

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, October 29, 2018  
Minutes (Draft)**

**Attending:**

Board members present: Kevin Gish, Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin

Staff present: Frank Rogers, Road Foreman; Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant

Visitors present: Melissa Shekinah, resident

Kevin Gish convened the meeting at 6:33PM.

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the regular meeting on October 15 were reviewed and corrections made. **Mary Gavin made the motion, which was seconded by Joe Ronan, to approve the minutes of October 15, 2018 as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Gish and Mary Gavin reported they had met in an **emergency meeting** Wednesday evening, October 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss emergency repairs to the Baxter Library water system. Formal action was taken to authorize hiring a plumber to perform repairs not to exceed \$1,000. Minutes of this meeting have been prepared by Kevin Gish and will be reviewed and approved at the next regular Selectmen's meeting.

**2. Baxter Library Well Repairs:**

Selectmen met with Melissa Shekinah to discuss repairs to the Baxter Library well and how to pay for them. The well pump is continually running as it tries to maintain pressure. It was agreed the Town will proceed to hire Ottauquechee Well Drilling to pull the well pump and either repair or replace it. A review of applicable deeds ascertained Melissa Shekinah has one-half interest in said well. The Library retains one-half interest. She is also responsible for paying for certain repairs to the distribution system to her house, though the deed language only vaguely defines what constitutes the distribution system. It was agreed that the Town will finance 100% of the cost of the new pressure tank (in basement of library) in lieu of reimbursing Ms. Shekinah for 4 -5 months of excessively high electric bills totaling a similar amount. The Town and Ms. Shekinah will each pay 50% of the costs of well pump repairs or replacement, which have been estimated to not exceed \$2500 at this time.

In related discussions Ms. Shekinah spoke of exploring the option of drilling a new well on her own property. The shared water system has an unusual configuration. The 7 Stars Arts Center occupies the parcel between Ms. Shekinah and the Library, yet it has its own well. Margy Becker pointed out that since the Town has assumed ownership of the Library, the well is now supplying a public building (in addition to the house and apartment building).

The Town may have to conduct routine water sampling to comply with state drinking water standards. She will further research what conditions may trigger this requirement.

**3. 2019 Health Insurance:**

Deb Jones presented additional information on health insurance plan options for 2019 obtained during a meeting a representative from The Richards Group. The VT Association of Chamber Executives (“VACE”) offers group plans. This year the plan offerings are more competitively priced than the BCBS plan offerings under consideration. The Town would have to join VACE for a modest fee, in order to participate in its 3 plan offerings. Selectmen noted the Town would need to make a change in the way it provides dental and eye coverage to its employees. Medicare would also become ‘primary’ coverage and employees or family members who are eligible to enroll during 2019 would receive a ‘Letter of Credible Coverage’ for Parts B and C.

**Motion by Mary Gavin that the Town will offer employees 2019 health insurance coverage through VACE in cooperation with Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT and it will offer Medicare coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield of VT. The Town will cap its contribution towards the cost of premiums at \$400 per employee per month, and it will cap its HRA contribution at \$3200 per employee per year. These terms and conditions are in accordance with the ‘The Health Insurance Specifications Worksheet dated 10/29/18’. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.**

Deb Jones will proceed to schedule a meeting with employees and The Richards Group regarding the VACE enrollment process.

**4. Other business:**

Joe Ronan inquired whether an upcoming appearance of a political candidate at Sharon Fire Station violated any Town policies regarding political campaigning and elections. Selectmen noted that political candidates routinely rely upon appearances in other types of public buildings, and that the scheduled appearance of a candidate for lieutenant governor does not violate Town policies. The Sharon Fire Department should not, however, spend any of its time or funds on advertising the event.

Selectmen discussed the need to follow-up with Mona Foster regarding progress on hiring an attorney to conduct the upcoming tax sale.

5. **Approve Warrants:** Check and payroll warrants were approved.

6. **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Mary Gavin to adjourn at 8:08PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Kevin Gish  
Joe Ronan  
Mary Gavin