

RECEIVED

By Linda Amerighi at 8:26 am, Sep 15, 2022

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on September 13, 2022 at 3PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Pat & Bob Whelan, Jill Drew, Meghan Flanagan, Paree Hecht, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

To be added to the agenda: 8c Encumber Line Item 8c Fire Department Awards Program and 9c sidewalk upgrade. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

No one present had any public comment but Mrs. Drew asked when and how the process of lifting the Use of Hall by outside groups would be done. Mr. Colley stated that he needs to speak with our Health Director to get his opinion, then the Board can make a decision.

A typo correction needed to be made in the 8/23/22 minutes – 1st page, 3rd paragraph, 1st line change “COMAST” to “COMCAST”. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve these minutes as corrected and the minutes of 9/1/22 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

There has been discussion on having someone with knowledge of the type of contract that the Town would have with COMCAST to review the contract. Mr. Colley stated that COMCAST has their attorney looking at it and Town Attorney DiBella did recommend an individual, whom Mr. Colley has been in contract with. At this point until there is a final version of the contract, it was agreed not to schedule a Town Meeting to vote on the funding. Hopefully the contract can be settled by the end of September with both attorneys having been in contact with one another. Maybe at the next BOS meeting a Town Meeting date can be set. There has been a question as to if a voting question could be placed on the November ballot but it is too late for that. This process needed to be done by September 8th. The point was raised at the Board of Finance meeting to have someone oversee the work done by COMCAST. Mike Solitro from Sertex has stated that an engineer is not necessary as the oversight is an administrative function. In discussions with Jessica Fowler, she may have a recommendation of someone who understands the business and can follow the contract. Mrs. Drew commented that the contract needs to list the house numbers that would be utilizing this partnership so the Sharon Connect Task Force could send mailers to all residences to make them aware of the necessity to sign up now or if they wait they would be paying for the installation. The cost would be approximately \$1,000. It was the consensus of the BOS that the mailing be done with a deadline for responding of September 30.

As the Town Affordable Housing Plan has been on the Town Website for over 35 days it is now up to the BOS to either adopt the Plan or not. Mr. Jones commented that Jocelyn Ayer was very helpful to the Committee in formalizing the Plan. Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS adopts the Town of Sharon Affordable Housing Plan as drafted and placed on the Website, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. Before the vote was taken, Bob Whelan explained to the Board the re-organization of the Sharon Housing Trust. The Trust’s mission is to increase the stock of affordable housing in town. One possibility that is a conceptual idea at this point – converting the Community Center into two apartments. The Town would continue to own the land and structure while providing a 99 year renewable and transferable lease to the Trust for \$1 per year. The Trust would take control of the building, raise the funds needed for the conversion, do the conversion and get a company to handle the day to day management of the

property. There needs to be input from the community and there is no action to be taken by this Board at this point. Mr. Flanagan asked how they plan to fundraise the money for the conversion and stressed that the Parks & Recreation Committee, who oversee this building, needs to be involved in this conversion as well as other Boards/Commissions. It was commented that once this idea goes public, other ideas may come forward for the use of this building. The BOS will have the discussion with Parks & Recreation first on the re-use of this building. Vote taken on motion to adopt the Affordable Housing Plan – all in favor – motion carried. Ms. Ayer will notify the State of this adoption and it was commented that the Planning and Zoning Commission did vote that the draft Plan was consistent with the Town Plan of Conservation & Development. There was a basic discussion on the State’s requirements/suggestions on the percentage of affordable housing they would like towns to have.

Setting a Town Meeting was tabled at this point.

There are three line items in the BOS 2021-2022 budget that they should request the BOF to encumber to the 2022-2023 budget: Line Item 26 Highways - \$98,232.83 for the paving project on Sharon Valley Road that the company has not yet been able to complete; Line Item 14e Town Hall Repairs/Maintenance - \$6,331.58 for the replacement of a pillar outside the front door of the Town Hall that the company had to get made special and it has not yet been delivered and installed; and Line Item 21i Fire Protection Awards Program - \$38,000 as the Fire Department had to update their census in order to get the bill and this process is taking longer than usual. Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the BOS requests the BOF to encumber the three Line Items noted, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

A request has been received from the Parks & Recreation Committee to the BOS and the BOF that any unexpended funds from the 2021-2022 budget year for the Beach, Veterans’ Field and Community Center be placed into their Capital Improvement Account. The total is \$12,029.85. Mr. Jones a motion that the BOS recommends to the BOF the placement of these funds into the Capital Improvement Account, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Mr. Jones stressed that he has been trying to get cost estimates for the replacement of the sidewalks with concrete. He has been able to get one firm estimate from RAR. He is trying to get three. He has an appointment with Segalla Construction who is doing the concrete sidewalks in Canaan and has reached out to the company doing the sidewalks in Litchfield but has had no response. He asked the Board for guidance – put out an RFP or suggest other companies he should contact. It was agreed that no RFP is needed and that Mr. Jones should proceed with trying to get another square footage estimate for 5 feet wide sidewalks then the Board can make a decision on a contractor and get all entities involved. The real problem area is between Auto Sport and Cemetery Hill.

A letter and resume has been received from Michael Levengood asking that the BOS appoint him as the Town’s representative on the Northwest CT Transit District Board. The Town has not had representation on this Board for quite some time. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to appoint Michael Levengood as Sharon’s representative on the Transit District Board, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The Tax Collector has submitted 4 tax refund requests: USB Leasing LT mv overpayment - \$358.56; Robert Fish mv overpayment - \$541.58; VCFS Auto Leasing Co. mv overpayment - \$342.21; and VCFS Auto Leasing Co. mv overpayment \$425.46. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the refunds, seconded by Mr. Flanagan with all in favor.

Community Update:

There is a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day on Oct 8 at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility from 9 AM to 2PM. Residents must obtain a ticket from the Selectmen's Office.

Mitchelltown Road is one of fifteen that Eversource is giving special treatment to. They are having trees removed then replaced with ones that never grow above the powerlines.

The Hilltop Road speed hump recommendations have been forwarded to the various interested groups. No responses have been received. The BOS will need to schedule the informational meeting.

The intersection of Rt. 343 and Sharon Valley Road has been re-designed with the help of the State DOT.

The information received from Michael Nadeau on the Town Hall Parking Lot has been forwarded to the engineer. Part of the concept would work but not all as the plan is to get more parking spaces. The shedding water from the building will go to catch basins. As the basement of 67 Main Street floods and the water is pumped into the parking lot and creates ice during the winter, this water will be pumped to the catch basin. The work that would be done first is what is in conjunction with the lighting, the car charging stations and the drainage. The generator will be placed in the back corner of the parking lot. The site plan was scheduled to be reviewed by the P & Z Commission tomorrow (9/14/22) but the engineer can't attend the hearing so this will be tabled til the next meeting but he will be attending the Historic District Commission meeting scheduled for 9/26/22.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary