A regular meeting of the Sharon BOF was held on March 26, 2020 at 7PM at the Town Hall. Present via Zoom were regular members Dignacco, Robertson, Duncan, Fowler, Bancroft and Bartram; alternates Ensign and O’Kelly; First Selectman Colley, Selectman Jones, BOE Chairman Cahill, Principal Manning, BOE Secretary Webb, residents Jill Drew, Linda Amerighi, Barbara Prindle, David & Debbie Moore, Gretchen Hachmeister, Judge Manning, Marshall Miles taping for Channel 6 and the secretary.

Chairman Dignacco called the meeting to order at 7:02 and reviewed the procedure as having a Zoom meeting is all new for everyone.

Ms. Fowler would like to have a discussion on the timeline for the budget – under 8a and Mr. Bancroft wanted to discuss the addition of new lines to the BOS budget to include the separate requests for appropriations – as part of 6a. Mrs. Robertson made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Bancroft, with all in favor = motion carried.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Ms. Fowler made a motion to accept the minutes of 12/10/19 & 2/4/20 as prepared, seconded by Mrs. Robertson, with all in favor = motion carried.

The Board reviewed the BOE proposed 2020/2021 budget first. A video and written summary had been submitted prior to this meeting. The proposal was reviewed page by page with each member asking questions. The Board thanked the BOE for the video and summary and for a fine budget proposal.

The Board next reviewed the BOS proposed 2020/2021 budget. First there was a discussion on the across the board 4% wage increase proposed except for the Road Crew who are union. The Selectmen both stressed this was a recognition of skill set of our employees and to get them a comparative wage with other towns. Mr. Colley was asked to choose a position and show how with the wage and benefit package it compares to other towns for that position. Questions were asked page by page. Areas for further discussion at next meeting: Parks & Recreation budgets, Highway supplies line item, Civil Preparedness line item and wages.

Mr. Bancroft expressed concerns on how the Board handles requests for appropriations outside of the budget. He feels these appropriations should be included in the budget to show all town expenditures. For the requests this year, he recommends adding new lines to the budget. There was discussion with no decision being made. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

The Selectmen’s financial report ending February 29, 2020 was reviewed with various questions asked. Anticipated overages are: Labor Counsel and Social Service Agent department as a result of the impact of COVID-19. The Tax Collector’s report was reviewed. The tax sales are projected to happen in June 2020. There was a discussion on should the town be concerned with collections in the future as a result of the economic times.

The Board set a Special Meeting for Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 6PM via Zoom to:

Get information on: Parks & Recreation budget; Hotchkiss Library’s requests; Sharon Historical Society’s request; discussion on how to handle the special appropriations and where they should be in
the budget including the request from the Sharon Connect Task Force; discussion & vote on proposed budgets; budget procedure time line; and discussion on George Sinnamon’s response re: Sharon Housing Authority funding and funding specifically to offsetanticipated requests from the town for assistance in light of the COVID-19 situation.

With nothing further, Mrs. Robertson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Fowler, with all in favor = motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Recording Secretary