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By Linda Amerighi at 3:03 pm, Jan 12, 2023

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held January 10, 2023 at 3PM at the Sharon Community Hall (due to lack of access to the Town Hall). Present were the three Selectmen, Ray Aakjar, Ed Wilbur, Margaret Keilty, Jill Drew, Paree & John Hecht, Robert Loucks and the secretary.

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

Changes to the agenda: Item 6 – mural project (presenter could not attend) so this will be replaced with Town Hall Elevator proposal and add Item 6a – Town Employee paid Holidays. Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

No one present had any public comments.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept the 12/13/22 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Mr. Loucks spoke on behalf of the American Legion Post #126 in asking that the BOS reconsider the denial of the ARPA application of \$8,000 to install air conditioning the Legion Hall. Mr. Loucks explained that this should have been included in the original application for the furnace replacement as it would make sense to do all this work at once. Mr. Loucks offered that the Legion was used as a place of refuge in the past during storms and if the Town is ever interested in taking over the building, it would be beneficial to the Town. It was noted that the allocated funds for the furnace will not be spent until the spring once the Hotchkiss Library has vacated the space. Board members commented that the original \$8,000 was allocated to make up the difference for the lack of fundraising the Legion could do due to COVID and it was initially thought that if the building is relinquished to the Town, then that would be the time for the Town to make this improvement. The building is already tied into the generator at the Fire House. It was noted that if the Town has no interest in the building, the Legion members may turn it over to the National Legion. The only income that the Legion has now is the small dues paid by the members and the rent being paid by the Library (first started at \$300 a month but is now \$500 a month). The Board agreed to seek public input on this and Mr. Colley will speak with Taylor Oil as the Dog Pound building may need air conditioning as well and this may save some money with the two projects. The Board agreed to take an extra month to consider the request.

Mr. Flanagan brought up the issue of the paid holidays for Town Employees. The State holiday schedule is followed and at the last meeting the BOS added Town Offices be closed Election Day. In reviewing the State schedule and the calendar, the only other day that he suggested as a paid holiday is the day after Thanksgiving. Any other day that employees wish to take off, they would use vacation, sick or personal time. Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the day after Thanksgiving be added as a day that the Town Offices are closed (paid holiday), seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Stan MacMillan has been able to obtain two proposals for repairing the Town Hall elevator which has been out of service for over two weeks and no meetings can be held in the building due to lack of access. One for pump replacement - \$41,002.00 plus \$2500 for the removal of the old hydraulic oil; and the second is for complete replacement of power unit - \$55,014.44 plus \$2500 for the removal of the old hydraulic oil. Mr. MacMillan recommends the complete replacement due the age of the units, once the pump is replaced, the motor would probably go next. Mr. Flanagan questioned if the hydraulic oil

could be used at the Town Garage. This will be looked into. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS go with the recommendation of the Building Official/Fire Marshal and request the BOF to allocate the funds for the complete replacement of the power unit and hydraulic oil removal, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. In the discussion, Ms. Keilty questioned the usage of the elevator in relation to the number of years it has been in service. Vote taken on motion – unanimously carried.

The only tabled ARPA application is for an allocation towards the Comcast contract. With no signed contract yet, there is no rush to make a decision or allocate funds. Ms. Drew suggested that the Board re-visit the list of suggested uses by residents where no actual applications were submitted. She will be working on the required spending reports to be submitted to the Treasury.

After several revisions, the COMCAST contract is almost ready to be signed. The wording has been going back and forth between the attorneys. One of the issues has been: the definition of when the project is completed – when the “Town” accepts the work and payment is certified. Ms. Drew advised the Board that COMCAST doesn’t get the first payment until they are half way done with the work and that at this point all drafts of the contract are confidential. It was suggested to have Attorney DiBella look at the latest contract and have him comment on the need of the “extra” wording. Mr. Jones suggested looking at a similar project contract that was done with a town in MA.

Along with the COMCAST contract, a draft contract for the Contract Performance Manager was reviewed. The Board thanked Jill Drew for the draft. Nichole Blass, the hired Manager has done some work, without a signed contract, getting ready for when the project starts. It was emphasized that without signed contracts, she can’t be paid by the Town. She can “bank” her hours but it was suggested that she go “slow”. The draft needs to be reviewed by Ms. Blass and it was suggested that an attorney review it as well. The Board can do a quick special meeting to accept both Contracts.

The Tax Collector has submitted a real estate tax refund for David Marshall in the amount of \$5,146.34 – there was a double payment. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Ms. Keilty was present to request the Board to consider placing stop signs at the intersection of Hospital Hill Road and King Hill Road. She even feels that stops signs be put on all three roads would be best. After some discussion, it was agreed to consult with the Road Foreman, put the topic in the next newsletter for residents’ opinions, and check with the State DOT to see if we need their approval.

Mr. Jones made a motion re-appoint Brent Colley to SSRRA with a term to 1/14/2026 and Thomas Bartram as the voting alternate with a term to 1/14/2024, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Community Update:

The Sharon Housing Trust is holding a forum on affordable housing options in connection with the approved Affordable Housing Plan. The forum will be held Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023 from 2PM to 4PM at the BOK Gallery.

As result of the power outages over the Christmas holiday and removal of trees in roadways, Mr. Colley is working with Eversource about tree removal etc.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary