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By Linda Amerighi at 2:02 pm, Aug 25, 2023

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on August 22, 2023 at 5:30PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Jill Drew, Paree & John Hecht, Carol Flaton, Robert Lindgren, Nikki Blass, Jack & Meghan Flanagan, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

No one present had any public comments on the agenda items nor any other item.

Correspondence from the Parks & Recreation Committee needs to be added to the agenda (7a). Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to accept the 8/8/23 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Jill Drew, Meghan Flanagan and Nikki Blass were present to review the written COMCAST progress report. One outstanding concern of the Task Force is being able to get in contact with residents who have not been in contact with them to either let them know if they want to get service or not because if they don't opt in now, they would have to pay to get service in the future. Placing information on Sharon Facebook page, Constant contact list or Instagram followers was discussed. COMCAST and the Task Force have been good with addressing individuals concerns. Matt Skane, from COMCAST, was on the phone commenting that once the "build" is done, there will be the transition to the Sales Department to actually get residents to sign-up for the service. They are still waiting for the pole license from Eversource and/or Frontier.

Mr. Colley has been in touch with the Kardaslarsen firm regarding Human Resource consultation. This company is in the Glastonbury/Hartford area, has been in business since 2004 and currently charges \$170 per hour. They seem to handle areas that the Board is interested in: employee issues, succession planning and compensation. They do work currently with municipalities. Both Selectmen have looked into other firms and agreed to have someone from this firm attend a meeting.

The painting has been done for the speed humps on Hilltop Road. There was an agreement that the humps appear to be harsher than what was expected – they seem to be more of a hump rather than a ramp. As this is a test case for the Town, Mr. Flanagan offered that the Board should give it time to see the affect and, in the meantime, put a moratorium on the speed hump policy process before the Board gets more petitions. It was agreed to have RAR, who installed the humps, re-look at the plans and make necessary corrections. There are concerns for plowing and emergency vehicles with the current installation. Mr. Lindgren offered that the humps are working and have improved the quality of the residents on the road. Mr. Flanagan offered that after school starts, a traffic counter should be placed on the road so that a comparison can be done – before and after traffic count. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the Board enforce a six-month moratorium on the speed hump policy process, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Committee have extended an invitation to the BOS to attend a special Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to discuss some of the messages they have received and to discuss how they can work together going forward – the dates offered do not work for the BOS.

The BOS were not comfortable going to a meeting where they have no control over the agenda. Having a joint meeting was suggested with an agreed upon agenda. It was commented that the individuals who are to be elected in November to the BOS should be invited to this meeting. The Board discussed possible meeting dates and times as they meet twice a month – have a joint meeting following one of their regular meetings or a totally separate one. After some discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS agrees to a joint meeting where the structure and agenda are agreed upon with the date and time to be determined by both parties. Due to vacation times, Mr. Flanagan will work-up date options. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

The Tax Collector has submitted 5 tax refund requests: Robert Keay – MV \$15.48; Marilyn Yerks – MV \$50.12; NW Community Bank – RE \$581.40; Samuel Posey – RE \$1,272.24; and All Star Storage – MV \$121.39. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to grant the tax refund requests, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Community Update:

The Hotchkiss Library renovation project is complete and the job was well done. The re-opening event was very well done.

The Parks and Recreation Committee's Triathlon went well.

The State is paving South Main Street and Amenia Union Road.

The Road Crew is cleaning up damage areas due to the recent storms. FEMA came to look at the damaged areas and there is hope that funding will become available to help with the cost of the repairs.

The Sharon Land Trust has opened more trails.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary