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*By Linda Amerighi at 9:32 am, Feb 22, 2024*

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOF was held on February 20, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were regular members Bartram, Hecht, Robertson, Fowler and Flaton (via telephone); Michael Baldwin, Rod Christensen, Doug Rick, Selectman Brett, First Selectman Flanagan (7:10), reporter Hawken and the secretary.

Chairman Bartram called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Ms. Fowler made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Robertson, with all in favor.

Michael Baldwin and Rod Christensen were present from the Sharon Playhouse. They introduced themselves and explained to the Board their rolls in the management of the Playhouse. Mr. Christensen outlined their three big capital projects for the next few years: parking lot expansion and improvements \$250,000; replacing the septic system \$60-\$70,000; and upgrading the main lobby restrooms \$150,000. Mr. Baldwin reviewed the 2024 Main Stage shows and the Youth Program shows and camps. Their hopes for fund raising were outlined. They were thanked for coming to the meeting.

Doug Rick, of SEEC, passed out copies of the school's Eversource bill along with calculations of what the savings may be from the solar project.

Mr. Hecht made a motion to approve the 1/16/24 minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor.

Mr. Bartram reported that Doug Cahill has stated that the BOE doesn't have much in their proposed 24-25 budget for capital improvements. The BOE will be updating their 10-year plan soon. In the discussions with Kevin Chambers of the State Department of Education, the State wants proof that the BOE will be removing capital improvements out of their budget. The State has not yet made a decision on the BOE being able to lower their budget based on the MBR. More information has been forwarded to the State. Mr. Bartram has received information from George Sinnamon, the Auditor, on options pertaining to this subject = town have three budgets – one being a separate capital budget – or creating a capital budget line in the BOS budget. Mr. Bartram will forward this information to the members. After reviewing this information, the BOF will make a final decision. Ms. Fowler suggested having Mr. Sinnamon come to a meeting to discuss the budget options.

Ms. Fowler reported that she and Mrs. Pastre have now had two meetings regarding town contracts. First Selectman Flanagan has given them a list of contracts signed in the last year that were basically for services which did not need attorney review. This whole topic is a work in progress – which contracts should require BOS, attorney and BOF review. Ms. Flaton stressed that this topic should be looked at for financial threshold aspects as well as the legal aspects – contingent liability can be an issue.

Mr. Flanagan reported that he reached out to the Sharon Housing Trust on minimizing any document pertaining to the option to lease 99 North Main Street. The Trust wants a document that would be more comprehensive. The Trust's attorney is drafting a document that would be reviewed by the BOS, the BOF then the Town Attorney before going to a Town Meeting. Both Boards await the draft document.

With nothing further, Mr. Hecht made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 19 6:30PM