

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Special Meeting Minutes (Draft)
February 20, 2018

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

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Tim Higgins

Visitors: Alex Bird, Marcy Marceau, Tom Ward, Larry Swanson

Call to Order: Mary Gavin convened the regular meeting at 6:30pm.

Executive Session – Personnel:

A motion was made by Kevin Gish to enter executive session at 6:30PM with the Road Foreman and a crew member to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Selectboard exited from executive session at 6:44PM, and no subsequent action was taken.

Highway Business:

1. **Policy for Access to Town’s Sand Pile:** It was noted Selectboard members have a different understanding of who has access to the Town’s sand pile versus actual practice. Tim Higgins explained that the gate to the sand pile remains open during the day. He does not patrol access. There are residents who are also contractors who obtain Town sand from the Town. The Selectmen object to contractors taking Town sand and then reselling it when they plow for their own business customers. Selectboard object to this practice. A sand policy will be drafted for consideration at the next meeting. An outline of the proposed policy is as follows:

- No one - other than authorized personnel – will access the sand pile inside the gate for safety considerations.
- A sand pile outside the gate will be provided for use by residents/taxpayers.
- Town sand is not for resale.
- Use of Town equipment to load sand for private use is prohibited.
- The gate will be locked at night.
- Signage to this effect will be fabricated and installed.

2. **Construction Bid Award: Broad Brook Bank Stabilization Project:** The Town received 5 bids as follows:

Blue Mountain Trucking & Excavating:	\$62,990
G&N Excavation, Inc:	\$58,283
Griffin & Griffin Excavation:	\$48,240
GW Tatro Construction:	\$47,500
Willey Earthmoving Corp:	\$41,450

Holden Engineering has reviewed all bids and, after contacting the lowest bidder, is recommending the Town award the bid to Willey Earthmoving.

A motion was made by Kevin Gish to accept the bid from Willey Earthmoving in the amount of \$41,450 contingent upon immediate submittal of a completed Debarment & Non-Collusion Affidavit form. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Reconvene Public Hearing: Proposed Discontinuance of Ogden Lane (Class 3)**

Mary Gavin reconvened the public hearing at 7:15PM. Joining the Selectboard and Town staff for the public hearing were abutters Alex Bird, Marcy Marceau, and Tom Ward, and resident Larry Swanson.

Selectmen provided a report on the site visit, noting the roadsides and shoulders appear to have been cleaned up as requested by the Town. Kevin Gish inquired whether the Town trucks can now get up Ogden Lane to do what they need to do? Tom Ward said yes, and that not even an oil truck has had to back out of the road.

Marcy Marceau stressed the importance of retaining the Class 3 road. The Town needs to continue to maintain the box culvert.

Mary Gavin suggested a second hearing continuance until later in the Spring and after snow has melted. The right-of-way limits could then be identified and marked. Abutters consented to this suggestion.

Larry Swanson stated opposition to the Selectboard's proposed discontinuance of a dead-end Class 3 road. He spoke of the location of Old Rte. 132. Part of that old right-of-way goes uphill and right past the Ward house. He also suggested the Town adopt an ordinance governing acceptable use of public right-of-ways. He agreed to attend the next site visit.

Margy Becker reported the Planning Commission will be submitting a letter to the Selectboard which states its opposition to the proposed discontinuance based on concerns regarding the precedent that would be set.

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to recess the public hearing to May 21st; during the May 7 Selectboard meeting a date will be picked for a second site visit to occur between May 8 and May 21st. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

4. **High Risk Rural Roads Finance & Maintenance Agreement:** Joe Ronan agreed to propose changes to the Agreement for review at the next meeting.
5. **Mail Box Policy:** Margy Becker volunteered to draft a proposed mail box policy based on sample policies from other Towns. Selectmen are in favor of mail box replacement if a plow strikes a mailbox. They are against mail box replacement when snow from the plow knocks the mail box down.

6. **Town Truck/Vehicle Collision – Eastman Road:** A town truck backed into a vehicle on the side of Eastman Road as the truck driver was attempting to back up the road with a load of sand. Other vehicles were off the road. There were witnesses. The State Police were contacted. The Road Foreman was contacted. An accident report has been filed. There were no personal injuries. There was damage to Barbara Bragg's vehicle. She was able to drive away from the scene. There were no citations, and there was no requirement for CDL drug and alcohol testing. Tim Higgins reported that cell service barely works at Eastman Road. The need for repeaters and radios with increased output was noted.
7. **Highway Maintenance Policy:** Selectmen and Tim Higgins reviewed a draft highway maintenance policy. This is a very general policy that FEMA has requested in order for it to process the Town's reimbursement request related to the July 1, 2017 storm damage repairs. **Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the Highway Maintenance Policy as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Executive Session #2– Personnel:

A motion was made by Kevin Gish and seconded to enter executive session with the Finance Manager at 7:36PM to discuss a personnel matter. The Selectboard exited from executive session at 7:48PM.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion by Kevin Gish to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018 with changes as noted was seconded by Joe Ronan. The motion carried 3-0-0.

A subsequent motion by Kevin Gish to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 with changes as noted was also seconded by Joe Ronan. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Finance Manager's Report:

Damaged Truck/Salvage value: Deb Jones reported on new developments in negotiations between the Town's insurance carrier and Patriot.

Public Use & Access of Town Buildings: Selectmen and Library Trustees are in a dialogue concerning recent inappropriate behavior of a library patron. The Librarian has filed a harassment complaint. Selectmen have conducted preliminary investigations into ways to either limit or prohibit said library patron from accessing the building. The Board has found it is difficult for a Town or Library Trustees to prevent the public from accessing public buildings.

Selectmen agreed on recommendations for short-term actions the Trustees and Librarian could take to address the Librarian's current situation, until permanent policies and procedures are in place for increased safety of personnel working in all town buildings. The Selectboard will continue to solicit input from the Town's Attorney.

The Selectboard has also enlisted the help of the Town's Attorney to research ways in which the Town can regulate the discharge of firearms within the Town. Vermont law makes it difficult to restrict the right-to-carry. Joe Ronan suggested another option is for the Town to pursue adoption of a Public Nuisance Ordinance.

Net Metering Agreement:

Kevin Gish and the Energy Committee are in favor of the Town entering into a net metering agreement to conserve energy. Selectmen agreed to keep the topic on future agendas, while Kevin Gish takes the lead on research into the most favorable type of agreement for Selectboard action.

Liquor License Renewal: Sharon Trading Post:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve Sharon Trading Post's application for renewal of its liquor license.

Junkyard Ordinance:

Joe Ronan reports the VT League of Cities and Towns will make available a revised junkyard ordinance template in late April. Discussions on a draft ordinance will resume at that time.

Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were reviewed and approved.

Executive Session #3 – Personnel:

Kevin Gish made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:50PM with the Finance Manager to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Selectboard exited from Executive Session at 10:00PM.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kevin Gish and seconded by Joe Ronan to adjourn at 10:00PM. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker