

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes (Draft)
Monday, July 22, 2019**

Board Members Attending: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Deb Jones, Frank Rogers
Members of the public: none

Joe Ronan called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Review/Approve Agenda:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the agenda without changes. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Selectboard Member Reports:

Kevin Gish announced that Board members are invited to the Habitat for Humanity's Cayer home dedication Saturday, July 27th on Luke's Lane off Sharon Meadows.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2019 regular meeting with a few corrections noted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Town's independent auditors have noted the Board did not approve minutes from an October meeting, and they have asked that the Board do so.

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2018 regular meeting with a few corrections noted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were approved.

Road Foreman Reports & Highway Business:

Frank Rogers reported the mower has been repaired. Mowing has occurred on Beaver Meadow Road. Summer maintenance activities continue.

Frank presented Blaktop's estimate for patching the worst locations on Howe Hill, Fay Brook, and Broad Brook roads. The quote was \$44,836. The Board decided against this expenditure.

Frank is waiting for hardpak quotes. Beavers are not clogging the culvert on Downer Road.

The York Rake is in bad condition and needs to be replaced. Frank estimates it will cost \$5,500 to \$6,000 to replace. He will present quotes at the next meeting.

Selectmen asked Frank to appoint a safety officer.

Joe Ronan reported Pomfret Selectboard Chair will attend the August 5th Selectboard meeting to discuss Howe Hill paving.

FY20 Tax Rate:

Lister Galen Mudgett presented his suggestions for next year's tax rates, based on a FY2020 grand list of \$1,621,591 per hundred. The amount needed to be raised in property taxes to fund town and highway expenses is \$1,230,149. Galen noted there used to be eight veterans living in town; now there are six. The State of Vermont has lowered the Town's CLA from 107.93 to 104.31, which is almost a reverse course over the prior year. Galen further reported property tax values are flat. 2011 was the last time the Town was reappraised.

Mary Gavin made the motion to set the municipal tax rate at \$.7586 in order to raise \$1,230,138.93 in revenues. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried. This is a \$.0711 increase over the prior year.

Mary Gavin made the motion to set the veterans offset rate at \$.0022, which raises \$3,567.50. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

The State of Vermont has released its statewide education tax rates. Sharon's homestead rate has increased \$.0235 to \$1.4842. The nonresidential rate has increased \$.0642 to \$1.5281.

Total rates (municipal + education taxes) for residents and non-residents will be as follows:

Total homestead tax rate: \$2.2450 (increase of \$.0955)

Total non-residential tax rate: \$2.2889 (increase of \$.1358)

2019 Town Highway Road & Bridge Standards:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adopt the 2019 road and bridge standards, indicating "YES" to sections 1 – 7. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Byrne Foundation Letter:

The Byrne Foundation was a generous supporter of the South Royalton Rescue ambulance purchase. **Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the letter of thanks as drafted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Suburban Propane Underground Tank Agreement:

Due to the new generator installation at the Town Offices, Suburban has consolidated fuel tanks. There is now a 1,000-gallon underground tank buried behind the Town Offices at the northeast corner and adjacent to the leach field. The tank lies perpendicular to the building. The access point is underneath the green housing left in place.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve and sign the Suburban Underground Tank agreement. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Norwich Technologies – Decommissioning Rte. 132 Solar Array:

Joe Ronan will follow-up with Norwich Technologies and report at the August 5th meeting.

Cybersecurity:

Employees will proceed with online training through the VLCT PACIF online university. Selectmen also requested that Mike Tisdale, the Town's IT support person, attend the August 5th Selectboard meeting to explain what the Town's vulnerabilities are.

Finance Manager Reports:

The Town's expenses on gravel road repairs related to the April 15, 2019 rainstorm did not amount to \$3,200, the threshold for small claims. Hence the Town will not submit a claim to FEMA.

Date for Bond Vote: Selectmen agreed to hold the bond vote on paving improvements on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. The vote will be by Australian Ballot. The public hearing will be held within 10 days of the vote and between Oct. 21 – 23rd, depending on Selectmen's schedules.

FY19 Year-End Report: Deb Jones reported that only \$32,000 of the budgeted \$40,000 Fund Balance was drawn down to balance the general fund budget. Highways finished the year only \$5,000 over-budget as a result of strategic cost-saving efforts in May-June.

Selectboard Assistant Reports/Unfinished Business:

It was agreed Margy Becker will prioritize website development. Joe Ronan indicated he would like the Selectboard to further discuss its position on the Ashley Community Forest. This topic will be added to the next agenda.

Adjournment: Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:37PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker