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By Linda Amerighi at 8:16 am, Jul 29, 2022

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on July 26, 2022 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Jill Drew, Meghan & Jack Flanagan, Mr. & Mrs. Hecht, Heather Mathews, Doug Rick, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

If anyone wishes to speak/comment on an agenda item when the Board gets there, just let Mr. Colley know. No one had any public comments in general.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the 7/12/22 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Jill Drew and Meghan Flanagan were present to give an update on Broadband. Comcast has come forward with an option to partner with the Town to provide either fiber optic or high speed cable to those areas not served in town at a cost of 1.6 million dollars to the Town. The Broadband Committee feels that there should be an informational meeting before this goes any farther. Ms. Drew explained the basic idea. If the Town approves the option and the funding, once the full application is complete, Comcast says they can complete the project in 6 months. With the BOS support, the Broadband Task Force will hold an informational meeting, if town supported then they will come back to the BOS to start the funding process in order to go before the Board of Finance for approval to Town Meeting. After some discussion and the support of the BOS, the informational meeting was set for Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6PM here at the Town Hall.

The ARPA Advisory Committee submitted two new applications for funding. Heather Mathews was present to explain her request for \$21,000 for H & H Educators, LLC. She, on her own, bought a bus that she wants to outfit as a mobile classroom so that she can travel to children's homes and other settings during the summer and perhaps during school vacations and during her weekend tutoring sessions, to offer books and lead educational sessions for children who attend Sharon Center School and perhaps other area schools. Her dog Holly, the other H in the LLC is a therapy dog who accompanies her and helps students. She expressed how much she wants to give kids the opportunity for reading on a regular basis. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to grant the request of H & H Educations, LLC's application for up to \$21,000 pending receipt of the additional funding, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. The second application was from Claudia Carson for providing internet to a residence under construction. This one was put on hold due to the possibility of the Town partnering with Comcast.

The Board received a letter from the Parks & Recreation Committee requesting to revisit purchasing a van for town use. The letter stated that there are other interested parties in using the vehicle. The Board agreed that the discussion will eventually happen but more information is needed and the Committee needs to come up with a presentation. The BOS would like to know exactly what the vehicle would be used for, documentation from the other potential users on how they would use it, where it would be housed, who would drive it, and detailed current costs. Mrs. Mathews offered that rather than purchasing a new vehicle, perhaps a used one could be purchased. It was agreed that the Board

will send a letter back to the Committee stating that the purchase is a great idea but a more structured request with a detailed presentation will be needed.

A request to Use the Sharon Green has been submitted from Save Sharon Hospital for Sunday, August 14, 2022 from 10AM to 1PM. This is for an informational meeting with Gov. Lamont. The Green Committee has approved the request pending receipt of an Insurance Certificate. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the request pending receipt of the Insurance Certificate, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The two proposals for acoustical mitigation for the Chapin Meeting Room were reviewed. Only one includes installation. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS requests the BOF to allocate up to \$10,000 for the purchase of materials and installation of the acoustical panels for the Chapin Meeting Room, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The latest site plan for the Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion project is available. Mr. Colley reviewed the Plan. It was noted that it includes a conceptual walkway from the parking lot to West Main Street – this will require easements and Town Meeting approval in the future. Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the Engineer present this plan for the project to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Historic District Commission for their approval, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. After the approvals, then the Engineer can go out to bid for the project.

Mr. Jones stated that he has a meeting with RAR, who did the Green Rehabilitation Project, for a full comprehensive replacement plan of the sidewalks. The Historic District Commission prefers concrete sidewalks. Once the plan is complete, the Board can obtain bids/proposals from contractors. Mrs. Mathews commented as salt erodes concrete, other safety materials may be needed for icy conditions. Also using asphalt with stones mixed in may be an option. Mr. Jones was thanked for taking this project on.

Emily Basham of CT Green Bank had sent a Resolution that she wanted the BOS to adopt concerning the solar project for Sharon Center School. Town Attorney DiBella requested that the BOS not execute the proposed Resolution at this time; as the project is proposed to be located on a separate vacant parcel of land next to school, per State Statute 8-24, the Planning and Zoning Commission needs to submit a report on the project concept and have the developer submit a site plan application; and Town Meeting must authorize the long-term commitment of municipal property to the transaction. As the P & Z Commission has conceptually approved the project, Attorney DiBella recommended that the BOS set a Town Meeting. It was noted that if approved, once the site plan is done, the proposal may need to go to the Inland Wetlands Commission for approval. Mr. Jones made a motion that a Town Meeting be set for August 18, 2022 here at Town Hall at 6PM concerning the solar project, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The proper wording for the Warning will be obtained from Attorney DiBella.

The Health Department is waiting for water test results and the ServSafe Food Certification for the Food Truck to be located at the Sharon Valley Tavern. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the application conditionally on the completion of the requirements of the Health Department, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

A request to use certain Town roads for a bicycle tour on Sunday, October 9, 2022 has been received from Domestique Events LLC. The tour is called The Lime Rock Epic. They will be forwarding copies of insurance certificates. The list of Sharon roads was reviewed. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the

request and stipulate that any signs be removed immediately after the event, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The air conditioning system for the second floor of 67 Main Street has not been functioning properly for a few months. William Perotti & Sons, Inc. have looked at the system and state that there is a Freon leak in the system causing no a/c. At this point the system is pretty old and there are 2 options: they could try to find the leak and repair it OR replace the equipment and start out new at a cost of \$7,431.00. There are ample funds in the 67 Main Street Account from the monthly rent. Previously, the Auditor has stated since the funds come from a separate account and if the the Board of Finance approves the expenditure, it does not need to go to a town meeting. There was a question as to if a split duct system would work – perhaps with the layout of the upstairs, this would not work. Mr. Jones made a motion to accept and recommend the proposal for replacement to the Board of Finance, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Any Community Updates will be put in the upcoming Selectmen’s newsletter.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary