

**RECEIVED**

*By Linda Amerighi at 8:26 am, Mar 18, 2024*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A special meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on March 14, 2024 at 2:00PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, John Hecht, Melia Hill, Jill Drew, reporters Epstein and Hawken and the secretary.

First Selectman Flanagan called the meeting to order at 2:00.

Public Comment – Melia Hill, Sharon’s Social Service Agent, acknowledged that her wage increase budget request was denied. She would like the Board to consider her 24/25 hourly wage to be \$30.00.

Mr. Brett made a motion to accept the minutes of 2/27/24 x 2, 3/7/24 x 2, & 3/12/24 was written, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

The Sharon Green Committee has submitted a request that Line Item 25 b – New Equipment, in the amount of \$4,000 be placed in the Equipment Replacement Account, earmarked for Green Equipment in anticipation of the purchase of a new John Deere Tractor in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the request on to the Board of Finance, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

The Board went through their proposed 2024/2025 budget page by page discussion each department. M. Flanagan reminded the Board that the Union Contract is still under negotiations so the line item for Road Crew wages will change as well as Social Security, Medicare and Pension once the wages are finalized. From the last budget workshop, the Board agreed to adjust: Human Resource Consultant; the number of average hours for the Building Office File Clerk; the estimated actual for Community Hall Repairs/Maintenance; switch funds between Highway Signs and Guardrails; reduce Sharon Playhouse’s request; leave the Social Service Agent hourly wage at the 4% increase as within next budget cycle, the Board will be focusing on job descriptions and their associated wages with the Human Resource Consultant – this decision is no reflection of service given to the Town; reduce General Assistance under Welfare/Social Service Agent; after reviewing the potential scheduling and pay for Beach personnel, as well as Sand/Weed Control – line items reduced – Beach Manager/Gate; Lifeguards; and Sand/Weed Control; Beach sticker fees were discussed and it was recommended to have these fees increased as well as the timing of the weed harvesting changed and look into other companies; the Board agreed to leave the total amount requested for Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements and leave the final decision of appropriating funds for the tennis court replacement up to the Board of Finance; and reducing the allocation to the Amenia Landfill Account as the account has a balance to work with. Mr. Brett made a motion that the proposed budget as revised today be presented to the Board of Finance, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

The Sharon Green Committee has submitted a request for an additional \$42,000 for the replacement of their 24-year-old John Deere Tractor and attachments. It is anticipated to auction off the old equipment with funds being returned back to the Town. The Green Committee left the funding decision up to the Board of Selectmen – add to budget or taken out of the Undesignated Fund. After some discussion, Mr. Brett made a motion the BOS approves and recommends to the Board of Finance the allocation of \$42,000 to come out of the Undesignated Fund to the purchase of this equipment, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Community Update:

The Presidential preference primary is April 2 with four days of early voting – March 26, 27, 28 & 30 from 10AM to 6PM. To register in a party, one has until March 25.

All the conditions of the approval for the solar array have been satisfied with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Housatonic Valley Health District is holding blood pressure clinics here at the Town Hall the first Monday of each month from 9AM – 10AM.

Ms. Kearcher gave additional information on the Tom Levine Scholarship for Performing Arts that was established to encourage Sharon Center School Students grades entering 4-8 to experience the board range of spectrum of the performing arts. The \$500 per student for two students annually paid directly to the attending venue will be handled through the school.

The phoenix sculpture at the school is being repaired and painted.

With nothing further, Mr. Brett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary