

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes (Final)
September 17, 2018

Selectboard Members present: Kevin Gish (Chair), Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin

Visitors: Becky Owens, Emergency Co-Coordinator; Mary Russ, White River Partnership; Luke Pettengill; Robert Potter, Animal Control Officer; Joel Stettenheim, Norwich Technologies; Dan Jones, Jones Custom Carpentry.

Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Frank Rogers

Kevin Gish convened the meeting at 6:30pm.

Selectboard Member Reports:

Mary Gavin initiated follow-up discussions pertaining to Sharon Energy Committee's 'Community Resiliency Day'. The topic was 'vulnerable populations' and what can the Town could do for them in emergencies. Becky Owens announced Vermont 2-1-1 has a form for residents to fill out to indicate they need assistance to evacuate in case of emergency. Folks should submit it to Vermont 2-1-1. This form will be made available to residents through the Town and Sharon's Community Nurse, Sandy Singer. Becky also described the 'Circle of Care' that is in place throughout Sharon, which comprises of neighbors looking in on neighbors.

Public Comments:

Mary Russ commented on the White River Partnership's plans for access to the 'Sharon Ledges' parcel and river access on South Rte. 14. Parking plans for the Rikert Parcel off River Road are also under review with the Vermont River Conservancy ("VRC"). Annual review of the 'Management Plan' for that parcel has been completed, with input from Sharon's local steward of the property (Sue Sellow), the VRC, and the White River Partnership, and Sharon Conservation Commission.

Luke Pettengill informed Selectmen the Public Utility Commission will support the Town in its efforts to get Consolidated Communications to remove abandoned utility poles remaining along utility lines that have recently been upgraded. But the Town should submit a letter requesting the PUC's assistance. The utility lines of concern stretch along Rte. 14 in the Village, up Rte. 132 and along Fay Brook Road. Staff agreed to prepare the letter for Selectboard review and approval.

Approval of Minutes:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2018 as submitted. Joe Ronan seconded and the motion carried 3-0-0.

Highway Business:

- 1. Road Foreman Reports:** Frank Rogers reported Wyatt Stulz would charge \$6200 to build a sand screen. Other towns have relied upon road crew members to construct and

repair sand screens, but these undertakings can be time intensive. Welding is involved. Selectmen expressed preference to contract out the welding services. Frank will continue to research costs and report again on October 1st.

Sharon road crew has completed hauling winter sand. Shoulder work along Rte. 132 is now underway. Blaktop's final invoice for the paving job was reviewed. The invoice is for \$15,517 more than the estimate that was approved by the Selectboard. Blaktop indicates the price of asphalt increased twice before the Sharon project got underway. The Town and Blaktop will continue to negotiate a final payment.

2. **RoadBiotics Presentation:** Selectmen viewed a brief online presentation about a new road condition assessment tool that relies upon artificial intelligence.
3. **Soil Borings:** Selectmen discussed information on the costs of pavement and soil borings. The 2015 Paving CIP recommends soils analyses be performed on roads slated for pavement rehabilitation or full reconstruction. It was noted that a proposal from M&W Soils Engineering would provide basic, yet necessary, information about underlying conditions on Howe Hill Road. **Mary Gavin made the motion to accept M&W Soils' proposal in the amount of \$2,450. Joe Ronan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Norwich Technologies – Rte. 132 Solar:

Joel Stettenheim, President of Norwich Technologies, met with Selectmen to resume consideration of a 'letter of credit' to assure the Rte. 132 solar array is decommissioned properly. Joel Stettenheim continues to maintain the language in a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Town of Sharon, as negotiated during the Public Utility Commission review process, was derived from decommissioning language for larger arrays. He now proposes that Norwich Technologies grant the Town a fixed sum, in the amount of \$5,239, which – when invested at a rate of 7.5% - would increase in value and provide assurance of proper decommissioning. Selectmen did not take formal action on this suggestion, but the topic will be on the October 1st agenda for further discussions.

Dog Bite Incident – Enforcement of Animal Control Ordinance:

Selectmen met briefly with Robert Potter, Animal Control Officer, to discuss enforcement procedures subsequent to report of a dog bite incident. A letter will be sent to the dog owners that requires immediate licensing of the dog with the Town and confinement or muzzling of the dog when visitors are present in the home. Robert Potter will follow-up with an on-site visit.

Building Repairs & Maintenance:

Dan Jones reported on his recommendations for repairs to the Gazebo on the Village Green, as a result of his inspection. **Mary Gavin made the motion to accept Dan Jones's estimate of \$1,947 for repairs to the Gazebo. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.**

Dan Jones further reported on a proposal as to how to move forward with painting the handicapped ramp at the Old School House within budget. Selectmen expressed agreement with

the suggestion to postpone painting white trim and concentrate on painting the stairs and ramp. Dan requested that only plastic shovels be used to clear the decking of snow.

Baxter Library Well Distribution System Repairs:

Melissa Shekinah, owner of #5114 VT Rte. 14 next to Seven Stars Arts Center, reports her water comes from the well on the Baxter Library parcel. Along with these water rights comes an obligation for maintenance of the distribution system to her house from the well. Yet she has no “kill switch” in the house and has to rely upon entry to the Library to access the ‘shut off’ in that basement.

Melissa further reported there was a break in the distribution line (old galvanized piping) in May, which she had to have repaired for a cost of approximately \$300. There is still an issue with the pump, as it is continually running. Hence more repairs to the system are needed.

Melissa requested 1) access to the shut-off valve in the Library, 2) that the Town kindly split the cost of repairs to-date, since she has not been able to access the Library.

Selectmen agreed that Melissa will be given the Library access code, subject to the approval of Library Trustees. They also requested that Melissa transmit a copy of the repair bill to the Town. Selectmen will further discuss the issue of well repairs on October 1st. An agreement between the Town and Library trustees concerning operations and maintenance of the Library will likely be revisited.

Executive Session:

Mary Gavin made the motion to enter executive session at 8:45PM with the Road Foreman to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Board exited executive session at 9:00PM.

Installation of GaGa Ball Pit at Town Offices:

Kevin Gish reported Sharon Academy Middle School is requesting approval from the Selectboard for installation of ‘GaGa Ball Pit’ apparatus behind the Town Offices. He further reported he had met with Andrew Lane to identify a location for the apparatus, which is portable. The TSA envisions 3-season use of the ‘Pit’. The sideboards are approximately 18” high. The Board’s consideration of TSA’s request concluded with Board members expressing general support of the idea. But town staff was asked to research insurance options available to the Town for 3rd party use of town property for this type of recreation. Selectboard discussions on the topic will resume at their next meeting on October 1st.

Adjournment:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:26PM. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Margy Becker