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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 July 13, 2021 at 3:00PM In-person and via ZOOM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Barbara & Brent Prindle, Doug Rick, Jill Drew, John & Patee Hecht, John Brett, Lynn Mattoon, Emily Basham, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

Items to be added to the agenda: CT Green Bank (4a), Broadband Task Force timetable (6a) and re-appoint Director of Health (6b). Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

If anyone wishes to speak on an agenda item, when the Board gets there, just let Mr. Colley know.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the 6/22/21 minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Emily Basham of CT Green Bank and other members of her team were present via ZOOM to explain their relationship with the Town of Sharon and the potential solar array at Sharon Center School. It was explained that the Green Bank is a CT quasi-public state agency that helps municipalities with energy assistance as well as financial assistance. They obtain a census of kW needs for municipalities interested and then submit bids for the Zero Emission Renewable Energy Certificate (ZREC) Program for the systems. Then they send out Request for Proposals for contractors for the concept and designing of the system. The contractor awarded the bid obtains all the final approvals – BOS, BOE, P&Z and finally Town Meeting. All the energy produced by the solar system is delivered to the school only, which should replace 85% of their usage. The purchase agreement with the School is for 20 years at a cheaper fixed rate than Eversource. CT Green Bank owns the systems and is responsible for replacement, repairs and maintenance. It was explained that if there is a power outage and this system is down, the schools electricity would revert to Eversource. Having battery backup as an option was discussed as we do have power outages. Various topics were discussed. The Board thanked Ms. Basham for the presentation and the members of SEEC for their help with this project and process.

The Town is required to have an Affordable Housing Plan. To assist with this, Mr. Colley as applied for an Affordable Housing Plan – Planning Grant in the amount of \$10,800. Jocelyn Ayers of COG will help with the Plan. The Grant application requires the BOS to adopt a Resolution that authorizes the submission of the Grant application and identifies the individual who can sign the application and administer the Grant. The draft Resolution was read which authorizes the submission and identifies Brent Colley as the signer and administrator. The State “requirements” for affordable housing was discussed. Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Jill Drew was present to discuss with the Board the setting up of an ad-hoc committee of volunteers (the ARPA Advisory Committee) to help navigate the allocation of the roughly \$800,000 that the Town is receiving in ARPA funds. The Town has already received \$ 397,905.56. She explained that she had met with Tom Bartram in his role as Emergency Management Director to start the process on how to effectively use these funds. There are certain guidelines established by the U.S. Treasury for permitted uses of the funds and certain timing of reports due. The suggested process would be for the Committee

to draft a spending plan; the plan is submitted to the BOS for review, revisions and approval; the BOS plan is submitted to the BOF for review and revisions; then the formal votes to adopt the plan is done by the BOF. It is not clear if a Town Meeting is required as these are federal funds but they suggest one be held at the appropriate time to answer questions and inform residents of the spending plan. Ms. Drew suggested a mix of individuals who can represent different interests that may qualify for funding or provide overall community input. Mr. Colley will put this topic in the next newsletter and ask interested individuals to contact either Jill or Tom Bartram.

Jill Drew, for the Sharon Connect Task Force, discussed with the Board the proposed timeline for the Request for Proposals to go out and be returned for the Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis. The Task Force would like the proposals received back before 2PM September 1, 2021. The proposal asks for costs to build an open-access fiber optic network to: each home and business on state, town and private roads; each home and business on state and town roads only; and pass each home and business on state and town roads but not fiber to the premises. With this the Town can decide which way we want to go so that a figure can be put in the 2022/2023 budget. There is a possibility of Infrastructure funding in the future. The draft Request will be sent to the Town Attorney for review so that the BOS can approve it to go out at the next regular meeting. The Board thanked this group for all their work on this issue.

Our Director of Health, Michael Crespan, needs to be re-appointed for another four years. He is interested in continuing. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Crespan for another four years, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Community Update:

Mr. Colley reviewed the road projects: Mitchelltown Road has had its' final asphalt coating put on; the chip sealing is delayed due to the amount of rain we have had; asphalt patching is being done; the gravel roads are having maintenance done on them; and a different type of treatment is going to be tried on some portions of dirt roads.

The Board appreciated having so many roads represented at the speeding informational meeting. The speed signs will be moved around again and Troop B likes getting the data. Mr. Jones offered that Melissa Evans stressed that consistent criteria with a scoring system should be done. Ideas are: collecting the data from the flashing speed signs; traffic & risk to pedestrians; and speed numbers (how many are going over the speed limit). This would give the Board what area to "attack" first. As for speed humps, any location would need to be determined so that they would not create other issues, i.e. people driving on someone's lawn to avoid the hump or create a drainage issue. Mr. Colley commented that he has an engineer coming Thursday to look at various roads and issues.

A resident from River Road handed the Board a letter asking them to address an issue.

There was a brief discussion on the State DOT maintaining or lack of maintaining certain roads in town.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary