

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
December 11, 2017**

Minutes (DRAFT)

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

Selectboard Members absent: Luke Pettengill

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Tim Higgins (Road Foreman)

Visitors: Sheriff Michael Chamberlain, Jim Beraldi

Mary Gavin convened the regular meeting at 1:00pm as duly warned.

Public Safety Concerns: Rte. 14 at Edgewater Lane

Selectmen, Town staff, Sheriff Michael Chamberlain, and Jim Beraldi met to review facts known to-date regarding a shooting incident reported to Town staff by Patricia McDonald (#2019 VT Rte 14) on December 11th. Patricia reported that a shot had been fired on Friday, December 8th about midnight. The shot was very loud and close by. She discovered later during the weekend that her horse had died. The barn is located right behind her house along Edgewater Lane. When she pulled the horse from the partially enclosed barn for burial, it was found the horse had died from a bullet wound. The VSP dispatched Game Wardens to investigate.

The meeting with the Sheriff's Department was for the purpose of gathering more information about the question "to what extent can towns regulate the discharge of weapons with their borders?" This was the second report to the Town from this neighborhood of shots being fired late at night. Sheriff Chamberlain indicated towns have the ability to adopt ordinances to regulate the discharge of firearms, and that he would forward a copy of Woodstock Village's ordinance. It was noted that the VSP Game Wardens had suggested Ms. McDonald post her property as a safety zone. When those signs are present throughout a property, law enforcement officers have more leverage to prosecute cases such as hers. Margy Becker indicated she had also sent an email to the Town's attorney requesting advice on measures the Town could take to protect the public's safety.

Road Foreman Reports:

Mary Gavin and Tim Higgins discussed the VSP's report that a vehicle had gone off of Rte. 132 and damaged guardrail. The Town will request a copy of the police report in order to recoup the costs of guardrail repairs.

Tim Higgins reported Tom Ward has called him to report he has removed personal property blocking access to the end of Ogden Lane in response to the Selectboard's written request. Selectmen agreed, and the Road Foreman was instructed, to plow Ogden Lane during the upcoming storm. Margy Becker will complete the legal warnings necessary for discontinuance proceedings. Statutes require a minimum of 30 days' notice of the public hearing to consider the question of town highway reclassification and/or discontinuance.

FY19 Highway Budget Preparations:

Budget discussions resumed with a review of highway operating budget items and equipment replacement schedules. Selectmen agreed to postpone replacement of the backhoe. Tim Higgins pointed out the importance of the backhoe in performing road repairs that comply with new storm water standards. The Town has a truck on order, due to arrive in February. Tim Higgins advised the Selectboard of the need to upgrade communications equipment to higher output radios. There are currently many radio 'dead spots' in throughout the Town. The tractor and backhoe are without radios. Radio North is in the process of gathering pricing information to present to the Town.

Budget line items for road crew training and personal protective equipment were reviewed and increased. Tim Higgins warned Selectmen that the Town should be thinking about a garage replacement, due to the age of the septic system and other factors. A garage building reserve line item will be added. Town garages that have built in the area within the past 10 years have cost \$800,000+. A strategy for culvert replacements to meet new storm water standards was agreed to. Selectmen will resume discussions of the highway operating and capital budgets on Monday, December 18th.

Executive Session – Personnel

Motion by Kevin Gish to enter executive session at 8:05PM to discuss a personnel issue with the Finance Manager in attendance. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.

The Selectboard exited from executive session at 8:25PM.

Warrants:

Payroll and check warrants were reviewed and signed.

Adjournment

Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 8:50PM. The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and passed 2-0-0.

Submitted by, Margy Becker