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By Linda Amerighi at 10:26 am, Sep 16, 2021

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on September 14, 2021 at 3:00PM In-person and via ZOOM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, John & Patee Hecht, Jill Drew, Barbara & Brent Prindle, Harding Bancroft, Eliza Klose, Meghan Flanagan, Jessica Fowler, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

Requests for Use of the Green need to be added to the agenda. Mr. Jones made a motion the requests from the Sharon Historical Society be added to the agenda as 9a, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

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

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/24/21 & 9/7/21 as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

As part of the Affordable Housing Assistance Grant that the Town received with the help of COG, the BOS needs to adopt an Authorizing Resolution (draft attached) which was read. Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. There were comments and questions as to the State requirement of a Housing Plan. A Committee comprised of various individuals needs to be formed. The final Plan needs to be filed with the State by October 2022. At the next Selectmen's meeting, the Board will discuss the use of COG in this process. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

As part of the STEAP Grant for the Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion Project, the Town has to utilize \$60,000 of our money first, which has been approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Colley obtained two proposals for engineering services which were reviewed – WMC Consulting Engineers – total lump sum fee \$33,500 and Cardinal Engineering Associates – total fee \$17,500. The proposal from WMC offers complete services with more clarity, while Cardinal excludes a lot of items that the Board felt were important with this project. Comments were made as to the process taken so far to get to this point and it was pointed out that the firm selected would need to be made aware of the necessity of installing conduit for a generator and electric car charging stations. With all points discussed, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to hire WMC Consulting Engineers for the Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion Project, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Jill Drew, Barbara Prindle and Meghan Flanagan, from the Sharon Connect Task Force, were present to review with the Board their initial thoughts on the RFP's received for the Broadband Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis. The Task Force was formed to come up with a Plan to eventually take to Town Meeting that would include: length of time to get fiber optic to the whole Town, the cost to the Town, what the monthly fee would be to those residents who utilize the Broadband and the annual maintenance and those associated costs. Her group has had three meetings and have been back and forth with the bidders. They are not prepared at this meeting to give the BOS a recommendation but will be ready shortly. They have put out questions to the various bidders who are to respond by Friday (9/17). The questions and answers will be shared with the BOS. Mrs. Drew went over the Task Force's initial thoughts on each bidder. It was pointed out that the process should be a joint effort in that the

firm selected should be willing to work with the Town and utilize the work already done by the Task Force. After the firm is selected, a contract will need to be done. The Task force will be ready to submit their recommendation next week for the Board to review and make the final decision at their September 28th meeting.

The ARPA Advisory Committee has been meeting and would like to use a portion of the funds to hire a part-time Administrator. The proposed job description was reviewed. The ad would be placed in the Lakeville Journal for 2 weeks and placed on the Town Website. The BOS would make the hire with input from the Committee. It was agreed to change the hours to 16-25 monthly. The duties were reviewed and the start date would be the meeting of October 6th. It was pointed out the main distribution of these funds are to be for COVID related events. Mrs. Drew will revise the Help Wanted ad and get it to the Selectmen to place in the paper and on the Website. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the hiring of an Administrator for the ARPA Advisory Committee for 16-25 hours per month with the resumes being received in the Selectmen's Office by 4PM September 30, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. In the discussion it was noted that the individual would submit a timesheet to a Co-Chair for the approval of payment. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

The overall proposed budget for the ARPA Advisory Committee was reviewed. They would like to be allowed to purchase a domain name and a Website Host for 2 years. After a short discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that the Committee be authorized to expend up to \$500 to these items, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Mr. Colley reported that he had a meeting with the new Lieutenant of Troop B. The Lieutenant offered to be available to the Town and help anyway he can. He offered to have an informational meeting with the residents to discuss issues such as speeding, parking, noise and criminal activity. The meeting would be similar to the one previously held at the pavilion regarding speeding. The Board agreed that any open dialogue with Troop B would be helpful. Mr. & Mrs. Hecht offered their concerns and frustration over the fact that there has been no progress on the speed hump petition submitted by the Hilltop Road Residents and that the Town hire a traffic engineer no matter what the going rate is. Mr. Flanagan stated that if the BOS needs to discuss funding for a traffic engineer, this needs to be done. The consensus of the BOS was to have Mr. Colley contact the Lieutenant and set-up the informational meeting hopefully in October.

The Sharon Historical Society has submitted two Applications for Use of the Sharon Green: Housatonic Heritage Walks Sept. 11 & Sept. 18 and a thirty minute teen activity Oct 9. These were received September 13th. The Green Committee has recommended that the BOS approve both applications pending the receipt of an Insurance Certificate. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the request for September 18 and October 9 pending receipt of the Insurance Certificate, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Community Update:

The State will be doing an overlay on Route 4 from Old Sharon Road #1 to Cornwall Bridge.

The Northwest Hills COG submitted a letter of support for the Sharon Land Trust's application for the Open Space Watershed Grant for the purchase of the 81 acres on Millerton Road.

The crack sealing has been completed on the following roads: Calkinstown, Still Meadow, Jewett Hill, Fairchild, West Cornwall and Williams. These roads will then be chipped sealed next year using TAR Funds from the State.

There is a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day October 9th from 9AM to 2PM at the Torrington Middle School. Residents need to get a ticket from the Selectmen's Office and the vendor is asking that we try to set appointment times.

Mr. Jones commented on the newly installed playground equipment at Veterans' Field.

Mr. Flanagan complimented Matt Andrulis Mette and Joe Cash on doing an exceptional job taking care of fields at Veterans' Field. He appreciates their efforts.

With nothing further, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary