

SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, JUNE 1, 2020
Minutes (DRAFT)

*The meeting was held via teleconference and pursuant to Open Meeting
Law amendments in place for COVID 19.*

Attendance confirmed via roll call:

Selectboard Members:

Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin;

Staff:

Deb Jones (Finance Manager), Margy Becker (Selectboard Assistant), Frank Rogers (Road Foreman);

Town Officials:

Debbie St. Peter, Town Clerk; Nathan Potter, Fire Chief;

Public Participating:

Brad Atwood, Vince Gross, Colleen LeBaron (?)
(residents), Sue Sellew, Ira Clark (Planning Commission),
VSP Troopers Lyon and Knapp; Skip Vallee (RL Vallee),
Chris Galipeau, CEA Associates;

The meeting was called to order by Joe Ronan at 6:30PM.

1. **Review Approve Agenda:**

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and carried unanimously.

2. **Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

3. **Review & Approve Minutes:**

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2020 special meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and carried unanimously.

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 5PM special meeting as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen suspended approval of minutes for the May 18, 2020 regular meeting and the Tuesday, June 26th special 7:30AM meeting. Action will be warned for June 9th.

4. **Road Foreman Reports:**

Frank Rogers reported on the completion of the Fay Brook Road pavement reclamation and River Road culvert trench paving. Another culvert on Howe Hill will have to be replaced. This one is located above Moore Road. A culvert is scheduled for replacement on Fay Brook Road, as part of the paving project.

5. **Appointment of Truck Loan Signer:**

Mary Gavin made the motion to authorize the Chair to sign the \$80,000 loan with Community Bank NA for a 5 year period at 2.57%. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

6. **FY21 Crack Sealing – Bid Award:**

Nicom has bid \$2.45/lb. and Indus (formerly Sealcoating) bid \$1.66/lb. Indus has confirmed its bid includes the cost of traffic control, in compliance with the bid specifications. Indus has provided crack sealing services for the Town over the past several years.

Mary Gavin made the motion to accept Indus' bid of \$1.66/lb for FY21 crack sealing of River Road and segments of Rte. 132 as directed by the Road Foreman, for a budget not-to-exceed \$15,000. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

7. **Vermont State Police: Intelligence-based Policing**

Kevin Gish, who has been acting as the Town's liaison recently with the VSP, introduced Troopers Lyon and Knapp. The VSP is aware that the Town is seeking more feedback from them concerning investigations into alleged criminal activities occurring on the Digby property in Royalton. Sharon residents are also demanding more disclosure concerning VSP presence noted recently in the Harlow Road area. Kevin pointed out that the VSP is also seeking more feedback from communities, to aid its community policing efforts.

Trooper Lyon reported last week's VSP presence in town had been connected to a medical incident. Troopers Lyon and Knapp then spoke generally about intelligence-based policing ("IBP"). An example of information that would help VSP investigations of the Harlow Road situation is information on vehicle makes, model or color, plate numbers, and dates and times a vehicle is seen. He suggested the Towns of Royalton and Sharon also 'ramp up' enforcement of local ordinances, as another approach for activating a response from the VSP. He noted the towns should consider condemnation of one or more of the structures being occupied on the property, enforcement of fire codes, enforcement of highway laws that prevent obstruction of highway rights-of-way, enforcement of noise ordinances, etc.

Troopers Lyon and Knapp assured members of the Selectboard and public that they do coordinate intelligence with other agencies. More troopers are being hired in June. They noted the VSP has been conducting Wednesday evening IBP meetings in Tunbridge, which are open to residents of surrounding communities. The IBP phone number and email address will be shared with Sharon community.

