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By Linda Amerighi at 8:36 am, Jun 23, 2022

SHARON BOARD OF FINANCE

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOF was held on June 21, 2022 at 6PM at the Town Hall In-person and via ZOOM. Present were regular members Duncan, Robertson and Bartram; alternates Ensign and Flaton; Roger Liddell, First Selectman Colley, Sam Herrick (Region 1 Business Manager), Lisa Carter (Superintendent), Doug Cahill (Sharon BOE Chairman) and the secretary.

Chairman Bartram called the meeting to order at 6:08. Ms. Fowler had designated Mr. Ensign to vote in her place and Ms. Flaton was designated to vote for the vacancy position.

Items # 6-8 will wait until 6:30. Otherwise there were no changes, the agenda stood as presented.

There were no public comments.

With no corrections to any of the minutes, Mr. Bartram made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/15/22, 3/24/22, 4/12/22, 4/29/22 x 2 & 5/13/22 as written, seconded by Mr. Duncan, with all in favor.

With the resignation of Harding Bancroft, the filling of that position is up to this Board. Mr. Ensign made a motion to move Carol Flaton up to a Regular member, seconded by Mr. Duncan. Ms. Flaton was reminded that this term goes to November 21, 2023. With no other nominations, vote taken on motion = carried unanimously.

The Board needs to fill the alternate position with either an unaffiliated or Democratic voter. Chairman Bartram asked if the Board wanted him to use the normal process – advertise for an alternate or he does have someone interested. It was the consensus to follow the usual route – advertise and put on the Town Website.

The Board began reviewing the Selectmen's financial report ending 5/31/22. Ms. Flaton had some questions that Mr. Bartram will ask of the Auditor.

At 6:30 the Board suspended the financial review and went back to Item 6-8. As it is a requirement that the BOE meets with the BOF prior to the beginning of teacher negotiations, Ms. Carter and Mr. Herrick reviewed the process. The BOF is welcome to have a member present during the negotiations but they can only observe. Ms. Carter emphasized that for the negotiations they review the following: the general cost of living; what other teachers are getting in other areas of the State; the labor market and the economy; and the finances of the Town. The timeline of the negotiations and mediation if necessary, is set by the State. For Sharon, the teacher salaries are based on a step schedule with smaller increments than other teacher salaries. Board members asked various questions.

The discussion on education budgets and the minimum budget requirements were held together as one affects the other. The BOF wants to understand what can be taken out of the education budget and affect the minimum budget requirements – like capital projects. Mr. Herrick stated that the capital projects do raise the budget. He explained the intermingling of the budgets: Region 1 budgets paid through the Sharon Center School Budget. The SCS enrollment vs the budget and the per student cost. The minimum budget requirement follows a formula with K-12 enrollment and Pre-school enrollment. The State looks at both parts of the budget: Region 1 and the local budget. There is a penalty levied by the State that is twice what a reduction may be if the threshold is not met. When asked about

regionalization, Ms. Carter explained that the Region 1 school district was set-up by a Special Act of the legislature making the creation of separate schools and BOE necessary. The central office and special education structure is already regionalized. Any changes to the “school” structure needs to be approved by all six towns. There should be conversations with all the Boards of Education and Board of Finances. The Regional Office has no power with regionalization. An ultimate decision would be the towns’ voting at a referendum but all six towns would need to agree. The central office will do an analysis for the BOF of each school: enrollment, budgets etc. The All Boards Chair Committee is advisory only aligned with the Special Act. This topic will have further discussion at the next regular BOF meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Carter, Mr. Herrick and Mr. Cahill for attending this meeting and for the information provided.

The Board went back to the review of the Selectmen’s financial report page by page with various questions. Just for clarification, the Secretary asked if the Building Official/Fire Marshal’s Office should request that any unexpended funds in the 2021-2022 budget be placed in the Equipment Fund for the future purchase of a vehicle – the members agreed to NO as any vehicle purchases in the future will be handled strictly through the Equipment Replacement Fund. Mr. Liddell spoke on the electric bills for the Town. In looking at the financial report and the amount possibly to go into the Undesignated Fund, some of the projects on the Five Capital Plan should get done: cold storage building at the Highway Garage and sidewalks. It was mentioned that additional funds will probably be needed to complete the Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion project and the BOS is looking at acoustical solutions for the Chapin Meeting Room. The anticipated budget overages were noted in the report review.

The Tax Collector’s report was reviewed as well as the Suspense List that totals \$27.84 (2 personal property accounts where the individuals have moved out of town). Mr. Duncan made a motion to approve the Suspense List effective June 30, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Robertson, with all in favor.

There was no need to elect a Secretary – this was done previously.

The Board began discussion on possible Annual Report covers. One thought that the members liked was: a group Town employee photo on the bleachers at Veterans’ Field and provide lunch – Employee Appreciation Day.

With nothing further, Mr. Duncan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Robertson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary

Next quarterly meeting: September 20 6PM