

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes **DRAFT**
Monday, October 7, 2019**

Board Members Attending: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Deb Jones, Frank Rogers
Members of the public: Nick Clark, Thetford Selectboard

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

Public Comments: none

Review/Approve Agenda:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the modified agenda, noting that discussions on items 11 “Ashley Community Forest” and item 17 “Agreement for Strays: Country Animal Hospital” are postponed. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Re: 9.16.19 discussions about stormwater draining from the school onto adjacent properties. Kevin Gish noted that it may difficult, if not impossible, to fully contain stormwater on school property.

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 regular meeting with one change to page 2 to reflect Selectmen’s concern that stormwater at Sharon Elementary School be ‘appropriately contained’ *strike* ‘contained on school property’. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Warrants:

Check and payroll warrants were approved, with the exception of a \$3,514 invoice from ATG (Freightliner) regarding Meritor front-end repairs to the 2017 Freightliner 108SD.

Proposed Regional Energy Coordinator Position

Selectmen heard from Thetford Selectboard member Nick Clark regarding Draft 5 of a proposal for a regional energy coordinator to serve 7 communities including Barnard, Norwich, Pomfret, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, and Woodstock.

Kevin Gish made the motion that the Town of Sharon participate in a joint service contract with TRORC as outlined in the Regional Energy Coordinator proposal and budget for an estimated cost of \$5,950.17, pending budget approval(s) on Town Meeting Day. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Road Foreman Reports & Highway Business:

Frank Rogers indicated he had contacted more than three paving companies, but only one (Blaktop) provided an estimate to patch the culvert ditches on Howe Hill prior to winter. The quote from Blaktop is \$2300. Blaktop would be working for approximately ½ day.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the Blaktop quote of \$2300 for pavement patching on Howe Hill. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried. Frank will follow-up with Blaktop.

Columbus Day Holiday: Frank Rogers requested and received permission for the road crew to work on Columbus Day in exchange for a paid holiday the day after Thanksgiving.

Meritor Front-end repairs – Denial of Claims: It was agreed the Selectboard Assistant will inventory the status of claims from other area towns. Selectmen also requested that a letter be sent to ATG indicating the Town will not pay the \$3,514 invoice from August. Frank Rogers will communicate with Patriot beforehand. The Town has been informed the Freightliner extended warranty does not cover the Meritor front-end.

Howe Hill Paving Summer 2020: Frank Roger indicated the Pomfret Selectboard would like to know whether the Town of Sharon will close Howe Hill Road during construction. It was agreed the road will be closed during construction hours (approximately 8am – 5pm), but that one lane will be made available for school buses, local traffic, and emergency vehicles during that time. Frank will report to Pomfret.

Salt Contract: Frank Rogers presented two quotes as follows:

- \$78/ton Cargill (with Barrett Trucking)
- \$78/ton American Rock Salt (through state contract)

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the salt contract with Cargill at \$78/ton for 775 tons of salt. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Baxter Library Driveway Repairs: After further consideration of the complexity of drainage issues in the area of Seven Stars Arts Center and Baxter Library, it was agreed the Town would need the assistance of an engineer to design and permit the project.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve Horizon Engineers' estimate of \$1,800 to prepare an engineering proposal for design and permitting of drainage improvements at Baxter Library. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Joe Ronan reported he will be meeting with Keenan Haley to discuss stormwater management concerns, and at that time he will provide suggestions for contractors to call regarding plowing the school parking lot.

Bond Vote-Public Education Materials: Selectmen further discussed posting information to the Sharon listserv. Roles and responsibilities concerning the October 24 public hearing were agreed to.

Finance Manager Reports:

Long-term disability insurance: Deb Jones presented information regarding the premium costs for various short-term and long-term disability insurance plan offerings. Selectmen expressed support for making this benefit available for January 1st, pending further review and action.

Health Insurance: Selectmen reacted with frustration and concern at the news of the 11% increase in the cost of health insurance premiums associated with the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan most utilized by employees. The Board briefly reviewed Deb Jones' 2020/2021 projections illustrated in employee-employer cost-sharing scenarios. Selectmen will convene in a special meeting on October 28 for a more in-depth review of Blue Cross Blue Shield health plan offerings.

Opioid Litigation:

Joe Ronan reported on his attendance at a VLCT workshop on this topic. Lawyers from the firm representing the Town of Bennington in its suit were present. Joe Ronan explained the merits of participation in the suit. Selectmen Mary Gavin and Kevin Gish agreed with his suggestion that the Town indicate its interest in joining the suit pending more detailed information. Joe Ronan will follow-up.

Joe Ronan also agreed to review and report back to the Board on the class action notice the Town has received with regards to the National Prescription Opiate Litigation.

Unfinished Business:

Website design: Margy Becker will request that Indelible Inc. go live with the new site after the bond vote.

Building Maintenance & Repairs: It was agreed the Town will continue to advertise for a contractor to perform major and minor repairs slated for the Old School House, Town Garage.

Exit 2 Park & Ride Lighting: Selectmen agreed to GMP's proposal for addition of a 129W LED flood light on the pole by Sharon Church. This will cost the Town an additional \$18.36/month in streetlight costs (\$220/year). The LED flood will be directed to the Park & Ride. In order to achieve the desired illumination, however, limbs need to be removed from the forked maple tree at the rear corner of the Church. Margy Becker will follow-up with tree care companies. Selectmen also requested that a letter be sent which puts VTRANS on notice of the need for this additional lighting.

Norwich Technologies: Joe Ronan reported the Selectboard will be receiving documents pertaining to financial assurance of decommissioning (Rte 132 Solar) prior to its next meeting.

Norwich Technologies has also requested that it meet with the Selectboard during its 1st November meeting to renew discussions concerning development of a solar installation on Raymond Road.

Fees for Tax Bill Copies: Selectmen authorized Deb Jones to stop charging a fee for tax bill copies. The issue can be revisited in a year.

Adjournment: Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:33PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker

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