three different companies to get proposals but only received one back: Northeast Aquatic Research LLC in the amount of \$5,716. Ms. Kearcher requested the funds from the Silly Putty Fund to conduct the study to be done this autumn. It was pointed out that the Town does not own the lake = the property owners around it along with the State do. It was asked that if the State is aware of these invasives, why are they not addressing the issue – DEEP has no money available at this point. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS approves the request to the Board of Finance to take to Town Meeting the expenditure of \$5,716 from the Silly Putty Fund for the study of Mudge Pond, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

As the only proposal submitted to the BOS for the use of the Community Center has been the Sharon Housing Trust to convert the building into four affordable apartments, Mr. Flanagan made a motion that per State Statute 8-24, the BOS requests the Planning and Zoning Commission to review the property with this proposal in order to submit a report as to if it complies with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, seconded by Mr. Colley, with all in favor. Mr. Jones did not participate in this issue.

Saint Bernard and Saint Bridget Churches submitted an application for ARPA funds in the amount of \$15,000 for maintenance issues at both parishes. The application was discussed. The balance of funds available along with those allocated but not spent is \$214,750.60. Along with this, Ms. Drew is requesting approval for an adjustment to the Administrative Budget – reducing the balance by half or 75%. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the request of funds, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. It was commented that the ARPA Committee has recommended that \$200,000 be set aside so it could be for technology for the Town in general, so it could be used for the COMCAST build and/or upgrades at Town Hall. Reducing the Administrative Budget was discussed. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to reduce the remaining budget by 75% to \$3,581.15, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

As the Board of Finance approved to Town Meeting the 22/23 additional expenditures for the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Removal of Dead Trees, the BOS needs to set a Special Town Meeting date. Along with these items, since joining Housatonic Valley Health District, there are current Ordinances that refer to our former Health Department that need to be repealed and a new Ordinance pertaining to the Housatonic Valley Health District that needs to be adopted. Mr. Jones made a motion to set a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6:30PM for the additional expenditures, the repeal & adoption of Ordinances and the expenditure of the Silly Putty Funds if approved by the Board of Finance, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Carolyn Mattoon and Katy Kinsolving's terms on the Sharon Energy & Environment Commission expired October 9, 2023. They do wish to continue. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to re-appoint Carolyn Mattoon and Katy Kinsolving to SEEC with terms to expire November 9, 2026, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in

favor. Oscar Martinez's term also expired October 9, 2023 but he chose not to be re-appointed, so there are two vacancies on this Commission.

The Tax Collector has submitted five motor vehicle tax refund requests: Kevin Silber - \$515.32; Robert Maxwell - \$45.88; Sophie Roberts - \$244.56; Richard Roney-Dougal - \$10.51; and Ally Financial (Vault Trust) - \$79.13. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the tax refund requests submitted by the Tax Collector, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Community Update:

BUNCO at the Sharon Fire House, Friday, October 13, 2023 starting at 7PM

Flu shots here at the Town Hall, Friday, October 27, 2023 offered by the Housatonic Valley Health District from 10AM to Noon

Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Torrington, October 28, 2023 from 9AM to 2PM. One must get a ticket from the Selectmen's Office.

With nothing further, Mr. Colley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary