

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 5, 2018
Minutes (Final)**

Attending:

Board members present: Kevin Gish, Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin

Staff present: Frank Rogers, Road Foreman; Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant

Visitors present: Bob and Mary Stoddard (residents), Kayleigh Rodig (Baxter Librarian), Sue Sellew and Carole Bando (Baxter Library Trustees), Tom Lober (Sharon Fire Dept.), Kolbi Walton-Strong (Countryside Property Maintenance), Matt Cardillo (resident), Joel Stettenheim (Norwich Technologies), David Phillips (resident), Cameron Clifford (W. Hartford)

1. Public Comments:

There were none.

2. Selectboard Member Reports:

Mary Gavin explained that Steve Belmont, Director of South Royalton Rescue, could not attend the meeting as scheduled due to other obligations. The SRR FY20 budget is to be approved soon.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the emergency meeting held October 24, 2018 as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried 2-0-0, Joe Ronan abstaining.

4. Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were approved.

5. Road Foreman Reports and Highway Matters:

Frank Rogers reported

- Tom Ward had the Ogden Lane ROW cleared by noon on November 1st;
- Doug Jones has not pursued his request to trench across Fay Brook Road in order to run wires from one side of the road to another;
- Randy Rhoades of M&W Soils is delayed in submittal of his report on Howe Hill borings;

- Pricing for welding equipment ranges from \$1,000 - \$1,200 for properly-sized equipment. Selectboard members authorized purchase of said equipment, pending confirmation by Deb Jones of the fund balance available for small equipment purchases;
- Matt Cardillo requested the Town contribute to the costs of removing a large, dead tree that is within the ROW to Beaver Meadow Road and close to his house. He has a quote of \$850 to drop the tree. He is able to move and cut up the tree with his own equipment. Selectmen were unanimous in their agreement NOT to contribute to the cost of tree removal, noting this would be precedent-setting.
- The crew is behind on grading, due to all the rain of late;
- **On a motion by Mary Gavin, which was seconded and carried unanimously, Selectmen approved expenditure of up to \$1,000 for installation of new LED exit lights at Sharon Town Garage.**
- FY20 Highway operating budget: brief review and discussions occurred

6. **FY20 Budget Requests/Reports:**

Sharon Fire Department: Tom Lober presented a SFD budget request of \$78,150, inclusive of a \$30,000 set-aside into the new equipment reserve. The budget is in line with expenditures incurred during 2017-2018. The Department realizes it needs to develop a truck replacement plan. Engine No. 2 is now paid off. The Department does not anticipate any major equipment purchases over the next 10 years. The SFD building and vehicles are insured through Goss Logan.

Baxter Library: Trustees Sue Sellew and Carole Bando made a presentation concerning the Library's expanding role as a community center. The Board's FY20 appropriation request reflects additional hours the library is to be open and a wage increase for the librarian. Currently the Librarian's wage is at the bottom of libraries surveyed. Trustee's hope to increase the wage to \$18.50/hour, and that wage is still in the bottom tier of librarian wages. The Trustees' FY20 appropriation request is \$5,070 over the FY19 request for a total request of \$22,377. Bob and Mary Stoddard spoke in support of library services and endorsed the request for additional hours.

Cemeteries: David Phillips presented a suggested "mission statement" for a volunteer Cemetery Committee. There are at least 9 town cemeteries, all located on private land and in various states of repair or disrepair. Some have obvious access and others do not. The two large and active cemeteries in Sharon have Cemetery Associations (Pine Hill and Broad Brook) that oversee maintenance and operations.

Cameron Clifford commended the mowing that had occurred in the Wallace Doubleday Cemetery over the summer. David Phillips described headstone repair work he has performed in the past, submitted photos documenting the need for continued repairs, and spoke of his interest in performing repairs again. Arthur Peale is mostly retired. Mr. Peale performed headstone repairs 2014 – 2016 in the Wallace Doubleday cemetery. David Phillips reported he has focused on the Dyer Cemetery off O'Donnell Farm Road.

Selectmen expressed appreciation for Dave's initiative and interest in wanting to see a Cemetery Committee formed. Selectmen encouraged Dave to put a plea out for additional volunteers during Town Meeting in March.

7. **Norwich Technologies – Rte. 132 Solar Decommissioning:**

Selectmen met again briefly with Joel Stettenheim, President of Norwich Technologies. The Board gave further consideration of the merits of a lien as option to assure proper decommissioning of the Rte. 132 solar array. Joel Stettenheim agreed to report back to the Selectboard in the near future as to whether this is a workable solution.

8. **Finance Manager Reports:**

Deb Jones will participate in a seminar regarding bonding. She noted the next 2 payroll submittal dates fall on Monday holidays, and other arrangements for payroll were agreed to.

9. **2019 Health Insurance Options – cont.':**

In light of new information regarding 2019 VACE-BCBS plans obtained since the last meeting, Selectmen reconsidered their decision to offer 2019 health insurance coverage to employees through VACE.

Motion by Mary Gavin to rescind the motion of October 29 to offer health insurance coverage in 2019 through VACE-BCBS of VT. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to offer employees 2019 health insurance coverage through VT Blue Cross Blue Shield. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin that employer contributions towards premium costs for employee health coverage be capped at the following not-to-exceed limits:

Single plan:	\$585.50/month
Couple plan:	\$1,070/month
Parent/child plan:	\$1,032/month
Family Plan:	\$1,450/month

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin that the Town of Sharon offer a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) per employee at a level between \$1200 - \$3400, depending upon the type of plan and category of premium selected, in order to achieve an equitable plan value per employee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

(The Selectboard's actions are based on the Finance Manager's report dated 10/1/18 (revised 10/9/18) and entitled "Health Plan Comparison for 2019.")

10. Selectboard Assistant Report and Unfinished Business:

- The well driller will be at Baxter Library for pump repairs on Wednesday, Nov. 7.
- Margy Becker will prioritize completion of an RFP for engineering services to aid implementation of the Paving CIP.
- Selectmen reviewed a letter from the Historical Society directors that comments on objectives for repairs and maintenance to the Old Town Hall. The directors have asked for permission to install a storage shed behind the building. Selectmen postponed action on this request, pending further review and prioritization of a buildings capital improvement plan.
- Joe Ronan inquired about the lack of progress to-date with a tax sale authorized by the Selectboard. Board members directed the Selectboard Assistant to contact the Delinquent Tax Collector to request that she further clarify a recent email which describes her interest in ‘pursuing other approaches’. Board members expressed interest in learning what “other approaches” are being considered? And what is the timeline?

11. Adjournment:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:42PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by, Margy Becker

Kevin Gish
Joe Ronan
Mary Gavin