

RECEIVED

By Linda Amerighi at 10:21 am, Mar 28, 2024

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on March 26, 2024 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Dale Jones, John Hecht, Bob Whelan, Carol Flaton, Larry Moskowitz, Richard Baumann, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

First Selectman called the meeting to order at 5:30.

No one present had any public comment at the moment but if they wanted to speak when the Board gets to a particular item on the agenda, just let Mr. Flanagan know.

Mr. Brett made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/14/24 as written, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Mr. Jones, Mr. Whelan and Mr. Baumann, of the Sharon Housing Trust, were present regarding a proposed draft of an Option to Lease 99 North Main Street. Their proposal for the structure is to renovate it into 4 affordable units. In order to move forward seeking funds from the Department of Housing, they want to see that the Trust has site control. The Trust is looking for a 75-year lease but the Option needs to be approved by the Town before they can apply for funds. There was a discussion on leasing vs purchasing vs the Town just giving the Trust the structure. There is also a Community Development Block Grant Program where the Trust could apply for funds which needs an administrator from the Town – John Brett has volunteered to do this. There also needs to be an administrator of the Program – the Trust has contacted David Barto who would do this at a cost of \$3,500, which the Trust would pay for. With this Program, there is no financial obligation on part of the Town while the Grant is in the Town's name. The proposed draft before the BOS has not yet been reviewed by the Town Attorney or a partner in the firm who handles real estate transactions. Individuals present offered that if the lease proceeds, there should be no financial liability to the Town and the Town asset should be protected for any future occurrence. Mr. Flanagan will have the Town Attorney and/or a real estate partner review the proposal and give them the Boards concerns to consider.

Mr. Flanagan discussed with the Board the Sustainable CT Municipal Program. The Program is designed to offer technical assistance to help advance sustainability initiatives, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs and provide grants and additional support to municipalities. There is no cost to the Town to join and TRAC has asked that Sharon join. A Sustainability Team would need to be established to fundraise \$7,500. There is a \$7,500 Matching Grant that could help with the impact of dealing with organics at the Transfer Station. The Town of Salisbury has voted to join this Program. Per a Resolution that the Board needs to adopt, the established Team must hold their first meeting within 90 days of passing the proposed Resolution. After some discussion, Mr. Brett made a motion that the Board adopts the Resolution as presented with Casey Flanagan being the contact person, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. The Board will look for members of the Team.

As the Town Garage structure needs improvements, Mr. Flanagan discussed with the Board the forming of a committee to investigate options – rehabilitate the structure or replace. He read a proposed "Charge" and list of possible individuals. After some discussion, Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the "Charge" and appoint Robert Duncan, Todd Anderson, Robert Loucks, Suzanne Smith, John Ongley, Matt

Freudenberg and Advisor James Reid to the Garage Building Committee, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

The Board has been discussing forming a Long-Range Planning Committee to look into challenges that the Town would/could be facing in the future. Mr. Flangan read a proposed "Charge" and list of possible individuals. As the Committee would be advisory to the Selectmen and the meetings would be open to the public, Ms. Kearcher and Mr. Brett would not be formal members of this Committee. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the "Charge" and appoint to the Committee with no set term: Thomas Casey, Meg Szalewicz, Grace Schalkwyk, Ed Yowell, David Moore, Carol Flaton, Elizabeth Hall, Michael Levensgood, Tracey Abut, Donna DiMartino, Robert Lindgren, Thomas Gibb, Camille Rocanova, Pam Jarvis, Douglas Rick, Jacob Remes and Richard Baumann, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Mr. Flanagan explained that three years ago it was found that there are some deficiencies in the Town Hall IT systems, particularly the server although there are other areas that need addressing as well. He has met with five vendors to obtain proposals. There are three vendors from which he obtained comprehensive plans from – the plans include initial costs to rehabilitate the system and then maintenance. A portion is wiring that is estimated to cost \$20,000. Another portion is to get fiber connection for internet to join the CT Education Network rather than COMCAST. A portion of the project that Mr. Flanagan is waiting for is a design for the meeting room virtual equipment. Without this, he doesn't have enough information to fill out an application for ARPA funding.

The Board reviewed the annual Memorandum of Agreement regarding the use of federal homeland security grant funds to support regional set-aside projects and proposed Resolution regarding the 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Funding. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement and the Resolution as presented, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

The Tax Collector has submitted a motor vehicle tax refund request for Hyundai Leasing Titling Trust in the amount of \$332.64. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Community Update:

Ms. Kearcher stated that she has been contacted by an individual who has offered to help with Mudge Pond. She has not heard back from DEEP on the grant application.

It was announced that former First Selectman Bob Moeller and former Assessor Debbie Reyelt have passed away.

With nothing further, Mr. Brett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary