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By Linda Amerighi at 9:28 am, Oct 13, 2022

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on October 11, 2022 at 3PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Mr. & Mrs. Hecht, Mike Nadeau, Jamie Casey, Robert Lindgren, Roger Liddell, Jill Drew, Katy Kinsolving, Lynn Mattoon, Doug Rick, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

To be added to the agenda – 10a request to Use Town Hall. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

No one present had any public comments.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/27/22 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

ARPA requests: from last meeting, the application from Megan Mollica of Cornwall Bridge Gardens. As Ms. Mollica was not present Jill Drew explained that the applicant did contact Cornwall but their process for small businesses had already closed and there is no new information. The Board had no new questions on the application. They did consider the loss relevant to the Sharon property and the taxes owed to the Town. Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS approves \$3,070.11 to the Town of Sharon for taxes owed affected by COVID, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. Town of Sharon: this application was submitted by First Selectman Colley for wages of the Road Crew who are suffering from inflation/increased cost of living following issues that arose following COVID. The initial request of \$12,000 was sent to the Board of Finance who choose not to address the request and it was suggested at that meeting that an application be submitted for ARPA funds. It was explained that this amount covers a one-time 2.5% increase in wages, the additional amount for social security and Medicare and pension. The increase would bring these employees to the same percentage increase as all other Town employees for this fiscal year. The ARPA Committee felt that this request could fit under four possible categories which were outlined in their minutes of 10/5/22. Mr. Flanagan questioned if any other Town employees were spoken to about suffering from inflation/increased cost of living expenses and expressed that if so, they should apply for funds. After some discussion on hiring a Human Resources person in the future, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the \$12,000 ARPA request TO cover the one-time increase in wages for the Road Crew and the associated items, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. Herb Road COMCAST installation: this request for \$110,117.58 to cover the cost of cable internet installation to 15 residences was tabled as this area is being looked at to the Town partnership with COMCAST. THE BOS did approve a similar application for Deer Run but that WAS before the partnership option came into play.

The contract with COMCAST is being looked at by an outside attorney and this should be done by the October 28th Town Meeting. The revised job description for the Contract Performance Manager was reviewed. Several things were discussed: the individual would be a sub-contractor carrying their own necessary insurance. It was felt that for now, the funds for this individual could come out of the Broadband line item in the budget and then revisited for the next budget cycle. Also perhaps some ARPA funds could be used. Jill Drew commented that the State Capital ARPA Funding application can be submitted after January, which she offered to do. Notifying owners along the road to be worked on and any other public communication was briefly commented on – Jamie Casey said that the Fire Department

uses Everbridge which works well – this system would cost the Town \$7,800 a year. The compensation for this individual would be based on experience. With two changes made to the Job Description, Mr. Jones made a motion that the Description be approved and the position advertised for, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. In the discussion it was noted that the position could not actually be filed until the Town approves the Partnership. It was agreed to have the ad run for 3 weeks with resumes to be received by 4PM November 10, 2022 and put on the Town website. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

The Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion project was discussed next. The Historic District Commission denied the application. Tomorrow the Planning and Zoning Commission will be holding their public hearing. Mr. Colley commented that the project would be done in phases, with phase 1 being putting in the conduit for wiring for the lights and car charging stations, moving the propane tank and putting in the underground drainage according to the site plan to date. Some other ideas have been discussed as to putting in some water absorbing areas at the back of the area but with the main idea being to increase the number of parking spaces, snow plowing and maintenance is a main concern. The drainage needs to get to the rear of the property. Mr. Nadeau of SEEC gave his personal background and briefly explained his proposed concept plan that would reduce the amount of run-off. The question is – should the current engineering plan be scrapped and have the engineer work with Mr. Nadeau on his suggestions. Jamie Casey, the Land Use Administrator, stated that the Historic District Commission didn't outright deny the plan they needed/wanted more information. The Planning and Zoning Commission needs a complete site plan which has to include all aspects in order for them to make a decision. If the site plan is to be amended at this point, P & Z can't consider Mr. Nadeau's proposal – for the interior site plan, an engineer has to prepare it. Ms. Casey offered that for P & Z, safety is the number one consideration and this is a public parking lot. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the application to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion be withdrawn pending an amended plan, seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Nadeau and the engineer will get together to determine what is workable for the plan. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

A request has been received from the Building Office to revise the Building Fees for permit applications to: \$25 Basic Fee: Including \$25 for the first \$1,000 of cost and \$10 for each additional \$1,000 of cost. Per Ordinance, the Board of Selectmen have the authority to revise the fees as may be necessary. If approved, the new fees become effective 15 days after a legal appears in the newspaper. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the increase in Building Fees per the request, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The Assessor went out to bid for the Revaluation. There will be periodic payments that would begin after the execution of the contract and then certain percentages based on a schedule and percentage of completed work – payments will be spread over the course of the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. The Assessor has recommended that the bid be awarded to Vision Government Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$49,300 – this was the lowest bid. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the contract with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. and that Mr. Colley be authorized to sign the contract, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Mr. Colley has consulted with our Health Director about opening Town Hall to outside groups. Mr. Crespan has okayed the opening. It was the consensus of the Board that signs be put up that "Masks are encouraged but not required" on the front and back door and that it be left up to the individual office if they want a sign on their door. It was commented that requests to Use the Building would follow the previous format – submit an application and if approved an Insurance Certificate must be provided.

An application to Use Town Hall has been submitted by Save Sharon Hospital to use the Chapin Meeting Room on October 18, 2022 starting at 10AM for the public hearing with the State OHS concerning Nuvance's application for changes at the hospital. A Certificate of Insurance has been provided. As the hearing is ZOOM, they will be using our equipment, which Jill Drew would be handling. The use of our equipment will not normally be allowed. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Community Update:

The Town Meeting to be held on October 28 will be at Sharon Center School at 6PM.

The Board needs to set a hearing date on the speed hump petition for Hilltop Road. The hearing allows for public input, not just from the residents on the road. After some discussion, the Board set the hearing for November 3, 2022 here at the Town Hall at 6PM.

The Rally to Save Sharon Hospital will be held on the Green October 16 from 2-4PM.

The around town bike event went very well. The group wanted to thank the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Grange for allowing them to use their sites as rest stops.

Mr. Jones commented that he reached out to the contractor who is doing the sidewalk project in Kent and they are not interested in looking at our project. He contacted another company from New Britain but they have not called him back. Mr. Jones will be contacting the two companies that have shown interest to get firm costs for concrete replacement of the sidewalks from the Methodist Church to the Day Care Center and then from Auto Sport to the top of Cemetery Hill Road. Hopefully these can be obtained for the next meeting.

With nothing further, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary