

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, April 15, 2019  
Minutes (DRAFT)**

Board Members Attending: Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin, Kevin Gish  
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Deb Jones, Frank Rogers  
Members of the public: David Karon, Joel Stettenheim

Chair Joe Ronan convened the meeting at 6:30PM.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

**Review/Approve Agenda:** No changes were made to the order of business.

**Selectboard Member Reports:**

Mary Gavin reported on the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District's efforts to collaborate with GroCompost for collection of clean and packaged organic waste streams. This collaboration may also result in generation of an additional revenue stream for the District to help pay down existing debt. Mary Gavin also provided a brief status report on activities of South Royalton Rescue, noting the ambulance has been ordered and a fundraising campaign is underway. Joe Ronan said he noted recent discussions of the proposed Ashley Community Forest on the Sharon Facebook page. Selectmen agreed to place this matter on an upcoming agenda, though no meeting date was set. Kevin Gish was thanked for helping with damage assessments on Rte. 132 and Howe Hill.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**A motion was made by Kevin Gish to approve the minutes of April 1, 2019 regular meeting as modified. Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried.**

**Road Foreman Reports:**

Frank Rogers provided an update on road conditions following the torrential rains of Sunday night, which have caused spring flooding in many locations throughout the state. Sharon seems to have come through the storm event with only a few washouts and areas of road shoulder loss. There is minor pavement loss on Howe Hill, and the potential for some on Rte. 132. Repairs will begin tomorrow on Mitchell Brook Road, in order to make the road passable.

Frank reported on estimates to weld the 1-ton frame, which range from \$700 to \$2500. **Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize Al Wright to make welding repairs to the one-ton truck in an amount not to exceed \$700. Kevin Gish seconded and the motion carried.**

The Town's stockpile of gravel meeting state specs has been depleted. Though the highway budget is projected to incur overruns in certain line items this year, it was agreed that Frank Rogers would proceed to purchase the gravel and stone needed to complete storm repairs and routine mud season repairs (approximately 2,000 tons).

Frank reported on the costs to replace culverts on River Road. Deb Jones followed-up with a review of bids received for sand hauling. Action to award the bid was postponed to the next meeting, due to the need for bid clarification.

### **EC Fiber Update:**

David Karon, town representative to the board of EC Fiber, provided an in-depth status report on activities. There appear to be plans for accelerating the 2019 buildouts - which includes the Town of Sharon. Sharon residents are encouraged to subscribe now. David Karon explained the residential rate is \$66/month plus \$8.00 for installation.

### **Norwich Technologies: Decommissioning Rte. 132 Solar**

Joel Stettenheim confirmed NT's attorney proposes the lien take the form of a mortgage. He confirmed the Town will have 'first position' should NT take on additional debt. Ken Davis will attend the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on Joel's behalf. A copy of the proposed mortgage document will be forwarded to Selectmen for review prior to legal review.

### **Emergency Planning:**

Margy Becker will continue with preparation of the local emergency management plan. TRORC staff have agreed to assist. Final action to adopt will occur at a special meeting in late April. Similarly, the Selectboard agreed to schedule annual updates to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which must be renewed every 5 years. The actual plan revision process begins later in 2019.

### **Selectboard Workplan/policies:**

Selectmen reviewed and prioritized a workplan for the upcoming year(s). Board priorities include the following:

- CIP rollout (paving projects)
- Bond timing and structure
- Completion of job descriptions for administrative and finance staff
- Planning for compliance with the municipal roads general permit (stormwater)
- Review of 2018-2019 highway winter operations budget and overtime
- Review of actual Sharon state funding vs. possible funding sources
- Review and update of conflict of interest policy (by 7/1/19); policies for records retention and management of public records
- Review of ordinances
- Finish policy regarding security cameras and town buildings
- Follow-up from 4-town discussions
- Possible elimination of elected positions
- Interface with Sharon Planning on revisions to the Town Plan and flood hazard regulations

Review and discussions of policies and procedures was postponed. Joe Ronan inquired whether fellow Selectmen supported the idea of establishing **Selectboard liaisons** to other town boards

and commissions. Selectmen stated their commitments to community service were 'maxed out'. It was agreed that other town committees, such as the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, etc. will be invited to join Selectboard meetings on a bi-annual or annual basis and outside of the budget process.

### **Large Animals loose:**

Selectmen agreed on how the Town will follow-up on complaints regarding loose cattle on Fay Brook Road.

### **Night-time Shooting: Rte. 14:**

Selectmen discussed the fact that another complaint had been received regarding discharge of fire arms after dark in the vicinity of Farm Field and Edgewater lanes. The Selectboard office will follow-up with law enforcement agencies.

### **Finance Manager Reports:**

Year-to-date budget reports were reviewed. The potential for substantial overruns of line items in the highway budget were noted, and conjectures were made as to whether or not the budget situation could reflect a 'new norm' due to climate change. Deb Jones stated her May status reports will include line item projections for the year-end.

### **Naloxone Training/CBD - Drug & Alcohol Testing:**

Kevin Gish will follow-up with Town Officials and employees regarding voluntary training concerning the administration of naloxone. Deb Jones reported attendance at a recent training sponsored by the VLCT on the topic of drug and alcohol testing for CDL-licensed employees. Apparently CBD does contain THC which will show as a positive drug test. Selectmen agreed town employees should be made aware of this outcome.

### **Selectboard Assistant Report:**

Margy Becker announced generator bids are due April 25. Two vendors showed up for the pre-bid meeting on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Indelible, Inc. has made a suggestion as to a platform for comments on the proposed website mockup.

### **Approval of Warrants:**

Check and payroll warrants were reviewed and approved.

### **Adjournment:**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:35PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.**

Submitted by, Margy Becker