

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes (DRAFT)
Monday, October 21, 2019**

Board Members Attending: Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Board Member Absent: Joe Ronan
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Deb Jones, Frank Rogers
Members of the public: Mary Stoddard, Baxter Library Trustee; Bob Stoddard

Kevin Gish 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 re-ordered agenda. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 regular meeting with two corrections. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Warrants:

Check warrants were approved.

Road Foreman Reports & Highway Business:

Selectmen commended the road crew for the fact there was little road erosion after last week's 2" rainfall on Wednesday. Ditches appear to be functioning well.

Frank Rogers reported the following:

- installation of hardpack on Moore Road is now complete. There was enough material left over for application to Maverick Farm Road;
- **the class 4 section of Dyer Road** will be closed from November 1 through May 1. The crew will put appropriate barricades in place;
- the garage roof is leaking and repairs need to be scheduled; and
- the backhoe has broken down again; JCB is due tomorrow for repairs.

Frank Rogers also indicated he had to cancel Blaktop pavement repairs to culvert trenches on Howe Hill, due to lack of crew for flagging. Selectmen requested outside flaggers be retained in order to have the pavement patching completed as soon as possible.

Bid specifications for a one-ton truck were reviewed and agreed upon. Deb Jones will be distributing and advertising the request for bids.

Horizon's Engineering Proposal: Baxter Library Driveway Repairs

Kevin Gish signed the agreement for services with Horizons' Engineers for preparation of plans and permit applications for drainage improvements in the vicinity of the Baxter Library property. A VTrans State Access and Work Permit will be required to connect to the existing catch basin in the Rte. 14 right-of-way.

Library Trustee Mary Stoddard was informed the repairs will not occur prior to winter. Interim plans were made for removal of snow berms in front of the library this winter.

Bond Vote-Public Education Materials:

Mary Gavin indicated her slide presentation for the public information meeting is complete. The meeting will be held at 7:00PM Thursday October 24th in the music room at the Elementary School, and a projector and screen are available.

Better Roads Grant Application:

Margy Becker reported this year's grant deadline has been extended until November 22nd, due to modifications to the application criteria. Several possible projects were discussed. Margy Becker will contact the Better Roads grant program regarding streambank stabilization projects. The short-span bridge at the bottom of Quimby Mountain Road also needs new headwalls. She will research whether this work could be grant-eligible. A final scope of work and budget will be considered at the next regular meeting.

Executive Session (Personnel):

Motion by Mary Gavin to enter executive session at 7:18PM with the Finance Manager and Road Foreman to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and passed unanimously.

The Selectboard exited from executive session at 7:38PM.

Finance Manager Reports:

Long-term disability insurance: Deb Jones indicated more information regarding premium costs will be available at the subsequent meeting.

2020 Health Insurance: Deb Jones provided Selectmen with requested cost-sharing scenarios for consideration at the special meeting to be warned for October 28th.

FY19 Audit – Status: Field work by Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner PC, the Town's independent auditors, was completed the week of October 7th. The audit report is being reviewed internally.

Opioid Litigation:

No further action is needed at this time and subsequent to the emergency meeting held on Friday, October 18, 2019. At that meeting the Selectboard agreed to join the Town of Bennington in its suit against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Consideration of a separate Notice of Class Action opioid suit will be considered at a November meeting.

4-Town Working Communities Challenge Planning Grant:

Kevin Gish reported the 4-town subcommittees continue to meet. The economic development subcommittee is considering applying for a Working Communities Challenge Planning Grant. An upcoming meeting with the Royalton Selectboard will determine the configuration of towns that will be party to the application.

Norwich Technologies:

Norwich Technologies still has not submitted the financial assurance of decommissioning documents for the Rte. 132 solar installation, though repeatedly promised. Selectmen have been apprised by Norwich Technologies that it would like to discuss with the Selectboard its plans to proceed with the Raymond Road net-metered project at a November meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Animal Control: Margy Becker reported on the status of complaints regarding dogs running-at-large in the vicinity of Downer and Beaver Meadow roads. An agreement for temporary impoundment of stray dogs delivered *by authorized town officials or representatives* is still under review by Country Animal Hospital in Bethel.

Additional Lighting – Exit 2 Park & Ride: Margy Becker reported GMP has scheduled installation of the new LED flood light on the pole by the Church this week. Hendersons' Tree Services will trim limbs on the maple the week of October 28th.

Building Maintenance & Repairs: Loewen has agreed to send an installer to provide an estimate for installing the new OSH basement windows stored in the basement. Loewen's installer will also be asked to inspect the frame to the emergency exit window, which has reportedly also deteriorated.

Windows 10 Upgrades: Margy Becker reported Mike Tisdale will provide Windows 10 upgrades for the Town Clerk and SB Assistant computers on Thursday, Oct. 24th.

Meritor Claim: Neighboring towns will be surveyed regarding how many claims they each have submitted to Meritor. Margy Becker will report back at a future meeting.

Adjournment:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:41PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by, Margy Becker