

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
February 21, 2017**

Selectmen Present: Mary Gavin, Kevin Blakeman, Luke Pettengill
Staff Attending: Margy Becker (taking minutes), Deb Jones, Finance Manager;
Visitors: Bonnie Dore, Kevin Gish, Paula Duprat, Jill Wilcox

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 6, 2017 as submitted. 2nd by Luke Pettengill. Motion carried 2-0-1 (Pettengill abstaining).

2. Review & Approve Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were review and approved as presented.

3. Public Comments:

Bonnie Dore inquired as to the status of the VTrans' Scoping Report, which identifies alternatives to consider for expansion of the Exit 2 Park & Ride. The Selectboard reaffirmed its prior decision to rule out all options except for improvements to be made in the State's right-of-way to Rte. 132. Mary Gavin explained the Selectboard did not intend to take any further action on the Scoping Report and it was awaiting the outcome of the March 9th meeting of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee ("TAC"). Deb Jones will represent the Town at the TAC meeting, at which TRORC Planner Rita Seto will present the Town's position. The TAC and Stagecoach Transportation appear to have a stake in selection of a preferred alternative for expansion of the Park & Ride. Selectmen acknowledged some uncertainty as to whether their preferred alternative would align with the Selectboard's preferred alternative.

4. Highway Grants:

The Selectboard was informed of upcoming grant application deadlines for Better Back Roads grants (March 17) and annual paving and culvert grants. The Selectboard agreed to schedule a special meeting for 6:30pm March 8th to review and approve submittals for the Class 2 paving grant for Howe Hill and the Better Back Roads grant application pertaining to erosion control measures for a segment of Broad Brook Road. The Board will also sign-off on its annual highway reports to the VTrans during that meeting.

5. Parking Issues at 21 Fay Brook Road:

Selectmen agreed that a review of the sign recommendations in the 2016 VTrans High Risk Rural Corridors Assessment is necessary, before proceeding with installation of more traffic control signs in the vicinity of 21 Fay Brook Road. The Selectboard also agreed Town staff should proceed to schedule a field visit with Marcos Miller, VTrans' Traffic & Safety "circuit rider", to discuss proper placement of signage in the vicinity of the intersection of Fay Brook Road and Rte. 14. Margy Becker will contact Mr. Miller to arrange the site visit. She also encouraged the Selectboard to amend the Town's Traffic Ordinance to include 'No Parking Zones', in order for "no parking zones" to be enforced. The Selectboard agreed to proceed with the ordinance amendment process.

6. South Royalton Senior Center:

Discussions with Director Sue Pirie were postponed at her request until a future date. Sue Pirie will notify the Selectboard when the Senior Center is ready to resume preparation of its Community Development Block Grant application for purchase of a new building.

7. Candidate's Night – Preparations:

Galen Mudgett, Paula DuPrat, and Jill Wilcox met with Selectmen to plan the agenda for "Candidate's Night", which is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday February 27th at Sharon Elementary School. All Selectboard candidates have agreed to attend, in addition to the Delinquent Tax Collector and Town Moderator. Refreshments are to be served.

8. Status of PSB Review of Proposed 500kW Solar Project (Rte. 132):

Ira Clark and Kevin Gish met with Selectmen to briefly discuss preparations for the March 14th pre-hearing conference. Margy Becker will proceed to schedule a conference call with the Town's Attorney prior to March 14th. The Town and Planning Commission have joint party status in the proceedings.

Lister Galen Mudgett inquired how the Day Historic District came into being, noting there are only 3 historic buildings there. Mary Gavin explained the District was formed in the 1970's and has been documented by the Division of Historic Preservation. The Division has played an active role in clarification of the Day Historic District boundaries during PSB review of Norwich Technologies' application for a 500kW solar installation on Rte. 132.

9. Grant Opportunities – Facilities Grants for ADA Accessibility:

It was agreed that Margy Becker will attend a pre-application workshop, and that the Selectboard desires to proceed with investigating the feasibility of ADA improvements to the Old School House Building. School district consolidation discussions and actions by the Legislature could influence the Town's decision to proceed with any improvements.

Mary Gavin also noted the need to appoint a lease negotiation 'team' to renegotiate a lease with the Sharon Academy for continued occupancy of the Old School House building.

10. Town Meeting Preparations:

Selectmen made plans for presentations at Town Meeting at 9AM Tuesday, March 7th.

11. South Royalton Rescue:

Mary Gavin reported South Royalton Rescue is hoping to enter into a 3-year contract with Sharon and Tunbridge. The contract year will be the fiscal year July 1 to June 30th. It was agreed this topic will be placed on the March 20th agenda, or after a proposed contract has been received.

12. RFP for IT Services and Website Development:

The process of drafting an RFP for said services has begun and is under consideration by the Selectboard. The Selectboard agreed to keep this as an 'active' item for future agendas.

Submitted by Margy Becker