

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 16, 2017
MINUTES**

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

Staff Attending: Tim Higgins, Road Foreman; Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant; Jonathon Blakeney, road crew.

Visitors: Mike Zwickelmaier, Sharon Conservation Commission;
Mary Russ, White River Partnership;

Mary Gavin convened the regular meeting at 6:35PM.

Regular Business:

1. Executive Session: (Personnel)

Kevin Gish made the motion to enter executive session at 6:35PM with Jonathon Blakeney in attendance. Motion was seconded by Mary Gavin. The motion carried 2-0-0.

Board member Luke Pettengill arrived at 6:40PM and joined the Executive Session.

The Selectboard exited executive session at 6:50PM.

2. Stagecoach Transportation Fair Share:

Selectmen acknowledged their commitment to gradually increase the Town's annual allocation to Stagecoach Transportation. The issue will come up during upcoming budget sessions. Margy Becker agreed to keep Stagecoach staff up-to-date as to a proposed FY19 contribution.

3. FY19 Health Insurance Options:

Deb Jones, Finance Manager, met with Selectmen to review a first draft of potential employer-employee cost-sharing scenarios, based on the assumption that the Town will continue with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Town currently budgets approximately \$99,000 for this benefit. Though the road crew is down an employee or two, cost scenarios will assume a 4-member full time roster. An average plan premium cost increase is 10%. The 3 cost scenarios reviewed included 1) no change in employer % share; 2) A 50/50 % split of the premium increase between employer and employee; 3) Budget neutral option.

Deb Jones reported that option 1 would put the Town \$1,321 over-budget on health insurance as of June 30th; Option 2 would mean a budget savings of \$719 as of June 30; Option 3 would mean the Town would be \$55.00 over-budget.

Selectmen agreed to proceed with the “budget neutral” alternative, and further discussed the ratio of funding for employees versus dependents. Selectmen agreed to reconvene on October 23, 2017 at 6:30PM to continue discussions of FY19 health insurance coverage.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Luke Pettengill made the motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017 meeting as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

5. Highway Business:

Road Foreman reports: Tim Higgins reported on a site visit with Holden Engineering regarding bank stabilization along Broad Brook. Selectmen asked Tim Higgins to arrange a meeting with the Stream Alteration Engineer, Scott Jensen and the Engineer. The Selectboard agreed to Trenchard More’s request for culvert installations on Muir Road. Mr. More will pay for the culverts. The Selectboard also agreed a new form for landowner requests for non-driveway culvert installations will be prepared. The status of road crew hiring was discussed. The Paving CIP recommendations will be further examined during upcoming budget meetings.

6. Green’s Trailer Park – Access Plan

Mary Russ and Mike Zwickelmaier presented a proposed access plan for the Green’s Trailer Park. This parcel is now owned by the Town and the shoreline has been restored. The proposed access plan would provide pedestrian-only access to the parcel and to the river. Mary Russ will proceed to investigate possible recreation trails grant funds to finance the closure of access points and for signage. Mary Russ also agreed to meet with Chris Bump or Trevor Starr to confirm the width of the State’s right-of-way to Rte. 14 at

7. Sick Leave Bank Policy:

Selectmen received a model sick leave bank policy for further consideration. Discussions will resume in future meetings.

8. Junkyards:

Margy Becker reported she had filed the Town’s complaint regarding the continued storage of junk autos on a Moore Road Property, and that the ANR enforcement officer had already come into the office to confirm ownership of the property for further investigations. The Town has also filed a complaint with ANR enforcement with regards to junk autos which are now being stored on a Harlow Road property. A draft junkyard ordinance is under preparation by Sharon Planning Commission, with considerable assistance from member Joe Ronan. The Selectboard will finalize and adopt the ordinance.

9. Selectboard Assistant Report:

Margy Becker provided a brief status report on the status of Selectboard business, noting her wish to contact the VLCT Municipal Assistance Center, and possibly the Town attorney, concerning a Planning Commission matter. Selectmen agreed to this request. Margy Becker

will proceed with bond release related to the Griffin & Griffin contract. The Animal Control officer will be reminded to purchase a portable kennel. The Town will provide reimbursement. Margy Becker will notify community organizations of the need to submit FY19 budget proposals. Agenda time will be made available for the November 20th meeting.

10. **Executive Session:** (Personnel)

Kevin Gish made the motion at 8:20PM to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The Finance Manager and Road Foreman were asked to attend. Luke Pettengill seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen exited from executive session at 8:30PM.

11. **Review & Approve Warrants:**

Payroll and check warrants were reviewed and approved.

12. **Adjournment:** Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 8:45PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by Margy Becker