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SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on April 23, 2024 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Dale Jones, Deborah Moore, Jack Flanagan, Pat & Bob Whelan, John & Parea Hecht, Richard Baumann, Jill Drew, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

Public Comment: Bob Whelan read a portion of a letter that was sent to Congresswoman Hayes supporting affordable housing, prior to the Sharon Housing Trust owning the property on North Main Street. He emphasized that the Town Housing Plan has been ratified and the Trust could loose out on getting the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) if approvals are not obtained in a timely manner.

To be added to the agenda: Bikewalk CT (11a) and Deborah Moore for Sharon Hospital 115th Celebration (11b). Ms. Kearcher made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Brett, with all in favor.

Ms. Kearcher made a motion to approve the 4/9/24 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Brett, with all in favor.

Mr. Flanagan reported that the Option to Lease & Lease for 99 North Main Street with the Sharon Housing Trust was turned over to the Board of Finance Vice Chair for review. Ms. Fowler did have some questions and comments that were relayed to the real estate attorney. These items will be addressed and a new version of the document will be sent to First Selectman Flanagan and Ms. Fowler for review. Ms. Fowler will review and bring back to the BOF if she feels it needs group discussion. This version will be forwarded to the other BOS members and the Housing Trust and if acceptable, the BOS can proceed approving the document on to Town Meeting at a special meeting. In reviewing the Option to Lease, Ms. Kearcher had a suggested amendment to Item #8. Mr. Whelan emphasized that the CDBG application and the lease approval process can run parallel. Time is of the essence of having the BOS approve a commitment letter for the Grant. It was emphasized that there is a process that needs to be followed and this can take time.

The Sharon Housing Trust had asked the BOS for a Letter of Intent and a Resolution for the CDBG application. Attorney DiBella has reviewed the sample Letter of Intent and in his opinion, this is okay to approve. Mr. Brett made a motion that the BOS approves submitting a Letter of Intent for applying for a CDBG and authorize First Selectman Flanagan to sign the letter, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. Attorney DiBella has reviewed the draft Resolution and cautioned the Board in passing it as there is a section that he needs to look into further as it is unknown what the Town possibly could be obligated to do. It was discussed to just remove this section for now and if need be, add it back in at a later date. There was a discussion as to the Town having a financial obligation if awarded the Grant. It was commented that even if the Town is awarded the Grant, the Town could decide not to accept it. After some discussion, Mr. Brett made a motion that the BOS adopts the Resolution striking the section of concern, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. A clean copy of both documents needs to be given to the BOS.

The ARPA Advisory Committee spending report for the period of 4/1/23 to 3/31/24 was submitted to the BOS for review and approval for submission to the U. S. Treasury. The report covers 6 projects and the administration expenses. After the review, Mr. Brett made a motion that the BOS approves the spending report for submission, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

ARPA applications: The application for Town Hall IT infrastructure upgrades in the amount of \$70,000.00 was reviewed by the ARPA Committee. The Committee voted to allocate up to \$75,000. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$75,000 for the upgrades, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. The application for a new generator at the Town Garage in the amount of \$40,000.00 had been reviewed by the Committee who approved an expenditure of up to \$41,000. After further review of the proposal submitted, in order to cover the removal of the old generator, Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$42,000 for the new generator, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor. There are two outstanding applications for the Sharon Housing Authority. Mrs. Drew offered that the Committee had requested additional information which has not yet been received. These applications were tabled.

The BOS needs to review, approve on to the Board of Finance for approval to Town Meeting, the five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. The current Plan was reviewed noting the items that were completed or in process. Items to be included with the noted years: Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion; Sidewalk Replacement Phase I Engineering and Phase II Construction; Hazardous Tree Removal; Cell Phone Service Improvements; Town Hall IT Improvements; Town Garage Maintenance; Green Garage Building; Town Hall Repointing Bricks; Paving of Garage Driveway and Parking Area; Tennis Court Replacement; Rolling Hills/Dug Road Drainage/Road Repair; River Road Road Repair; Bridge Replacement/Repair West Cornwall Road (2) bridges; and Kings Hill Road Bridge Replacement/Repair. For the one bridge replacement/repair on West Cornwall Road, there is a State Local Bridge Program which is a matching grant for which the Town may be applying for. For this, a full inspection needs to be done. After some discussion, Mr. Brett made a motion to approve to the Board of Finance the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, seconded by Ms. Kearcher. In the discussion it was noted that there is nothing concerning the school as the Board of Education did not get back to the Board of Finance with the requested information. Vote taken on motion = carried unanimously.

The Annual Town Meeting is May 10, 2024. The BOS needs to set the time. The items were reviewed. After some discussion, Mr. Brett made a motion to set the time for 6:30PM here at the Town Hall, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

The Parks & Recreation Committee has submitted their yearly request to use certain roads for the Triathlon to be held August 17, 2024. The routes are the same as in previous years. Ms. Kearcher made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Brett, with all in favor.

Bike Walk CT have submitted a request to use certain roads in Town for a bicycle ride and walk (Discover CT Tour) to be held September 8, 2024. Their request and map were reviewed. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the request with the condition that the Town be provided a Certificate of Insurance and that all signs put up are removed immediately following the event, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Deborah Moore was present to discuss with the Board a Celebration of 115 years of Sharon Hospital. The idea is to celebrate the level of commitment the community has for the hospital. She gave the Board a packet outlining the history of the hospital. She envisions a parade and a picnic to honor various

individuals involved over the years tentatively on August 25, 2024. She asks nothing from the Board other than support. She hopes to have the picnic at Veterans' Field. The Board agreed to support this idea but told Mrs. Moore that once her plans are definite, she will need to contact Parks & Recreation for use of Veterans' Field and this Board would need to approve on to the State use of roads for the parade.

The Tax Collector has submitted four tax refund requests: Toyota Lease Trust MV \$418.90, \$460.94 and \$302.40; and Corelogic RE \$662.76. Mr. Brett made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Ms. Kearcher, with all in favor.

Community Update:

SEEC held a roadside clean-up on Saturday, April 20th. They had good participation. It was noted that there are daily walkers who pick-up garbage on a regular basis.

Ms. Kearcher stated that she has not yet heard from DEEP on the Grant application for Mudge Pond. She gave the Board copies of signs that she would like to put up at the State boat launching area and at the Beach concerning hydrilla, at her expense. DEEP has an on-line course to become a Professional Monitor for the inspection of boats etc. before they are launched into the pond. The course is May 8 and she will be taking it. There are volunteers who would monitor the State boat launching area. Per DEEP, in order for this to happen, they need an Insurance Certificate from the Town. Ms. Kearcher will look into this.

With nothing further, Mr. Brett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary