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By Linda Amerighi at 10:25 am, Oct 20, 2023

SHARON BOARD OF FINANCE

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOF was held on October 17, 2023 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were regular members Bartram, Fowler, Flaton, Robertson and Duncan; alternates Hecht and Pastre; Christine Clare, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

Chairman Bartram called the meeting to order at 6:30. Ms. Fowler made a motion to make Mrs. Pastre a voting member for this meeting, seconded by Mr. Duncan, with all in favor.

Ms. Flaton made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor.

There were no public comments.

A correction needed to be made in the 9/19/23 minutes – 1st page, last paragraph, the two additional expenditures for the 22/23 Selectmen's budget – funds designated to come from the Undesignated Fund. Ms. Flaton made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor.

The BOS have submitted a request for the BOF to approve to a Town Meeting the expenditure of up to \$5,716 from the Silly Putty Fund to conduct a lake study of Mudge Pond. Mr. Duncan made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mrs. Robertson. There was a discussion on if there were any other funds available for this study – if it were to either be added to or taken out of the Selectmen's budget, the request would have to go back to the BOS for their approval, hence delaying the study. Some members had concerns with the use of town funds for such a study. After some discussion, vote taken on motion: in favor 5 (Bartram, Flaton, Robertson, Duncan & Pastre); against 1 (Fowler) – motion carried.

The Selectmen financials ending September 30, 2023 were reviewed page by page with questions answered. The Board asked Mr. Bartram to see if he can get detailed information on the operation of the Transfer Station – receipts and expenditures.

The Tax Collector's report was reviewed with Ms. Flaton having several questions – is there one simple metric (calculation) for the Tax Collector to do quarterly that would simply show if tax collections are the same, improving, or deteriorating over time. She will meet with the Tax Collector.

The Board of Education submitted a request that all unexpended funds from their 22-23 budget be placed in the Non-recurring Account. This amount is figured by the Auditor. Mr. Bartram commented that he was told, but it has not been confirmed, that funds voted to be spent on education can only be used for educational purposes. In the discussion, it was noted that when the \$117,629 was approved to come out of the Non-recurring Account to meet the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement), it was verbally agreed that if not spent, these funds would go back into that account. After some discussion, Ms. Fowler made a motion that anything not spent of the \$117,629 be placed in the Non-Recurring Account and that any additional unexpended are to stay in the General Fund, seconded by Mrs. Robertson. Vote taken on motion: in favor 5 (Bartram, Fowler, Robertson, Duncan & Pastre); against 1 (Flaton) – motion carried.

An update from the Sharon Connect Task Force on the COMCAST project was reviewed. The payment timing was discussed. The first \$800,000 is already accounted for with the balance to be determined in the future.

Mr. Bartram reported that he did get a response from Karen Kowalski of the State Dept. of Education regarding the meeting on the MBR. She offered five dates to meet virtual with Roger Persson and Kevin Chambers. The Board reviewed the dates and offered their preference in date and time order: December 13, 2023 @2PM, December 12, 2023 @Noon or December 5, 2023 @2PM. The actual date & time to be determined by their response.

Mr. Bartram had nothing new to report on the possible Region 1 Board of Finance meeting. The idea of this meeting was to discuss BOE finances. Lisa Carter had been working on it. Mr. Bartam will work on this again.

Mr. Bartram had contacted Curtis Rand, Salisbury First Selectman, about the decommissioning of the old transfer station. Mr. Rand responded that Anchor Engineering has put together a package of all the testing that has been done at the site, including the annual reports to DEEP. Russ Derienzo of Arcadis will be looking over the data. Some materials have been removed at a cost of \$9,800. \$30,000 (\$18,000 from Salisbury and \$12,000 from Sharon) had been set aside. What the next steps are will depend on DEEP, their P & Z and what Hotchkiss School wants done. Mr. Rand is supposed to keep Mr. Bartram up to date. He also reminded Mr. Rand that Ms. Flaton has volunteered to attend any meetings on this subject.

The Board discussed the 2024 regular meeting schedule. Mr. Duncan made a motion to keep the schedule the same: third Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor. Of course, at budget time there are special meetings. The Recording Secretary was asked to let the BOF members know what the 2024 meeting schedule is for the BOS (to be determined after the new Board is seated). **The next meeting is set for November 21, 2023 at 6:30PM.** It was suggested that the meeting with the Auditor in December be kept only to the review of the audit.

The cover of the Annual Report was discussed. It was agreed to have the Sharon Connect Task Force committee on the cover – thanking them for their work on the COMCAST project.

With nothing further, Ms. Fowler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Duncan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary