

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
April 17, 2017**

Selectmen Present: Mary Gavin, Luke Pettengill, Kevin Gish

Staff Attending: Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant; Deb Jones, Finance Mgr.

Visitors: David Karon, Andrew Lane (TSA); Hartford Fire Chief Scott Cooney; Assistant Chief Alan Beebe.

Call to order: Mary Gavin called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Luke Pettengill to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017. 2nd by Kevin Gish. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Warrants:

A payroll and several check warrants were approved.

3. Conti Solar – Elizabeth Mine Project Construction Schedule

Representatives from Conti Solar and Greenwood Energy provided information on the schedule for the Elizabeth Mine solar installation in Strafford. Truck deliveries of construction materials will begin as soon as April 19th. Construction will continue through the summer. Truck overweight permits will be applied for as-needed.

4. ECFiber Board – Appointment of 2nd Alternate

Luke Pettengill made the motion, which was seconded by Kevin Gish, to approve a resolution for appointment of David Karon as 2nd Alternate to the Board of the East Central VT Telecommunications District (ECFiber). The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Hartford Emergency Services:

Fire Chief Scott Cooney and Assistant Chief Alan Beebe met with the Selectboard for preliminary discussions of possible modifications to an existing inter-local contract for emergency services. Mary Gavin explained the Town is being asked by South Royalton Rescue to enter into a contract for emergency services. SRR has provided ambulance services to the Town of Sharon for many years without a contract. The Selectboard is looking at other area providers of Emergency Services, prior to taking action on the SRR request.

At present the Town of Hartford charges \$35/capita to provide ambulance services to 2 zones within Sharon as follows; 1) along I89 from the town line to Exit 2 and 2) to Sharon residents living on

Kenyon Hill Road accessed via West Hartford and Pomfret. Chief Cooney expressed willingness to consider providing an expansion of Hartford EMS' service area within the Town. The Town of Hartford runs a fully-staffed ambulance service, inclusive of advanced EMT and advanced life support (ALS) training. The Town of Hartford has been providing emergency services to Hartland for many years. Windsor provides coverage for ½ of Hartland.

Chief Cooney explained that 85% of the time Hartford is able to turn out 2 ambulance crews. Approximately 37% of the time Hartford is doing back-to-back calls – meaning that both ambulances are out. Hartford relies on South Royalton Rescue as backup when responding to Sharon.

Selectboard members expressed interest in continued discussions with Hartford. Chief Cooney noted the inter-local agreement could be amended during the budget year as needed. Selectmen explained their intention, in the meantime, is to solicit input from the townspeople and Sharon Firemen's Association about any proposed shift in provision of emergency services. Selectmen thanked Chief Cooney and Assistant Chief Beebe for joining them.

Mary Gavin later noted that South Royalton Rescue (SRR) has to charge the Town of Sharon rates based on actual operating costs, whereas the Town of Hartford would not. South Royalton Rescue also bills patients' insurance and allows payment plans. SRR has 2 paramedics and it also has ALS-trained personnel. When necessary SRR will ask Hartford EMS to meet them, if a particular drug has to be administered. Kevin Gish noted SRR has been responding to TSA high school in 15 to 25 minutes. Margy Becker noted the 15+ minute recent response time to a recent emergency at Sharon Elementary. Selectmen agreed to invite SRR representatives to meet with the Board in the near future.

6. Community Policing:

Selectmen acknowledged the news of the Royalton Police Chief's recent resignation. Board members expressed concern with the reduction in the number of officers available to patrol in Sharon. The plan is to resume discussions with other area law enforcement agencies to review costs and services. The Vermont State Police and Windsor County Sheriff will be invited to upcoming meetings.

7. DAYCO Request for ACT 250 permit Amendment:

Luke Pettengill recused himself from discussions. Kevin Gish and Mary Gavin discussed the fact there are mixed uses in Commerce Park. The Boardman/McQueen property is residential and includes an apartment. Town Plan language emphasizes the commercial aspects of Commerce Park. Mary Gavin and Kevin Gish agreed DAYCO's proposal to modify its building for 'affordable' employee housing would not impact the Town's ability to provide municipal services. **Kevin Gish made the motion, which Mary Gavin seconded, to approve the Act 250 Municipal Impact Questionnaire. The motion passed 2-0-1 – Luke Pettengill abstaining.**

8. TSA Request to Reconstruct Backboard:

Andrew Lane joined the meeting. Selectmen informed him the backboard at the edge of the OSH parking lot could be reconstructed in its current location with its original dimensions. A proposed backboard the size of a soccer goal was rejected. Luke Pettengill noted the existence of the leach field along the edge of the parking area.

9. Highway matters:

Highway matters will be discussed at the May 1st meeting. It was agreed the Town would solicit crack sealing proposals to complete Rte. 132. Margy Becker will prepare the RFP.

10. Selectmen's Assistant Report:

Margy Becker provided the Selectmen a brief update on the status of general administrative business. She will contact volunteers interested in serving as Health Officer and Flood Hazard Bylaw Administrator.

11. Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones presented year-to-date financial reports, and Selectmen expressed satisfaction with the budget picture.

Deb Jones presented her research on liabilities posed to the Town or its subcontractors due to the fact Jeff Bogie is not carrying insurance. Mr. Bogie is the Town's current supplier of winter sand. Mary Gavin expressed preference for continuing to purchase sand from Bogie for one more year. His pricing is competitive at \$5.00/ton. Luke Pettengill expressed discomfort with Bogie's lack of insurance and the fact that his bid is not on a level playing field. The Town's subcontractor does – on occasion – have to load his vehicle using Bogie's equipment. There is a liability to the subcontractor and the Town in those instances.

The next lowest bidder is Twin State at \$7.40/ton. **Luke Pettengill made the motion to award the winter sand bid to Twin State at \$7.40/ton for 5,000 tons. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried 3-0-0.**

VLCT PACIF Equipment Grant: Deb Jones explained there are no urgent or "Level A" 'actionable' items on the VLCT inspection report. The hope is to submit a grant to obtain 50% funding to 1) upgrade the fire alarm system, 2) and/or weight rating and access to the mezzanine. Another actionable item of moderate concern is the lack of an 'auto shut off valve' for fuel deliveries. Luke Pettengill noted Royal Auto carries these parts. Selectmen agreed to instruct the road crew to install the shut-off valve. Deb Jones noted the deficiencies found in garage interior lighting. Efficiency VT would provide support to the Town for addressing that issue.

Selectmen further noted the need for a wall-mounted storage rack for grader teeth, as they are a trip hazard as currently stored. The wall-mounted rack would help prevent back injuries. It was agreed the eye wash station should be upgraded with a paddle system.

Luke Pettengill made the motion to designate Mary Gavin as signatory for the submittal of the VLCT PACIF Equipment grant for an amount not exceed \$10,000 (local share \leq \$5,000).

12. **Unfinished business:**

Margy Becker said she was finally able to identify the person with Genesee Wyoming Railroad who would review the ECFiber request to bring fiber (high speed internet) into Commerce Park. The Town's letter requesting that Genesee Wyoming waive fees associated with ECFiber's utilities' permit has been sent via email. She has forwarded all contact information and correspondence with the railroad to ECFiber. ECFiber now needs to submit its permit application to Genesee Wyoming.

Mark Schindler will be signing the highway easement deed in the near future. Selectmen asked that Ryan Kane, Esq. be contacted for an update concerning Norwich Technologies'. Margy Becker will follow-up with ARC Mechanical concerning ball valve installations on the boiler at the Old School House.

13. **Executive Session: Personnel Matter**

Mary Gavin made the motion to enter executive session at 8:35pm with the Finance Manager to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded and carried. Selectmen exited from executive session at 9:10pm. No formal decision was made.

14. **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Luke Pettengill at 9:10pm. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by Margy Becker