

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes (Draft)
Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

The meeting was held via teleconference and pursuant to the most recent revisions to the Vermont Open Meeting Law enabling all participants to dial-in remotely.

Roll call attendance via teleconference:

Selectboard Members: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin
Staff: Deb Jones, Finance Manager, Margy Becker, Selectboard Assistant
Frank Rogers, Road Foreman; Debra St. Peter, Town Clerk
Residents: Dick Ruben, Scott Chesnut (Sharon Conservation Commission)

The Chair convened the meeting at 7:30AM as warned.

Review and Approve Agenda:

Kevin Gish made the motion, which was seconded by Mary Gavin, to approve the agenda with one modification to note postponement of discussions on a Horizons Engineering invoicing matter. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

There were none.

Board Member Reports:

Kevin Gish provided brief status reports of recent conversations with residents concerned about the continued illegal activities occurring on the Harlow Road property in Royalton adjacent to the Sharon/Royalton town line. Kevin reports he witnessed at least 6 visiting cars which were idling in the driveway, when he recently passed by. A resident has witnessed people leaving the driveway and then pulling over on Harlow or Broad Brook roads and injecting themselves. The Rikert Trail remains closed by the Upper Valley Land Trust, upon advice of the VSP. Kevin reports he has again talked with Windsor County Sheriff's Department regarding more frequent patrols. It appears Royalton Police are now patrolling more frequently as well. While acknowledging the Board would not be privy to the nature of the VSP ongoing investigations there, Selectboard members expressed increasing concerns about the impacts imposed on the wider area by this situation. Board members discussed plans to call into the Royalton Selectboard meeting scheduled for that evening.

Mary Gavin reported have recently seen two state police vehicles parked alongside Rte. 14 south below Quimby Mountain Road, and in the vicinity of the Marc Wood and Colson properties. She expressed concern that there may be more widespread public safety issues in town than the Board is unaware of.

In subsequent yet brief discussions, Selectmen also noted the lavender travel trailer in the vicinity of the Wood/Colson properties has been replaced by a larger motor home. Selectmen conjectured whether travel trailers and/or motor homes will become the new “house”, reflecting the lack of affordable housing and increased unemployment in town due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Joe Ronan reported that in the most recent IC Team meeting, it was noted that Sharon Food Shelf remains in good shape with food supplies and donations. The Fire Department COVID 19 fund has received donations of approximately \$2,000. Keenan Haley has reported the SES breakfast/lunch delivery program continues without any issues.

Minutes of April 20, 2020 Regular Meeting:

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting with one minor change. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2020 GreenUp Day Planning:

Dick Ruben and Scott Chesnut joined the meeting. Selectmen expressed their appreciation with the SCC’s continued willingness to coordinate GreenUP Day. However, Selectmen noted that in a recent state-level COVID 19 emergency response meeting, municipalities were discouraged from sanctioning GreenUp Day this year because the event encourages people to ‘congregate’. Dick Ruben explained GreenUP day plans this year could discourage people from ‘congregating’ and Sharon’s roadsides really need to be cleaned up. Selectmen concurred.

Dick explained the Town will have to pay the tip fee at Lebanon Landfill this year, as Lebanon will not waive the \$75/ton tip fee. He estimates the Town collects 1 to 1.5 tons of trash. There will be no collection of tires, metals, or recyclables this year.

Deb Jones clarified the budget available for 2020 GreenUp, and plans were made to proceed with **GreenUp Day for May 30th**. It was agreed the Town will provide a truck at the town garage from 8:30 to 1:00PM for bag drop-off. Only trash in GreenUp day bags will be accepted. Conservation Commission volunteers will assist with unloading bags and depositing them into the truck. Vehicles will be encouraged to leave the site after bag drop off.

Residents and SCC volunteers will be advised to adhere to social distancing requirements, and to wear masks while collecting or depositing trash in the presence of others. All volunteers are encouraged to use gloves while collecting and handling trash. There will be no social event scheduled at the end of the day. Dick Ruben will coordinate distribution of bags to residents. Please watch the Sharon listserv for announcements.

Road Foreman Reports:

It was agreed the River Road culver replacement project could begin. Frank Rogers will contact RL Nott to schedule.

Joe Ronan will contact Pike Industries to discuss the latest VTRANS phased 'restart' guidance, which seems to indicate out-of-state workers will not be allowed on VT construction sites. He will also inquire about what changes are occurring in the asphalt index pricing.

Covid 19 Updates:

Selectmen, staff, and Town Clerk Debra St. Peter began consideration of what a phased reopening of the Town Offices might look like. It was generally agreed it will be many months before business will resume as usual. There are many variables to consider, including access to the building, working in relative isolation within the building, the potential need for physical improvements to the interior, continued support to staff for remote work, requirements for workplace health and safety officers, temperature monitoring, and adoption of new policies and procedures related to safe return-to-work. Provision of services via electronic means will become a priority. Additionally, the Selectboard will need to consider several budget scenarios. September's collection of the 1st installment of property taxes for FY2021 will be a potential indicator of the revenue situation going forward.

These discussions will resume Thursday morning, April 30, at 7:30AM and continue to be part of upcoming agendas. Thursday morning's meeting will include consideration of policies, procedures, and training required to comply with Addendum 11 to the Governor's Executive Order and related VTRANS phased 'restart' guidance documents from April 20 and April 27th.

It was agreed Jack Jones will assist the Town Clerk to install a plexiglass barricade around her desk. It was agreed procurement policy requirements would be waived in this instance. The Selectboard agreed the Clerk should accommodate requests for title searches which cannot be delayed and to provide corresponding in-office appointments as-needed. Title searchers and attorneys will be asked to use the conference room. The Town Clerk will provide vault materials to them.

Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones reported on the excellent Finance Workshop she participated in. She has already been in touch with the Town's two banks to discuss the potential need for short-term borrowing (Mascoma Bank and Community Bank, NA.) Both banks are willing to help. The State talked about 'inter-fund' borrowing, and Deb will present the Selectboard with details about how this might work for the Town. The community disaster loan program (via FEMA) was discussed, though this is not an official option at this point. Deb further reported the problem for the Town will be trying to project revenue shortfalls.

Other Business:

Joe Ronan reports he will be participating in an upcoming teleconference regarding the **opioid litigation**.

Approval of Warrants:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the Payroll Warrant for the period ending April 25, 2020 with a cash draw of \$13,369.27. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve check warrant #1019 in the amount of \$9,843.62, inclusive of payment of invoices from Chase Site Services, Consolidated Communications, Countryside Property Management, Deb Jones, Evans Motor Fuels, Foley Services, and Green Mountain Power. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

There was some discussion of the precedent that would be set by paying volunteer requests for reimbursement of certain COVID 19 mileage expenses. The Board ultimately agreed to proceed to reimburse IC team members for mileage to and from IC meetings. It was noted that in order for FEMA to reimburse the Town for COVID 19-related expenses, the expenses have to have been paid.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve check warrant #1020 in the amount of \$1,039.29, inclusive of payment of invoices from Magee Office Supplies, McCullough Crushing, Rebecca Owens, Royal Auto Parts, Sabil & Sons, Inc., Susan Root, and US Bank. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:43AM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by, Margy Becker