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*By Linda Amerighi at 8:44 am, Dec 16, 2022*

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on December 13, 2022 at 3:00PM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Pat & Bob Whelan, Mike Nadeau, John Hecht, Lynn Mattoon, Carol Flaton, Melia Hill, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

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

Items to be added to the agenda: request from SEEC (11a), application for Use of Green (11b) and the 12/6/22 minutes. 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 comments. Mr. Nadeau asked about the status of the sidewalks – this will be mentioned under Community Update.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/9/22 & 12/6/22 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Linda Amerighi, Town Clerk, joined the meeting to discuss with the Board the letter she sent them regarding Town Hall closures on Election Day. Ms. Amerighi explained that she had submitted her letter in order to ease the confusion amongst the offices in Town Hall and would a decision be made it would make it clear to Town Hall employees and the any new Board of Selectmen. She feels the BOS should put a policy in place that would cover closures for other than the State recognized closures. Primaries and referendums can be dealt with individually based on their issue. For her own office, on Election Day, she has to be open for election purposes which posts that the office is open for “election purposes” only but if other offices are open, how does she turn away individuals who come to her office for other purposes, i.e. birth certificates, recordings, etc. There was discussion back and forth on the actual wording – Town Hall closed vs Town Offices closed. Mr. Flanagan made a motion that Town Hall offices be closed on Election Day in November, seconded by Mr. Jones. In the discussion it was noted again that primaries etc. will monitored in the future. Vote taken on motion – carried unanimously.

ARPA applications: a new application has been submitted by Pamela Peeters on behalf of Institute for a Sustainable Planet - \$7,200 – a workshop to offer the community a 31-day uplifting and restorative project with positive behavioral outcome. The applicant had called today and asked if the application could be discussed at the January 2023 meeting as she is out of town. The Board felt that they had enough information to make a decision and it is not a requirement that an applicant be present. One of the things Mr. Jones offered was that he felt this application does not apply to ARPA funds. Mr. Flanagan offered that the Board has already allocated funds to existing non-profit organizations that help with mental health wellbeing. These organizations have demonstrated benefits to individuals. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to deny the request from the Institute for a Sustainable Planet, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. The other two applications concern parts of the Comcast Partnership, which was approved at Town Meeting: Cody O’Kelly on behalf of the Town - \$240,000 or remaining balance of funds towards the \$800,000 balance on the contract. There was a discussion as to if ARPA funds could be used towards this – Mr. Jones offered that part of the ARPA guidelines applies to broadband needs. No decision was made on this application. Jill Drew on behalf of the Sharon Connect Task Force - \$25,000 to be allocated for the Contract Performance Manager. After a short discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the allocation, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all

in favor. It was noted that the Frontier proposal has not been considered as there are a lot unknowns to it and the proposal came forth too late.

Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion Project – Mr. Colley stated that he has been before the Historic District Commission for EV charging stations and the generator, which they approved. Tomorrow, 2/14/22, he goes before the P & Z Commission for the same. The engineer's response to Mike Nadeau's proposal was reviewed. Mr. Jones offered that he is not in favor of Mr. Nadeau's proposal in that the property can't deliver what he would like to have done – we still need a pump station, hard pan soil doesn't take water very well, we don't know what amount of gravel would be needed, the pitch of the property is not favorable for bio-filtration, there are unknown maintenance costs for the island, concerns of perimeter freezing around the island and we would not gain any parking spaces which is what we are trying to achieve. Mr. Nadeau offered comments and offered to do an alternative plan. Mr. Flanagan offered that the adjoining property was purchased with the idea of expanding the parking lot and with the limited area, Mr. Nadeau's proposal will not work for this site. Mrs. Mattoon made some comments. Mr. Flanagan also offered that the current plan hopefully will make the area more efficient along with the idea for access in the future to the West Main Street businesses. It would have been nice to be able to incorporate the ideas into the plan but it would have reduced the amount of parking spaces. Mr. Jones made a motion that the Board approves the latest rendition of the Town Hall Parking Lot Expansion Project done by WMC, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Pat & Bob Whelan were present to present to the Board the proposal from the Sharon Housing Trust on a proposed use for the Community Hall building – convert the structure to 4 affordable apartments. The Town would maintain ownership with the Trust leasing the building. The Trust plans to do fundraising to cover the cost of the renovations and they would have on-going management of the apartments. Both Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Colley offered that they are in favor of the idea but the particulars need to be worked out – a lease drafted by the Town Attorney, approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission and ultimate approval by Town Meeting. Mr. Flanagan was concerned with the Trust being able to have more control on who rents. The Sharon Day Care is not interested in the building and the Parks & Recreation Committee has not submitted any renovation proposal. There is a community forum at the Bok Gallery January 15<sup>th</sup> on the future of affordable housing in Northwest CT. The Trust was advised to contact the Building Department and Planning and Zoning to see what they would need. It was noted that the structure is also in the Historic District. Due to the square footage of the structure, ADA requirements are not in play. It was mentioned that perhaps the BOS should hold an informational meeting devoted solely to this building and the proposal. Mr. Jones stated that he did not take part in the discussion as he recused himself as he is part of the Trust.

Robert Loucks asked to be placed on the agenda to discuss the American Legion Hall but he was not present.

The BOS held interviews with the three applicants for the Comcast Contract Performance Manager. This position is a straight hourly wage with no benefits, no mileage reimbursement and using their own computer for reporting etc. The applicants were asked to submit a proposed hourly rate – applicant #3 was the only one who did and it is in the range of what the BOS had discussed early on in this process. Each BOS member spoke highly on behalf of applicant #3. Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS offers the position to applicant #3 with an hourly rate of \$40 and submitting all the relevant information for the position (obtaining a personal liability rider on either their auto insurance or homeowners/renters policy naming the Town as a Certificate Holder), seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor and thanks to the three applicants.

The Tax Collector has submitted three MV tax refund requests: Andrew Kalogiannis \$31.26; Nicholas Kalogiannis \$51.07 and Jennifer Mannier \$54.61. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

The Sharon Energy and Environment Commission has submitted a request to amend the Ordinance to increase their membership to nine and to increase the term of service from two to three years. Mr. Flanagan asked if any of the SEEC members would be interested in serving on TRAC. Mrs. Mattoon was unsure. Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS take to Town Meeting an amendment to the Ordinance to increase the membership to nine and to increase the terms of service to from two to three years, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. This will be considered at the next Town Meeting.

An application to Use the Green for the lighting of the menorah has been submitted by Carl Chaiet – 12/18/22. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

An employee has asked if she/he could be reimbursed for the hospitalization cost that the Town pays for her/him so that she/he could take full advantage of the Medicare system. Mr. Colley spoke to the Town Auditor who emphasized that the Board should look at all angles of this scenario before any decision is made. Granting this could set a precedent as with an individual who is hired full-time, part of their employment is health insurance coverage with the Town policy. An HR person would help with this situation. The Board agreed they would need more information as this is a lot to think about before any decision is made.

#### Community Update:

Sidewalks – Mr. Jones explained that he is working with COG on the TRIP application (State program for small town improvements to infrastructure). The process does require an engineering plan whose cost the Town needs to incur – this is considered Town matching funds – this would be a comprehensive rebuild plan for the replacement of all the sidewalks with concrete. The current estimate for the complete project is \$800,000 and worse sections \$200,000. The project would need to be ADA compliant and the proposal currently would protect the trees and their roots. There is a legal question concerning the right-of-way and driveway crossings. The application is due to COG at the end of March with them submitting it to the State by mid-April. The minimum application amount is \$200,000 with no maximum. Mr. Nadeau offered that he would like to be involved with the contractor concerning the tree root system plans. Mr. Jones stated that when the town hires the engineer, he will be sure that they get in contact with Mr. Nadeau.

The Sewer & Water Commission is looking for funding to replace water and sewer lines.

The Sharon Hospital hearing with the State went for 12 hours. It was very well done and offered a lot of information.

There is a Special Town Meeting being held Dec. 20 t 6PM here at the Town Hall concerning the additional appropriation for the Board of Education's 22/23 budget and the Minimum Budget Requirement.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:43.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary