

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Minutes (Final)  
Monday, September 9, 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 reports TSA students will be participating in the Climate Strike scheduled for September 20. Student have asked whether they could display a banner on town property. Selectmen granted permission for display of a banner on the Town green.

Mary Gavin reported the Town's contract with South Royalton Rescue expires in December. The Advisory Committee is considering asking Tunbridge and Sharon to enter into 5-year contracts. She explained plans for absorption of the rescue service by the Town of Royalton. Kevin Gish and Joe Ronan indicated they would be willing to consider a longer contract period.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 regular meeting with changes as noted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of Warrants:**

Check and payroll warrants were approved.

**Road Foreman Reports & Highway Business:**

Frank reported **crack sealing** is scheduled for Wednesday on the upper portions of Rte. 132 and, if budget allows, Beaver Meadow Road. A majority of **winter sand** has been hauled to stockpile. The new **York Rake** has arrived, and it has been used on Fay Brook Road. The crew has taken delivery of equipment pertaining to safety improvements of the mezzanine. Selectmen further discussed the status of recent repairs to the 2018 Freightliner 4 x 4. The Town is in negotiations with Freightliner and Meritor regarding the front-end warranty. Frank reports that maintenance logs are being kept on all vehicles. Deb Jones commented the specifications for replacement of the one-ton, which is scheduled for replacement in this fiscal year, still need to be developed.

**Paving Capital Improvement Plan and Bond Vote:**

After consideration of additional analyses of bond payment schedules for a \$1.1 million bond (face value) and estimated impacts on budgets and tax rates over a 10-year period, Selectmen agreed to proceed with requesting voter approval of a \$1.1 million bond.

**The Selectmen will hold the public information meeting/hearing regarding the bond vote on Thursday, October 24, 7PM at Sharon Elementary School. The bond vote will be held Tuesday, October 29. Australian ballot voting will take place 7AM – 7PM at Sharon Elementary School.**

The bond resolution, warning, and ballot were reviewed. The Board will approve these documents on September 16. Public education materials were briefly discussed.

**Baxter Library parcel drainage improvements:**

It was agreed Joe Ronan will continue to follow-up with Keenan Haley, Principal of Sharon Elementary School, regarding information about stormwater containment on the school property. The Selectboard is considering drainage improvements on the Baxter Library parcel and driveway to better manage snow melt and runoff from the school parcel. Selectboard action to accept the Horizons Engineering proposal (\$1800) for design of these drainage improvements was postponed.

**Long-Term Disability Insurance:**

Deb Jones continues to gather pricing information on LTD insurance.

**October Meeting Schedule:**

Selectmen agreed to add a special meeting to their schedule for Monday, October 28, 2019. The meeting will be dedicated to discussions on health insurance benefits for FY20.

**Request for Conveyance of Leased Lands – Maverick Farm:**

Selectmen agreed to the conveyance of municipal lease lands as proposed, and Margy Becker will follow-up with Mr. Berndt's attorney concerning preparation of the deed. Selectmen noted Mr. Berndt's intent to convey an interest in the property to VT Land Trust.

**Website Re-Design: Status**

Margy Becker reported she had again met with Indelible, Inc. last week. The staged site is up, more photos are needed, and she is still having to develop new page content throughout the site. Margy will be asking town officials and Chairs of boards and commissions for assistance.

**Country Animal Hospital: Proposed Agreement for Strays:**

Selectmen discussed the need for an Animal Control Officer and board members agreed to a compensation rate of \$50 per incident plus out-of-pocket expenses for compensation. Margy Becker will continue to post announcements concerning the vacant position.

Selectmen are in receipt of a copy of Country Animal Hospital's ("CAH") agreement with the Town of Bethel for the impoundment of stray animals. The Town of Sharon currently lacks such an arrangement with a kennel or veterinary service. During brief discussions Selectmen noted their intent to pay board and vaccination fees only associated with animals delivered to CAH by a town representative. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **VLCT Opioid Action Forum – September 18:**

It was agreed that Selectboard member Kevin Gish or Joe Ronan will attend a portion of this daytime forum. Town staff will be busy collecting taxes that day.

### **Selectboard Assistant Reports/Unfinished Business:**

Margy Becker provided a status report on Old School House maintenance action items. A new contractor is now needed to install basement windows that have been delivered. Margy Becker will continue to research the cost to purchase and installation of a storage shed for garbage, recycling materials, and other items. Bids still need to be gathered for light ballast upgrades to LED's. Ballasts at the Baxter Library also need to be replaced.

Deb Jones reported the VLCT PACIF inspection of the Old School House and Town Office grounds resulted in a finding concerning lack of ADA-compliant grab rails on the rear steps to the OSH.

Selectmen agreed Mike Tisdale will be asked to submit a proposal for ongoing staff training regarding cybersecurity policies and best practices. Action on his proposal for managed IT services was postponed.

Joe Ronan will follow-up with Norwich Technologies ("NT") on terms agreed to for a decommissioning fund for the Rte. 132 solar installation. He will ask NT to proceed with preparation of documents for Selectboard approval and signature.

Kevin Gish will contact the Windsor County Sheriff Department concerning enforcement of the State law banning texting while driving. A recent vehicle collision next to Sharon Congregational Church may have been caused by distracted driving. Deb Jones commented there may be state grants available to help fund installation of signals at the cross walk, if they are allowed there. The State of Vermont owns the section of Rte. 132 between the interstate and Rte. 14.

**Adjournment: Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:40PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.**

Submitted by, Margy Becker