

Sharon Selectboard Meeting

August 5, 2019

Regular Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin

Staff Present: Deb Jones, Frank Rogers, (Margy Becker, absent)

Visitor Present: Emily Grube, Pomfret Selectmen; Jim Potter, Pomfret Road Foreman

Joe Ronan called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Joe Ronan asked for a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Gilroy CA, El Paso TX and Dayton OH mass shootings.

Public Comment: Deb Jones reported on a call from Dale Potter. Dale was concerned after reading an article in The Herald that stated the Selectboard was calling a bond vote to purchase the Ashley Community Forest. Deb explained to Dale that the bond vote was for highway reconstruction and paving projects.

Kevin Gish made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Joe Ronan. Motion passed.

Mary Gavin made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22 meeting with corrections. Second by Kevin Gish. There was discussion around several corrections to the minutes—in section FY20 Tax Rate: 1st sentence...Lister Galen Mudgett presented the proposed tax rate for FY20.....same section...3^d sentence—we now have 8 veterans living in town. Same section..2nd to last sentence—Galen further reported property values are flat (omit “tax”). **The motion carried.**

Cybersecurity: Action tabled as Margy and Mike T are not present at this meeting.

Road Foreman Reports: Frank reports the 6-wheeler is back from ATG. Still not clear if this will be a warranty repair. ATG is working with Meritor on the warranty issue. Woodstock, Hartland, Bridgewater and Pomfret are having similar problems. Overall full repair of the carrier assembly could be \$15,000. Selectboard asked Deb Jones to scan the warranty information to board members (extended warranty and Meritor warranty). Frank did say there will be an invoice coming—just not sure how much.

Tractor: The solenoid that controls the deck roll is acting up on the mower. Replacement is \$1500-\$1800 depending on shipping. Mary Gavin suggested that we have the tractor and mower fully evaluated as this is the 2nd expensive repair this season (both repairs over \$1500). The mower is a Tiger-brand mower. **Motion by Mary Gavin with a second by Kevin Gish to authorize Frank Rogers to purchase the part in the most expeditious manner. Motion passed.**

Backhoe: Emissions system is not working as expected. Due to the way the backhoe is used—work a bit, then idle, the machine never reaches a high idle level.

Hardpack Quotes: Frank received quotes from Pike and Twin State for 4300 tons ¾” hardpack.

Vendor	Material cost	Delivery Cost	Delivered cost/ton
Twin State	8.30	5.20	13.50
Pike Industries	8.55	6.55	15.10

Frank expressed concern that Twin State might run out of material.

If we do the 1-mile top dressing we will need an additional 1700 tons. Total amount needed for general maintenance and top dressing is 6000 tons.

Mary Gavin made a motion to purchase 6000 tons of ¾” hardpack at \$8.30/ton for material and \$5.20/ton for delivery from Twin State Sand & Gravel. Second by Kevin Gish. Motion approved.

Howe Hill Culverts: There are 4 culverts that need to be replaced on Howe Hill Road ahead of next year’s paving. Frank is recommending we close the road for the duration of the project (estimated at a week). Current plan is to complete this work the week of Aug 19. Frank to communicate with Hartford Dispatch and Emergency Services.

York Rake: Frank received 3 quotes for a new York Rake.

Vendor	Amount
LF Trottier	\$4500.00
York Modern	\$5374
HP Fairfield	\$6,000-\$7,000

Kevin Gish made a motion that we purchase a new York Rake from LF Trottier’s for \$4,500. Second by Joe Ronan. Motion approved.

Howe Hill Paving Project

Emily Grube, chair of Pomfret Selectboard, and Jim Potter, Pomfret Road Foreman, joined the meeting. Emily reported she spoke with Caleb at Pike Industries and they could work with 1 or 2 RFPs. If 2, then each RFP should indicate the desire to work collaboratively with Sharon or Pomfret. Emily indicated she would like John Harrington from Horizons to help draft the RFP. The Sharon Bond vote is scheduled for October 29. There is a 30-day rescission period. If a re-vote is requested, then the next vote would be at Town Meeting.

If the bond vote passes and there is no challenge to it, then we should be ready to put out an RFP in early December. Emily will contact John Harrington about assistance on the RFP. It was

noted that Horizons Engineering is under contract with the Town of Sharon for this work as well and we want to minimize expense to each town.

Sharon Board will follow up on letter to legislators that John Harrington put together earlier this year. This letter asks for additional support from the state on funding the paving of Howe Hill Road.

Jim Potter asked if we had considered guardrail on this project. We hadn't but discussed that there isn't much guardrail on the Sharon side of Howe Hill. Should there be? Frank to meet with John Harrington and will ask about the need for additional guardrail.

Frank informed Emily and Jim that we are planning on closing Howe Hill Road the week of Aug 19 in order to complete replacing 4 culverts.

Policies and Procedures: It was agreed to table this until the next meeting. It was suggested that perhaps we need additional meetings so that progress could be made on updating policies.

Ashley Community Forest: The Board feels that this is generally a good idea but there are still many questions to be answered—why owned by town? How will liabilities be handled? Who will handle monies? Budget and how approved? What will governance look like? We will ask the ACF team where they are on the “closing checklist”. Kevin noted we need more participation from Sharon.

Town Buildings Maintenance and Repair: The building maintenance position is open since Dan Jones did not renew his contract (due to work responsibilities). We have not received any applications at this time.

Bathroom repairs at OSH: Andrew invited to Aug 19 meeting per Margy email.

Recycling/Garbage shed: Aug 19 meeting

Ramp painting: Aug 19 meeting

VCRD Leadership Summit—Kevin to ask Mary Stoddard if she would be able to attend this meeting.

Library: Do we have a quote from Countryside Property Management for the work between Library and Seven Stars?

Bond Vote: The Town Clerk agrees with the proposed date of Oct 29; she is checking to see if the SES is available.

Other Business:

VLCT will not handle claim of car issue on Fay Brook Road on July 24.

Structures Grant for Quimby Mountain: **Mary Gavin made a motion for the chair to sign the Structure Grant documentation; second by Kevin Gish. Motion passed.**

4 Town Update: Committees are working and provided an update at July 30 meeting at TSA.

Stray cat: Deb Jones reported someone found a stray cat. Deb Jones said the cat was at Country Animal Hospital for a 10-day observation period (cost is \$19/day). If not claimed, then the cat will be moved to a Humane Society.

Mary Gavin made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee issues. Second by Joe Ronan. Motion passes.

Executive session ended at 8:46 pm. Motion by Mary Gavin w second by Kevin Gish. Motion passes.

Kevin Gish made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Second by Joe Ronan. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Mary Gavin