

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, October 17, 2016**

Board Members Present: Kevin Blakeman, Mary Gavin, Luke Pettengill

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Selectmen's Assistant, Margy Becker;

Visitors: Martha Cain, Barb Donahue, Dale Potter, Bonnie Dore, Hull Maynard, Sheryl Miller, Carol Langstaff, Ian McKenzie, Pathways Engineering.

The Chair convened the meeting at 6:30pm

1. **Minutes:**

Mary Gavin suggested correcting page 3 of the October 3rd minutes. **Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of October 3, 2016 as modified. 2nd by Luke Pettengill; Motion carried.**

2. **Warrants:**

Check and payroll warrants were signed.

3. **Announcements:** there were none.

4. **Public Comments:**

Dale Potter, Martha Cain, Barb Donahue, and Bonnie Dore met with the Selectboard to discuss impressions of the most recent public concerns meeting held by the VTRANS concerning proposed alternatives to expand the **Exit 2 Park & Ride**. Residents asked the Selectboard to take note that the lower portion of Rte. 132 is functionally the 'east end of the village', as noted in the Town Plan. The Selectboard was encouraged to support expansion of the existing site versus the alternative of moving the site to the east side of the Interstate by the Half-Acre Motel. Hull Maynard noted the Consultant for VTRANS had only observed the Park & Ride for 2 days. It is approximately 50% full these days. He desires to see more data on utilization of the facility. The possibility of Stagecoach Transportation' expansion of routes to include Rte. 14 was discussed, and the concept of this new route was unanimously supported by all in attendance. The Selectboard agreed to write a letter to Stagecoach in support of this new route. It was suggested that Wayne Davis of the VTRANS be invited to a Selectboard meeting.

Fritz Weiss expressed support for the conservation of the Rikert Parcel. Selectmen noted that the VT River Conservancy will provide its draft proposed "Management Plan" for the parcel, and that discussions on the topic will be scheduled for November 7th.

5. **Highway Business:**

Ian MacKenzie, PE provided a status report concerning final change orders and invoicing. Selectboard agreed no 2% retainage is to be withheld from the final payment to Griffin & Griffin and that the Contractor should certify that all work has been completed. **Motion by Luke Pettengill to accept Pathways Consulting change order in the amount of \$478.50. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.**

Mary Gavin noted State officials had made the public statement that VTRANS plows the Park & Ride. She asked for confirmation from VTRANS District 4 staff that this will be the case for the upcoming winter. (The Town has traditionally plowed the facility). Margy Becker will follow-up with VTRANS, with a call to Tammy Ellis.

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the bid of \$18,760 from Countryside Property Maintenance for 2 years' winter maintenance of sidewalks, building entries, and handicapped ramps. Luke Pettengill seconded. The motion carried.

6. **Sharon Community Nurse:**

Sheryl Miller introduced herself as the new Community Nurse. She is familiarizing herself with the need in the community, particularly among the elderly who are living at home, for assistance. She will be holding office hours at the Lighthouse (across from the Congregational Church) on Saturdays from 1 – 3PM.

Carol Langstaff agreed to forward an invoice to the Town for \$3,000 as approved by the voters at Town Meeting for the Community Health Initiative.

Carol Langstaff raised concerns that the Sharon Health Center no longer functions as a primary care community health center, which had been the original vision. Board members suggest she should contact Gifford Medical Center to further discuss the lack of primary care. The market seems to support a sports medicine clinic via the prior focus. Selectboard members agreed the Board would submit a letter to Gifford Medical Center which notes residents of the Town of Sharon are really feeling the lack of primary care.

7. **Release of Performance Bond: Cell Tower Decommissioning**

Margy Becker reported that SBA Towers has dismantled the cell tower and other buildings on the former Eaton Property at 474 Rte. 132. **Motion by Luke Pettengill to approve, contingent upon final inspection, release of the \$8,000 performance bond as requested. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.** Kevin Blakeman agreed to inspect the property and then sign the Release as requested.

8. **Health Insurance Options:**

Deb Jones presented detailed calculations of the potential costs to employer versus employees for various BCBS plans to be offered January 2017. The detailed spreadsheets also illustrated impacts of various options upon the town budget. Selectmen directed Deb Jones to provide additional analyses for the November 7th meeting, at which a final decision will be made. The Selectboard is focusing on the level of funding for health insurance benefits. Employees will then select the policy that best suits their needs, based on the known employer contribution.

9. **Finance Manager Reports:**

Deb Jones provided a report on current budget year expenditures. She announced the field work for the independent audit of FY16 is complete and a draft report will be forthcoming shortly.

10. **Emergency Health Order:**

Selectmen agreed to send a letter to Doris Howe indicating the emergency health order has been lifted. Margy Becker will prepare the letter for Kevin Blakeman's signature.

11. **Royalton Policing Contract:**

Selectmen expressed some confusion regarding the most recent invoices from the Royalton PD. Chief Beraldi will be asked to attend an upcoming meeting.

12. **Boiler Repairs:**

Margy Becker reported it appeared repairs could begin October 24th.

13. **Personnel Matters:**

Mary Gavin noted that she has been delayed in completing the written summaries of employee performance reviews. Selectmen agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday, October 24, 2016 for the purpose of reviewing the draft letters prior to distribution to employees. The meeting will begin at 5:30pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Mary Gavin to adjourn at 8:58pm. Luke Pettengill seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant