

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
February 6, 2017**

Selectmen Present: Mary Gavin, Kevin Blakeman
Selectmen Absent: Luke Pettengill
Staff Attending: Margy Becker (taking minutes), Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Tim Higgins, Road Foreman
Visitors: Martha Cain, Bonnie Dore, Dale Potter, Hull Maynard, Kevin Gish

Call to order: Kevin Blakeman called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

1. Review & Approve Minutes:

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of February 1, 2017 with a correction to the adjournment time. 2nd by Kevin Blakeman. Motion carried.

2. Review & Approve Warrants: Check and payroll warrants were review and approved as presented.

3. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

4. Road Foreman Reports:

Tim Higgins reported the new truck has been picked up. Possible projects for Better Back Roads grants were discussed, inclusive of realignment of a section of Broad Brook Road and culvert installations elsewhere in Town. The Better Back Roads grant program may also cover the cost of preparation of the pavement Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), since drainage issues also have to be considered in the CIP budgets.

On-street parking in front of the apartment building at 21 Fay Brook Road has caused congestion and unsafe conditions. Margy Becker says she has now collected enough public comments from residents and town officials to draw attention of the building owner to the problem. The Town's traffic ordinance prohibits on-street parking during snow events, but it does not address the lower end of Fay Brook specifically as a "no parking zone". However, by law highway rights-of-ways cannot be 'obstructed'. Margy Becker will send a letter to Mr. Jacobs advising him of the lack of sufficient on-premise parking with a request that apartment residents not park along the road. Tim Higgins will order an "unloading zone" sign for a roadside posting. He remarked on the disabled Suburban, which should be towed.

5. Exit 2 Park & Ride:

Concerned residents and Selectmen further discussed shared opposition to many of the alternatives presented in the VTrans' Scoping Report for expansion of the Exit 2 Park &

Ride lot. Proposed alternatives still being considered include (1A) Upgrade the existing lot within the State's right-of-way, (1B) expanding the lot to accommodate 50 or 70 spaces, or (3) relocating the Park & Ride to the east side of the Interstate to the Half-Acre Motel site or (4) the Durkee Property, which is uphill from the motel.

Hull Maynard, abutter to the current site, restated his opposition to expansion of the existing lot. He does not want to provide land for the expansion. Martha Cain again noted moving the Park & Ride to the opposite side of the Interstate would violate the Town Plan. Properties are delineated as Rural Residential.

Margy Becker called attention to an email from the TRORC Transportation Planner, Rita Seto. She has helped clarify VTrans' proposed schedule for finalization of the Scoping Report and selection of a preferred alternative.

Mary Gavin made the motion to accept the VTrans Sharon Park and Ride Scoping Report (CMG Park (42) SC) with the following modifications: Delete Alternatives 1b, 1c, 2, and 3 from the report. Kevin Blakeman seconded. The motion carried.

Rita Seto will be invited to the February 20 Selectboard meeting. It is hoped the TRORC and Stagecoach Transportation will support the Selectboard's action, which translates as an endorsement of Alternative Option 1A – improvements to the Park & Ride within the State's existing right-of-way.

6. Two Rivers ORC – Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):

Selectboard members acknowledged receipt of the Regional Planning Commission's information concerning VTrans' Proposed FY19 highway and bridge projects. VTrans' plans for the region include improvements to Bridge 15 (Clarke Memorial Bridge). Deb Jones, as TAC representative, agreed to obtain a description of work proposed for the bridge at the TAC meeting on March 9th.

7. Approval of Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the VT Agency of Transportation's 2017 Annual Certificate of Mileage. Kevin Blakeman seconded. The motion carried.

This Certificate confirms 14.52 miles of Class 2, 33.09 of Class 3, and 6.62 miles of Class 4 town highways. The Certificate also notes 6.04 miles of mapped legal trails.

8. Approval of Annual Report of Special Weight Limits on Highways:

There was consensus with the Road Foreman that there are no special weight limits on bridge or highways which needed to be reported to the VTrans by February 10th.

9. 2017 Liquor License Renewal – Sharon Trading Post:

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the liquor license for Sharon Trading Post. Kevin Blakeman seconded. The motion carried.

10. Letter of Support: SR Senior Center Application for Community Block Grant Funds

Selectmen agreed to invite Sue Pirie to a Board meeting to further explain the Senior Center's plans for expansion and its application for community block grant funds. Margy Becker will correct deficiencies in the draft letter of support, which will be available for Selectboard acceptance on February 20th.

11. Candidate's Night & Town Meeting Preparations:

Selectmen discussed a possible format for the upcoming Candidate's Night scheduled for February 27. Margy Becker informed Board members there are volunteers willing to help out with food and publicity for the event.

12. PSB Review: Rte. 132 Solar Facility - Norwich Technologies:

Selectmen asked Margy Becker to contact the Town's Attorney to verify and obtain copies of the October 2016 amended application filings by applicant (Norwich Technologies) and comments later filed by the Public Service Department. The Town never received copies of these filings, and the Selectboard and Planning Commission have been under the impression that NT was possibly no longer interested in furthering its proposal for a 500Kw solar facility at 2238 VT Rte. 132.

13. OSH Boiler Replacements – ball valve replacement: No follow-up needed.**14. Executive Session:**

Deb Jones requested a brief executive session to discuss a personnel matter. **Motion by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Blakeman, to enter executive session at 7:47PM with the Finance Manager to discuss a personnel matter. The motion carried unanimously.** The Board exited executive session at 8:03pm. No formal action was taken.

15. Adjournment:

Motion by Mary Gavin to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm. Kevin Blakeman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Submitted by Margy Becker