8. **RL Vallee d/b/a Sharon Trading Post: Preliminary Act 250 Application**

Skip Vallee (RL Vallee) and Chris Galipeau (CEA Associates) provided a summary of the Act 250 application being prepared for site and building improvements. Historic building improvements will include an addition to the rear of the store which mirrors the existing

attached shed and addition of exterior handicapped access ramp. Site improvements include better delineation of parking, ADA-accessible sidewalks, and landscaping that will result in better circulation of pedestrians and vehicles in the parking lot. They will be requesting amendments to existing state wastewater and water supply permits. There is a plan to provide indoor seating of up to 18 seats. The upstairs apartment will not be rented. Mary Gavin inquired about proposed roof materials for the addition. Skip Vallee indicated the material will simulate slate. Sue Sellev pointed out the proposed cupola is not a historic feature and Skip Vallee agreed. Ira Clark inquired about wastewater permit amendments. Skip Vallee reported he is researching the capacity of the two septic systems to the left of the building. He may consider a 'lot merger'. Ira Clark inquired about calculations of impervious areas for the purposes of storm water permitting. Skip Vallee concluded remarks by indicating he is hoping to provide more space between aisles inside the store, as it appears the COVID situation will be with us for a while. He noted that when the Act 250 application is finalized and submitted, the Town and Planning Commission will have party status in subsequent proceedings.

9. **Crescent Lake Dam – Draft “Emergency Action Plan”:**

Nathan Potter indicated he has reviewed the draft EAP which, in his opinion, needs more work. He then informed the Selectboard of the scope of his notifications to the neighboring fire departments and Hartford Dispatch and arrangements in place for mutual aid in the event of a dam breach. It was noted Luis Bango would be available to discuss the draft EAP at future meetings. The topic will remain on upcoming Selectboard agendas. Mary Gavin suggested the EAP be reviewed annually, when the Town updates its Local Emergency Management Plan.

10. **Community Policing:**

A plan for researching community policing options was agreed to. Mary Gavin agreed to contact the Town of Bridgewater regarding their reliance on the Windsor County Sheriff's Department. Margy Becker will contact the VLCT community policing specialist. The Selectboard agreed to inquire in January whether the Royalton Police Department would consider a policing contract with Sharon. Action on renewal of the Windsor County Sheriff's current contract with the Town will be considered at the June 9th Selectboard meeting.

Joe Ronan stated he is unclear how the Sheriff Department's performance under the existing contract is to be "evaluated". Staff explained the Selectboard's approach has been to tie performance under these traffic control contracts to public feedback and budget impacts.

11. **Junkyard Ordinance:**

Selectmen will continue review of the draft ordinance at the June 15 meeting. Brief discussions concerning enforcement of the ordinance occurred. Mary Gavin suggested the Town address some of the impediments to cleaning up properties – i.e. the cost of disposing of tires, junk vehicles, and other large items considered to be household trash.

12. Coronavirus Planning/Updates:

Margy Becker provided a brief summary of the IC meeting held earlier in the afternoon. Keenan Haley has reported that plans for distribution of breakfast/lunches over the summer remain uncertain. He will attempt to report more on the actual costs of sustaining this program at the next IC meeting. First responders noted their frustration that the Town has not proceeded with issuing replacement 911 numbers throughout town.

13. Finance Manager Reports:

Meritor's response to the Town's recent letter was discussed. Joe Ronan will follow-up with Meritor to arrange a meeting.

14. Approval of Warrants:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve check warrant #1034 in the amount of \$1,118.66 for payments to Compucount for payroll processing (\$148.10), Consolidated Communications for telephone fees (\$300.89), EC Fiber for telephone fees (\$79), GMP for electricity (\$488.97), and to Magee for office supplies (\$101.70). Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve check warrant #1035 in the amount of \$29,265.89 inclusive of payments to RL Nott Excavation for excavation services (2,080), Sabil & Sons for fuel (\$164.01), Sharon Fire Department for the balance of its annual appropriation (\$24,075), US Bank for copier expense (\$143.10), Valley News for advertising fees (\$51.00), Vital Communities for its FY20 appropriation (\$100), VMERS DB for May 2020 retirement payable (2,652.78). Mary Gavin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen suspended approval of warrant #1036 in the amount of \$7,413 payable to Boynton Construction pending interior inspection. Kevin Gish and Margy Becker will follow-up with Andrew Lane to gain access to the Old School House.

15. Adjournment:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 9:25PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by,
Margy Becker