

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
July 16, 2018

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

Visitors: Lister Galen Mudgett, Jr.

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Frank Rogers (Road Foreman)

Kevin Gish convened the regular meeting at 6:30pm.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Road Foreman Reports:

Frank Rogers reported the culvert replacement by Rick Kent (#1875 Rte 132) was 80% complete. He has received an inquiry regarding running power across Fay Brook Road in the vicinity of the Doug Jones property. The grand list was researched. No home ownership was confirmed by Lister Galen Mudgett. This person will not be granted permission to trench across the road.

Backhoe purchase costs will be higher than expected. 4 vendors have supplied purchase prices of approximately \$130,000. The highway budget indicates an anticipate investment of approximately \$85,000. The backhoe is 11 years old and does need to be replaced. Several hoses have had to be replaced just this summer. It was agreed that Frank Roger should proceed to obtain bid prices obtained inclusive of trade.

FY19 Paving Grant:

Selectmen further discussed recommendations in the Paving Capital Improvement Plan. It was agreed the Town will proceed to obtain estimates for soil borings on Howe Hill, in anticipation of reconstruction. Frank Rogers reports a minimum of 4 out of 11 culverts on River Road between the bridge and Howe Hill need to be replaced in the very near future; it was agreed the crew will proceed with replacement of all culverts during the 2019 construction season.

No crack sealing will be scheduled for this (2018) construction season.

Selectmen and the Road Foreman do not support the CIP recommendations for chip sealing. Cracks have been observed already in the chip seal on River Road.

Paving bids for ¾ inch shim and 1 inch wear course treatment on the upper portion of Rte. 132 were reviewed as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Blaktop | 63.47/ton |
| Pike | 67.90/ton |
| Springfield Paving | 69.75/ton |

A motion was made by Kevin Gish to award the Rte. 132 shim/overlay bid to Blaktop at 63.47/ton, with the intent of paving from Mosher Lane to the Strafford Line. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Hardpack bids were discussed. **Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize purchase of 4,000 tons of hardpack from Pike for \$8.35/ton. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.**

Rikert Driveway Permit Application

Frank Rogers confirmed his site visit to the proposed access on Old Stage Road. No driveway culvert will be required. There is minimal vegetation that will impede sight distance.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the Rikert driveway permit application for a new access on Old Stage Road. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Broad Brook Bank Stabilization – Final Willey Earthmoving Invoice

Deb Jones noted that Willey's final invoice still includes the \$1,500 for underdrain. The contract was a lump sum contract. Frank Rogers reported his satisfaction with guardrail installation. Selectmen agreed to approve a final payment to Willey Earthmoving in the amount of \$6,000 for guardrail installation. A check warrant was signed accordingly.

Subcontracting Winter Maintenance:

Frank Rogers will research whether Sharhart Road residents were happy with winter maintenance provided by Chase Site Services. He will consider whether winter maintenance of additional roads should be subcontracted.

Maintenance of Driveway to Baxter Library:

Frank Rogers reports he cannot get the grader in the drive to cut out potholes. The Town will investigate an alternative approach to driveway maintenance. Galen Mudgett pointed out the driveway is only a right-of-way across private land. The ROW also provides emergency access to Sharon Elementary School.

FY19 TAX Rate:

Lister Galen Mudgett, Jr. indicated the Town's CLA has gone up to 107.93 for FY19 from 103.55 (FY18) as a result of sales above assessed values. But he cautioned that as soon as this pattern stops and the market levels off, we will see a spike in education tax rates because the CLA will go back down.

The amount of revenues to be raised by local taxes is \$1,109,132. A proposed municipal rate of \$.6875 will raise \$1,109,178.80. A rate of .6875 would be an increase of \$.0103 over last year.

Mr. Mudgett explained there will be no change in the veterans off-set rate of .0017 (which would raise \$2,742.70). Tax rate calculations are based on a FY2019 grand list of \$1,613,351.

Mary Gavin made the motion to set the FY19 municipal tax rate at .6875 and to set the veterans offset at .0017 for FY19. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Galen Mudgett further noted the State of Vermont has set education tax rates as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Homestead rate: | \$1.4607 | (decrease of \$.0128 from prior year) |
| Nonresidential rate: | \$1.4639 | (decrease of \$.0185 from prior year) |

Total combined (state education and municipal) rates will be as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Total homestead rate: | \$2.1499 | (decrease of \$.0025 from prior year) |
| Total non-residential rate: | \$2.1531 | (decrease of \$.0082 from prior year) |

FY19 Hartford EMS Inter-Local Agreement:

There is no proposed change to the FY19 agreement for emergency services provided by the Town of Hartford for coverage on I89, Kenyon Hill Road, and south Rte. 14.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the FY19 Hartford EMS Inter-local Agreement. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Health Officer Reappointment:

Motion by Mary Gavin to reappoint Richard Wilson as Town Health Officer for the term of 3 years. The motion was seconded and carried.

Repairs to Town Sign on The Green

Margy Becker reported estimates from Scott Fisk and Scott Cooney for sign replacement costs of between \$850 - \$1200. Scott Fisk created the original sign. He has offered to repaint the letters and seal the top of the sign for \$350 or less.

Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize Scott Fisk to repaint and seal the Town of Sharon sign for an amount not to exceed \$350. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Sign replacement costs will be considered in the next budget cycle.

Repairs to Gazebo:

It was agreed the Town will proceed to determine whether repairs to the wooden structure could be considered as an Eagle Scout project. If the project is too complex, a request for bid will be sent out. Roof repairs were paid for in 2016; in 2017 electrical upgrades were paid for.

Letter of Support for Alliance for VT Communities:

The AVC is submitting a grant to the VT Housing & Conservation Board requesting funding for creation of the Ashley Community Forest on the border of Sharon and Strafford. The Selectboard expressed support for the project at a prior meeting. The AVC has requested letters of support for its grant application. **A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Joe Ronan, to approve the letter of support. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.** The signed letter will be transmitted to the VHCB, with a copy to Michael Sacca.

Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones and Selectmen discussed a public records request for employee compensation. The Town Attorney and the VLCT have both been consulted. Deb Jones will proceed to make the information available for inspection in its existing format (as a PDF file).

Year-end financials were reviewed and discussed.

Approval of Minutes:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2018 as corrected. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Margy Becker reported that in the process of preparing for the upcoming independent audit, she discovered minutes for 3 special meetings involving executive sessions which had not been approved.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve minutes of special meetings on October 11, 12, and 19, 2017 as corrected. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Warrants:

Check warrants were reviewed and signed.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin, seconded by Kevin Gish, to adjourn at 8:55PM. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker