

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Special Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018 (Draft)

Selectboard Members present: Mary Gavin (Chair), Kevin Gish

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker

Visitors: Ira Clark, Planning Commissioner

Call to Order: Mary Gavin convened the regular meeting at 6:30pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Kevin Gish, seconded by Mary Gavin, to approve the minutes of January 15, 2018 as submitted. The motion carried.

Executive Session – Personnel:

A motion was made by Kevin Gish to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter with Deb Jones at 6:35pm. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Deb Jones exited from the executive session at 6:42pm. The Selectboard exited from executive session at 6:53pm, and no subsequent action was taken.

FY19 Budget Approval:

Selectmen reviewed final budget figures with Deb Jones. **Kevin Gish made the motion to approve Article 5 of the March Town Meeting warning to read as follows:**

Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon appropriate the amount of **\$1,483,497** for necessary Town expenses, including highways, of which **\$1,107,828** shall be raised by property taxes, and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? **The motion carried 2-0-0** and the budget article was approved.

Public Hearing – Proposed Discontinuance TH26 Ogden Lane

Interested parties present: Abutters Tom Ward, Alex Bird, Marcy Marceau, Ira Clark (Planning Commission), Selectboard.

Selectboard Chair Mary Gavin convened the public hearing at 7:00PM as warned. She explained the basis of the Selectboard's motion to discontinue. Over the past two to three years it has been difficult to get Tom Ward's attention regarding removal of personal items obstructing the right-of-way. The Selectboard has had to send letters for the past two to three years specifically requesting clearance of the right-of-way to enable highway trucks to turnaround. She explained the Selectboard wants to hear public comments. The Board has also scheduled an inspection of the road for the week of February 5th.

Tom Ward stated the junk has been moved out of the right-of-way, and that it had been moved by Thanksgiving. He commented on the Town's poor plowing methods. He is against discontinuance. The guard rails at the bottom of Ogden Lane have narrowed the curb cut onto Ogden Lane. If the road is plowed correctly, 2 tractor trailers could pass on the road.

Mary Gavin commented the Town's 10-wheeler needs a turnaround.

Tom Ward stated the Town is setting a precedent with discontinuing a class 3 road.

Alex Bird stated yes, the guard rail at Ogden Lane is a problem for the town trucks. The curb cut onto Steele Road is wider. He has seen town trucks back up Ogden Lane. He has seen town trucks back out of Ogden Lane onto Rte. 132. Alex Bird commented the turnaround on Steele Road is minimal when compared to Ogden Lane, however.

Marcy Marceau spoke of the 10 acres she owns between Rte. 132 and Quation Brook. They may want to donate this acreage to a land trust. There is a lot of wildlife on the land. She spoke against discontinuance and in favor of maintaining Class 3 status in order to assure access to the property. She noted the Fire Dept. tankers need access to the brook. She spoke of the heritage of the Ward family owning land on Ogden Lane.

Marcy Marceau stated the road crew needs to be flexible and adapt to changing conditions on Ogden Lane. She noted it was the Selectboard that had initiated discontinuance proceedings, and she expressed the hope that maintenance of the road would not be contentious. She said Tom Ward helps keep the road clear.

Alex Bird commented the crew has difficulty plowing other roads in town.

Tom Ward said he takes trees down to keep the width of the road.

Mary Gavin announced the Selectboard site visit to the road will take place Tuesday, February 6 at 4:00PM. It will be re-scheduled if the weather is bad. She announced the public hearing will be continued to February 20th.

Ira Clark declined to provide formal comments from the Planning Commission regarding discontinuance.

Selectboard Vacancy:

Mary Gavin noted Joe Ronan has submitted a letter of interest in being appointed to the vacant position through March 6th. This was the only letter received. Mr. Ronan currently serves on the Planning Commission.

Kevin Gish made the motion, which Mary Gavin seconded, to appoint Joe Ronan to fill the Selectboard vacancy through March 6th Town Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Meeting Warning

Selectmen agreed to add a petitioned article to the warning. The order of articles was reviewed and agreed upon. Margy Becker will finalize the warning and that Board members will sign it this week.

Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones reported on interest rate quotes she has obtained for a \$120,000 loan to purchase the 2018 10-wheeled dump truck (Freightliner). Community National Bank quoted 2.8%; Community Bank N.A. quoted 3.4%. Mascoma Bank quoted 2.65% with the Town paying legal fees (estimated at approximately \$125.00). Deb Jones stated she has opted for semi-monthly payments. Selectmen agreed to pursue the loan with Mascoma Bank.

Truck 3 is in need of repair and has been towed to Patriot. This old dump truck functions as the Town's chloride application truck. It was agreed that Mary Gavin will consult with the Road Foreman as to whether the truck should be repaired.

Sectboard Report:

Mary Gavin stated she has received final suggested revisions from Kevin Gish. She will produce the final copy.

Approval of Warrants:

Warrants were reviewed and approved. However, Selectmen declined to approve the warrant for a revised Holden Engineering invoice (\$8,213.79) due to concerns regarding billing of hours and mileage expense.

Adjournment:

Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 8:35PM. The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and passed 2-0-0.

Submitted by, Margy Becker