

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
June 19, 2017
MINUTES**

Selectboard Members Attending: Mary Gavin, Luke Pettengill, Kevin Gish

Staff attending: Road Foreman Tim Higgins, Selectboard Assistant Margy Becker.

Visitors: Sue Sellew, Ira Clark, Planning Commission; Becky Owens, Jeanette Digby, Sheriff Michael Chamberlain, Captain Claude Wygant; Joel Stettenheim, Norwich Technologies; Bruce Weatherell, Dave Kimball (Tunbridge), Galen Mudgett, Jr. (Lister).

Mary Gavin convened the meeting at 6:30PM.

1. Approval of Minutes: June 5 and June 12, 2017

Luke Pettengill made the motion to approve the minutes of June 5 and June 12 as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Review & Approval of Warrants:

One check warrant #452 was reviewed and approved in the amount of \$2,796.98.

3. Public Comments:

Bruce Weatherell expressed concern and frustration regarding conditions on Fay Brook Road he deemed to be hazardous. Conditions have been very slippery and muddy. He produced a sample of surface materials and asked that the Town have the sample analyzed to determine if the material meets State specifications. Mr. Weatherell also commented on deficiencies in grading practices and signage, and he stated he thought the Town could be applying chloride that is too concentrated. He is noticing rust on vehicles not seen before. He asked that the Town also have its chloride concentrations tested. Selectmen explained the crew is very short-handed. Brief discussions were held with Road Foreman Tim Higgins regarding the type and source of materials being placed on the roads. The Foreman was also directed to obtain a sample of gravel from Fay Brook Road and to report back on the test results.

4. Truck Bids: 6 vs. 10 wheeler options:

Action was postponed until the next regular Selectboard meeting on July 10th. Tim Higgins inquired as to why J&B bids were so low across the board, wondering if the bid amount was net the trade allowance. Luke Pettengill noted his interest in the 6-wheel Freightliner now available through Patriot.

5. Municipal Grants-in-Aid: Storm water Best Management Practices:

Margy Becker provided a brief overview of the intent of a new grant program designed to help offset the expense of implementing storm water 'best management practices' as part of regular highway

maintenance on 'hydrologically-connected road segments'. The State of Vermont is expecting towns to meet new maintenance standards as part of the Act 64 Clean Water Act legislation.

Motion by Luke Pettengill to approve the application for grants-in-aid pilot funding for best management practices. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

The Town of Sharon's minimum potential grant award will be \$10,800. The Town would have to provide 20% share of project costs. The project or projects to be funded will be identified prior to or during the Town's upcoming road erosion inventory.

6. **Road Foreman Reports:**

Tim Higgins reported a seasonal road crew had commenced work, and that additional temporary help was starting work Tuesday. The initial objective is to catch up on roadside mowing. Luke Pettengill discussed the importance of daily vehicle reports bidding for hard pack that meets State specifications.

7. **TRORC 2018 Better Roads Planning Services Agreement:**

Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission ("TRORC") staff and Sharon road crew will complete a road erosion inventory during the spring or summer of 2018. **Motion by Luke Pettengill to accept the proposed 2018 TRORC Planning Services Agreement as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Windsor County Sheriff FY18 Contract:**

Selectmen reviewed the proposed contract, inclusive of the bill rate of \$54/hour flat rate, inclusive of mileage charges, for 16 hours of patrols per week. The Sheriff will schedule 4-hour shifts. Coverage of the back roads was discussed, in addition to traffic control duty for The Sprouty running race on September 9th, 2017. Sheriff Chamberlain reminded Selectmen that when the Sheriff's Department is not patrolling, residents should contact the State Police for emergencies.

9. **Appointments: Health Officer:**

Margy Becker reported Jim Beraldi has confirmed his continued interest and willingness to serve the Town as Health Officer. Selectmen expressed their gratitude.

A motion was made by Luke Pettengill, seconded by Kevin Gish, to appoint Jim Beraldi as Town Health Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that Geo Honigford, who has expressed interest in the vacant Flood Hazard Bylaw Administrator position, was unable to attend the meeting as scheduled. Margy Becker will invite Mr. Honigford to the July 10 Selectboard meeting.

10. **3-year Contract with South Royalton Rescue:**

The proposed contract was reviewed, and some proposed changes were agreed to. Selectmen agreed to postpone approval of the contract until certain language changes were made. The contract will be

acted on July 10th. Mary Gavin will speak for the Selectboard at the next SRR Advisory Board meeting.

11. **Hartford EMS FY18 Inter-Local Agreement:**

Motion by Luke Pettengill, seconded by Kevin Gish, to approve the FY18 Hartford EMS Inter-Local Agreement for ambulance services to Kenyon Hill Road (via Pomfret) and I89. The motion carried unanimously.

Hartford is assessing the Town a \$35/capita charge x 10 residents (= \$350/year) for ambulance services to Kenyon Hill Road. It will invoice \$175 per incident for I89 ambulance response.

12. **Renewal of Sharon Academy Lease – Old School House:**

Mary Gavin reviewed proposed renewal terms she has discussed with Andrew Lane. The term of renewal would be 5 years, in keeping with the term of the current lease. Rent is proposed to be \$2,150 per month. This is a 4.8% increase over the current rental rate. A rental escalation clause tied to a Bureau of Labor index, such as the CPI, will be added to the lease. Snow removal will become the responsibility of the Town. ADA improvements were discussed but no scope or timetable agreed to. These improvements would depend on the availability of grant funds. Selectmen Kevin Gish and Luke Pettengill expressed satisfaction with proposed terms. Margy Becker will send Mary Gavin the draft lease in time for review and approval on July 10th.

Some discussion occurred on the merits of having TSA buy the OSH, if it were interested. But no formal actions were taken to move those discussions forward.

Motion by Kevin Gish, seconded by Luke Pettengill, to extend the current OSH Lease for one month, at current terms, until July 31, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

13. **Selectboard Assistant Report:**

Selectmen reviewed several items of administrative business with Margy Becker. Water testing at the Town Garage is underway. The July meeting schedule was agreed to (July 10 and July 17 meetings). Everett Hammond will be informed he should present the Paving CIP report and recommendations at the July 10 meeting. Last week's ransomware attack and proposed DNS content filter and added anti-spam and anti-virus protections were reviewed and agreed to. Margy Becker will inquire whether the \$298/year rate quote for this protection was meant to be the total charge or a charge per computer or "per seat" charge.

Margy Becker noted concerns by the Board of Listers of the status of the Ward Property on Rte. 132. The presence of the large piles of accumulated junk items surrounding the two houses presents a possible health and safety concern. Lister Galen Mudgett joined the meeting to explain the Listers had recently conducted a site visit, and they had a difficult time accessing one of the houses. The Selectboard agreed the landowner would be contacted, in addition to the Town Health Officer and Agency of Natural Resources. Margy Becker will continue to research whether or not the Town ever adopted a junkyard ordinance. To-date she has not found evidence of a signed or adopted ordinance.

Legal review of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Sharon Fire Department and DAYCO, Inc. regarding fire suppression was completed. The proposed MOU has been forwarded to both DAYCO, Inc. and Sharon Fire Department for their signatures. An executed copy will be sent to the Natural Resources Board (Act 250) office in Springfield.

14. Norwich Technologies (Rte. 132 Solar Project):

Joel Stettenheim met with Selectmen and Planning Commissioners for continued discussions of conditions of Town support for issuance of a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) by the Public Service Board for the $\leq 500\text{kW}$ solar array. NT has offered to complete a survey of the Day Historic District boundaries at the Town's request, while also helping the Town offset the expense of streetlights. The survey will be recorded. Mr. Stettenheim presented a decommissioning plan for review and discussion. An irrevocable standby letter of credit for costs of decommissioning was agreed to. The costs of decommissioning are estimated at \$32,500 in today's dollars. The Town's attorney will be asked to complete review of the decommissioning plan and final Memorandum of Understanding. The Selectboard hopes to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at its next meeting on July 10th.

15. Adjournment:

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:55PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Mary Gavin
Luke Pettengill
Kevin Gish