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By Linda Amerighi at 8:03 am, Dec 17, 2021

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

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on December 14, 2021 In-person and via ZOOM at the Town Hall at 3PM. Present were the three Selectmen, Jill Drew, Beth Frost, Brent & Barbara Prindle, Harding Bancroft, Marie Corsini, Carol Flaton, James Reid (3:24), reporters Hawken and Epstein, and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 3:02.

Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted, 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.

A correction needed to be made in the 11/9/21 minutes – second page, 7th line from the top, change “Putting” to “Putty”. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the 11/9/21 minutes as amended and the 12/6/21 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Jill Drew was present to give the Board an update on the ARPA Advisory Committee. They had a successful Community Meeting. The Committee wants it to be clear that their charge is not to make the actual expenditure decisions but to be sure any requests for funding fit within the guidelines and then submit recommendations to this board for the final decisions. After January 15 the Committee will be submitting recommendations for the first go round of expenditures. These funds will ultimately be audited so everyone needs to be sure the requests and expenditures fit the requirements which basically are to help the Town recover from the pandemic. Certain ideas submitted with the surveys may need some advocates to get an application completed and submitted. The BOS appreciates the work this group is doing.

With the assistance of the ARPA Committee and the trial of using a hybrid meeting video conferencing system, a quote to purchase the system was submitted by Jill Drew. The purchase of this system would come from the CRF (Coronavirus Relief Fund) monies which have to be spent by 12/31/21. The total quote is \$8,026 – this includes a locked cart to keep the equipment in and a monitor. The acoustics in the Chapin Meeting room will need to be dealt with in the future hopefully for the next budget cycle. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to use the CRF funds of up to \$8,026 for the purchase of the hybrid meeting video conferencing room system including the cart and monitor, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

Stan MacMillan has recommended that the Board discuss adding to the Town Hall parking lot plans two electric car charging stations. The best location would be near the back of the building where the electric service enters the building. Other possible locations on Town property would be at the Beach, the Community Hall building, Veterans’ Field and the school. Mr. Colley has been in contact with Eversource to see what would be required. With the Biden-Harris Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan there may be funding available. There was a discussion on whether two stations is enough. It was agreed that the plans should have conduit in the ground that would allow for two with the option to put in more in the future. The station equipment itself should have the ability for individuals to pay for the charging. The STEAP application did mention charging stations. A preliminary plan of the parking lot has been received but Mr. Colley will ask that this be included. The other Town locations were discussed briefly with no decisions made.

In 2017 a NW Care Booklet was published which had various social service type information. The booklet has not been updated. Donna DiMartino, a member of a group that is seeking to update the booklet, has submitted a request that the BOS consider making a donation to get the booklet published. When the booklet was first done, Sharon donated \$500 towards the publication. The BOS agreed that the booklet contains valuable information. Mr. Jones made a motion that the Town contributes \$500 towards the update and publishing, seconded by Mr. Flanagan. In the discussion it was noted that these funds will be paid out of the Miscellaneous Line Item 41e in the budget. Vote taken on motion = carried unanimously.

Two applications were received for Use of the Sharon Green for Events: Sharon Green Preservation Association to have Peerless Tree Care put the lights in the two Christmas Trees; and St. Bernard's Church to place the crèche on the Green. There has been a little bit of confusion with the Church and there is a different type of "nativity scene" on Green. The normally used crèche is at St. Bernard's Church and whether this will be re-located to the Green is up to the Church. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve both requests for Use of The Green for Events, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

A request has been received for the Use of Town Roads for a cycling event to be held July 31, 2022. The applicant is Ready Set Go Adventures (David Schwartz). The roads to be used were read. Mr. Schwartz knows that they have to give us a Certificate of Insurance prior to the event. Mr. Jones made a motion that the request be approved to use the roads requested upon receipt of the Certificate of Insurance, proper road preparation and that any signs put up are removed immediately following the event, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

MIRA (Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority) asks that we continue to subscribe to them until 2027 with an obligation to stay with them as they are working to find ways to reduce the costs or other alternatives to make up for the loss of the CT plant. Residents are encouraged to reduce their amount of solid waste. Towns really have no other options at this point but to stay with MIRA. Mr. Flanagan encourages residents to look at the transfer station website as it has a lot of recycling information. Mr. Flanagan asked that the Board waits til the next meeting to make any decision as this would give TRAC time to discuss this issue. The Board agreed.

There have been meetings with residents of Dawn Hill and River Road concerning emergency and parking issues with individuals using the public access trails. This area has two property owners (Eversource and the National Park Service) and the Town has a right-of-way. The groups involved need to formulate a parking plan so that the parking areas are obvious so that the individuals know where and how they can park safely. The plan should be in place before spring. In order for the Town to know exactly where our right-of-way is, Mr. Flanagan recommended that a survey be done. Boulders placed on the road are still there but it needs to be determined who "owns" the property where they sit. Mr. Jones expressed that no matter who owns the property, they were put there without permission and should not be allowed to remain. After some discussion, Mr. Flanagan made a motion that the Town hires a surveyor to determine the Town right-of-way at the intersection at the base of Dawn Hill & River Road at the entrance to the trail head by the parking area, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor. It was emphasized that if it is determined that the boulders are in the Town right-of-way a certified letter of violation be automatically be sent to the individual who placed them there and that the BOS sees the letter first. Also a copy of the letter needs to be kept. Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Jones agreed to amend their motion that the survey be done within 60 days from tomorrow (12/15/21), with all in favor. Road Foreman Reid asked – does the Town want to take responsibility on a parking plan? The Board stated

yes if it is in the Town right-of-way for the safety of our residents and that individuals know where and how to park. If the parking is on others properties, those owners need to take ownership and help with the situation.

The Tax Collector has submitted four tax refund requests for VW Credit Leasing totaling \$305.29. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Mr. Reid reported to the Board:

with the wet weather we have had, there have been a lot of wash outs
the Road Crew has been doing drainage upgrades but some more extensive and challenging work needs to be done – particularly in the Rolling Hills, Low Road and Dug Road area
there has been a lot repairs to the vehicles with the mechanics keeping up with the maintenance – in some instances though they have had trouble getting parts
newer vehicles are bigger than what the town garage was built for – a cold storage facility that has been thought about for years is really needed - a 50 x 100 structure would be sufficient – an acceptable location needs to be determined – Tom Bartram and Bob Duncan have been working on this and revised cost estimates are needed
the vehicle replacement plan is being worked on and should be in a format approvable by the Board of Finance – a new vehicle is needed to replace ones that constantly need repairing – Mr. Flanagan wants to see the plan before any decision on a purchase is made
the drainage budget will probably be over budget – pipes need replacing in the Dug Road/Valley Road area
the water crossing on Kings Hill Road will need to be looked at in the future
The Board thanked Mr. Reid for coming to the meeting.

Community Update:

The newsletter should go out around Dec. 17th

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR