

**SHARON SELECTBOARD**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2017**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Selectmen Present:** Mary Gavin, Luke Pettengill  
**Selectmen Calling In:** Kevin Blakeman  
**Staff Attending:** Margy Becker (taking minutes), Deb Jones, Finance Manager;  
**Visitors:** Warren Johnston

**Call to order:** Mary Gavin called the meeting to order at 6:37PM.

**1. Review & Approve Minutes:**

**Motion by Luke Pettengill, seconded by Kevin Blakeman, to approve the minutes of January 16, 2017 with a change of clarification to item 8 (action to accept a change to the grand list). Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Review & Approve Warrants:** Warrants were reviewed and approved.

**3. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**4. Approval of Final Town Meeting Warning:**

Selectmen reviewed the 11 articles on the draft warning. The 1<sup>st</sup> article – election of Town Officers - is addressed by Australian Ballot voting. Articles 2 through 11 will be addressed by voters at the floor meeting.

Voters will be asked to approve combined general and highway operating budgets of \$1,531,237, of which \$1,081,828 is to be raised in property taxes. After discussions and actions on budgets, voters will also be asked to vote on two non-monetary articles.

**Article 8 reads** “Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon authorize and direct the Selectboard to acquire and accept title to a certain undeveloped 10.1+/- acre parcel of land, along the White River and River Road, to be conveyed by deed from the Vermont River Conservancy, Inc. without payment by the Town?”

Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant, drew attention to the Town’s attorney’s opinion regarding the petitioned language. The Selectboard has sole authority to *accept* property. Voters have authority to decide whether town property should be *sold*. The vote on this article will be advisory only.

Selectmen noted that the upcoming meeting agenda includes scheduled discussions and action on this matter. Board members unanimously agreed to postpone Selectboard action on the matter until after Town Meeting.

**Article 9 reads** “Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon oppose the New Vistas development?”

Kevin Blakeman questioned whether a petitioned article regarding the New Vistas’ development should be placed on the warning. Selectmen also briefly discussed who should speak to the article on the floor. Discussions will most likely require authorization by Sharon voters to recognize and allow non-residents to ‘have the floor’. The article remains on the warning.

**Motion by Luke Pettengill to approve the 11-article Annual Town Meeting Warning for March 7, 2017. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Selectboard February Meeting Schedule:**

Selectmen agreed to adjust its February meeting schedule to accommodate President’s Day. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is Monday, February, 6<sup>th</sup> followed by its second meeting on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM.

**6. Fuel Bids:**

Selectmen and Deb Jones considered indemnification language in the Suburban Propane proposed contract. Selectmen agreed to proceed with Suburban’s bid as previously accepted. The Town will purchase all diesel and propane from Suburban for this year and subsequent to a tank inspection.

**7. Other business:**

Discussions on other business were postponed until February 6, 2017.

**8. Adjournment:**

**Luke Pettengill made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:54pm.**

Submitted by,  
Margy Becker