

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes (DRAFT)
Monday, September 16, 2019**

Board Members Attending: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Deb Jones, Frank Rogers
Members of the public: Residents Joyce & Bob Dion, John Sears; Downer Camp Director
Emily Myers

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

Public Comments:

Mary Gavin requested town staff follow-up with the appropriate agencies regarding a travel trailer, which has been parked along Rte. 14 for the summer. People appear to be living there.

Review/Approve Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2019 special meeting as presented. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 special meeting with two corrections as noted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were approved.

Road Foreman Reports & Highway Business:

Frank Rogers provided brief reports on the status of road crew activities. Crack sealing on Rte. 132 was completed today.

Baxter Library parcel drainage improvements:

Joe Ronan reported Keenan Haley has forwarded information to the Selectboard concerning Pathways Consulting's notes regarding preliminary drainage improvements in the vicinity of the playground. Mary Gavin noted the school should be, at minimum, coordinating any drainage improvements along the shared boundary with the Town. Selectmen agreed the school needs to

contain its stormwater on school property. Joe will continue to follow-up with Keenan on stormwater.

Joe Ronan noted Keenan had also forwarded to the Selectboard some cost estimates prepared by Horizons Engineers to repave the parking lot. Paving will NOT occur prior to this winter. After brief discussions and a consultation with Road Foreman Frank Rogers, it was agreed **the road crew will not maintain the school parking lot this winter**. Joe Ronan agreed to provide Keenan Haley with contact information for Countryside Property Maintenance (Kolbi Walton-Strong).

Selectmen noted Horizons Engineers' estimate for parking lot repairs had also included a proposed plan and estimate to repave the access road, yet there were no further discussions held concerning the timing of access road paving.

Approval of Bond Vote Documents:

Selectmen reviewed the proposed bond resolution, bond vote warning, and ballot as prepared by Paul Giuliani, Esq. of the Vermont Bond Bank. Joe Ronan inquired whether Selectboard members were satisfied with the documents as prepared. Mary Gavin stated her concern as to whether the town is borrowing enough to cover possible contingencies. An outline of assumptions regarding major variables affecting projected costs was again briefly reviewed with Deb Jones, Finance Manager. It is difficult to predict to what degree asphalt pricing next spring will reflect the chaotic situation in the Middle East. Deb Jones also noted the bond bank enables some flexibility as to when physical work is performed.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the Warning for a special meeting of the voters on October 29, 2019 to vote by Australian ballot on a \$1,100,000 bond proposal. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the Resolution to put before the voters a proposal for issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1,100,000 to pay for highway improvements on Howe Hill Road, River Road, Fay Brook Road, Broad Brook Road, and Quimby Mountain Road. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the official Ballot for the October 29, 2019 bond vote. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen signed the Warning and Resolution. These documents, along with the Declaration of Intent signed back in June, will be presented to the Town Clerk for recording on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

Bond Vote Public Education Materials:

Mary Gavin agreed to approach Galen Mudgett regarding commentary about the bond vote for The Herald. Deb Jones and Board members will further collaborate on the slide presentation for the public information meeting at 7:00PM October 24th, at Sharon Elementary School.

Conveyance of Glebe (Municipal Lease) Lands:

Selectmen are in receipt a proposed Quitclaim Deed and Property Transfer Tax Return as prepared by Philip H. Zalinger, Esq. on behalf of Arthur Berndt (Maverick Farm). The deed quitclaims to Maverick Farm municipal leasehold interests in two parcels a) 55 ± acres conveyed originally by Moore family members to one another in the 1950's, and then to Schulz in 1975 and to Maverick Farm in 1988, and b) 8± acres conveyed by Hilliker to Parody to Schulz in the early 1960's, and then Schulz to Maverick Farm in 1988. These lands were subject to an annual payment of \$1.31 payable "to the Treasurer of the Sharon Town School District". The Town has not been collecting rental payments on these glebe lands for many decades.

Motion by Mary Gavin to accept the Quitclaim Deed and Property Transfer Tax Return as prepared by Phillip Zalinger, Esq. on behalf of the Town and Maverick Farm. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Status of Downer CCC Pond Weed Harvesting:

Residents John Sears, Joyce Dion, and Bob Dion joined Emily Myers, the new director for Downer Camp, for a discussion on the history and current status of mechanical harvesting of pond weeds. The Downer Camp and Town have been long-time partners in this effort to keep a section of the Downer CCC Pond surface open for canoeing, kayaking, and other passive recreation activities for the benefit of Downer Camp and general public.

Joyce has been the paid and unpaid advocate for the weed harvesting initiative for twenty (20) years. Her work has entailed acquiring state permits, coordinating state agency reviews of plans for mechanical harvesting, preparing grant applications, and providing ongoing education of public officials and Downer Camp personnel and board members. She has also spent substantial time recently in mounting a successful challenge to a new wetland impact fee proposed by the VT ANR, which if assessed, would have made any future financial commitment to mechanical weed harvesting infeasible. Joyce thanked Jim Masland and Tim Brigland for their role in negotiating a resolution of the impact fee issue. Joyce announced she is retiring from this position and that Emily Myers, Downer Camp Director, will take over the project.

Joyce and Emily Myers outlined the proposal for acquisition of a new and smaller mechanical harvester. The Hockney Weed Harvester will cost approximately \$21,000. Joyce has asked the Town and Downer Camp to consider contributing to the cost of the purchase. Grant funds, if applied for, are more than likely to fund only a small portion of this expense.

The Town and Downer Camp will have to agree where the harvester is to be stored and who would maintain it. Frank Rogers, Sharon Road Foreman, reported the town garage facility lacks a storage area for the harvester. He also suggested Camp facilities personnel may be better-suited to maintain the harvester. Road crew time and equipment could be provided for the customary summer harvesting.

Emily Myers indicated Downer Camp would very much like to continue to collaborate with the Town on future weed harvesting. The Camp's Facility Committee will meet within the next two weeks to determine to Downer Camp's budget for weed harvesting. She will visit with Selectmen again at an October meeting to continue discussions on this topic.

Finance Manager Reports:

- Long-Term Disability Insurance: discussions postponed until October meeting.
- Tax Collection: \$447,000 remains to be collected for the first installment of property taxes;
- Year-end FY18 reports: Selectmen reviewed updated year-end figures for all funds;
- FY20-21 Health Insurance: Deb will provide preliminary health insurance rate information at the first meeting in October;

Old School House Maintenance:

Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize purchase and installation of an 8-foot x 12-foot storage shed from Earl Silloway for an amount not to exceed \$2,200. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried. Margy Becker will follow-up with Andrew Lane.

Unfinished business:

Country Animal Hospital: Proposed Agreement for Strays: This agenda item will be addressed at the October 7th meeting.

Mike Tisdale Proposal for Managed IT Services: Further discussion on this item is also postponed to the October 7th meeting.

Norwich Technologies ("NT") Decommissioning Fund: Joe Ronan reported NT is having the documents prepared.

Windsor County Sheriff: Kevin Gish will contact the Windsor County Sheriff Department concerning enforcement of the State law banning texting and hand-held cell phones while driving.

Adjournment: Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:26PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker