

# SHARON SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**  
**Minutes (DRAFT)**

*This meeting was held in compliance  
With the Vermont Open Meeting Law with electronic participation.*

Attendance confirmed via roll call:

Selectboard Members via Zoom: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin;

Staff via Zoom: Margy Becker (Selectboard Assistant), Frank Rogers (Road Foreman)

Members of Public via Zoom: Patricia Beavers, P2 Environmental; Andrew Lane (The Sharon Academy Middle School)

Chair Joe Ronan convened the meeting at 7:30AM via roll call.

## **1. Review/Approve Agenda:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the agenda without changes. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.**

## **2. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments apart from comments received on warned agenda items.

## **3. Consideration of Water System Treatment Options:**

Patricia Beavers, Water System Operator for the Elementary School water system (which feeds water to the Old School House, Town Offices, and Church) explained that complaints about taste and odors from TSA students and Town Office personnel had prompted her to collect a series of samples culminating on June 30. The results were reviewed and discussed. The water continues to be potable. There is elevated manganese, which she has been tracking over time. The water is very hard. Samples did not confirm presence of sulfur as a gas, though the smell is evident at faucets in both buildings and in certain elementary school locations. After reviewing her sample results with VT DEC personnel, her treatment recommendation is to install a softener in the Old School House basement. Raw water comes into the OSH. It is not circulated through the elementary school's ion exchange/softener before being distributed to the OSH, Town Offices, and Church.

**Kevin Gish made the motion that P2 Environmental proceed to purchase and install a water softener in the Old School House basement for a cost not to exceed \$2,000, and to proceed with more regular filter changeouts in the OSH, Town Offices, and Church.**

## **4. Consideration of Old School House Upgrades to Air Circulation:**

Andrew Lane briefly summarized TSA's plans to reopen, hopefully on August 26. Of great concern is air circulation in the old wood frame building. Though Efficiency VT may be the source of grant monies for major upgrades addressing the heating and cooling setup for the building, Andrew's immediate concern is increased ventilation for the bathrooms. He is awaiting a quote from Alliance Mechanical. The exhaust fans would run 24/5. He hopes to have the work done prior to school opening.

Andrew inquired how the building ventilation upgrades should be paid for. The lease puts the burden on TSA for improvements related to educational use. But improved ventilation could be construed to be the Town's responsibility. Andrew asked for Selectboard input. Joe Ronan indicated he thought there was a 'public interest' in proposed improvements, but that he would like more information. Mary Gavin asked for more information, noting the Town had invested a lot of money recently into two new boilers. Kevin Gish concurred there was a public interest in increased building ventilation. It was agreed Andrew Lane will forward Alliance's estimate for bathroom ventilation. Discussions on this issue will continue into the next meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**5. Dog Issues/Need for ACO:**

Margy Becker provided a report on two incidents related to dogs. One involved an actual in-home dog bite (of a visiting health care worker), the other concerns complaints about dogs perpetually running-at-large. These same dogs are aggressive towards other dogs. They have been observed wandering on Town Farm Road. A plan was made for follow-up to both incidents. Mary Gavin agreed to supply contact information for a person who might consider being appointed animal control officer.

**6. Road Foreman Reports:**

Frank Rogers reported Pike is finishing up work on shoulders and driveway aprons this week. Selectboard members agreed to place Jon Harrington's most recent field report on the agenda for discussion August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Frank asked for additional time on the agenda at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting, in order to provide several reports that will need the Board's consideration.

It was agreed Frank will install "Road Narrows Ahead" signs on the east and westbound approaches to the Richard Johnson property (cape and roadside barn above pond) on Beaver Meadow Road. Kevin Gish will research the availability of "Share the Road" signs.

Margy Becker will research the status of the Town's eligibility for another Bike Pedestrian planning grant. The Town had been the recipient of this type of grant in 2006.

**7. Corona Virus Planning:**

Mary Gavin reported on the July 27th COVID Incident Command meeting reports from town organizations.

Many of the reports were focused on increased demand at the food shelf and plans for school reopening. The TSA plans to observe a 2/3 model, which means the building is at 50% occupancy on a given day with Wednesdays reserved for extra cleaning. Keenan Haley indicates the SES daily schedule is still in development. An in-person 5-day/week with reduced hours is an option. He announced the upcoming virtual meeting with parents on Thursday, July 30. The school start date has been delayed. SES is looking for a tent. It was suggested he contact the National Guard.

Keenan also reported on plans underway for SES to host the August 11 State Primary in-person voting in the school gym.

Sharon Food Shelf reports it has plenty of food (including fresh produce). A grant has been procured to replace the freezer. Food has been put outside on picnic tables due to increased demand.

Mary Gavin noted she reported on plans being made for collection of property tax payments due September 16. People should mail in their payments. Cash payments will only be allowed by appointment. The Selectboard is carefully monitoring the budget and is planning for a revenue shortfall. But the actual extent of this shortfall will not be known until late September.

Becky Owens has reported South Royaltown Rescue is in good shape. She has posters encouraging mask use to distribute. Sharon Fire Department is resuming some of its training, but training is limited due to social distancing requirements. The backyard burn ban has been lifted. Greg Elder reports there has not been a demand for Covid 19 volunteers to-date. Karen Gray, SHI, explained she must have a referral to conduct a well-check. She is unable to make 'cold calls'. She is resuming office hours at the Lighthouse on Fridays. Visits will be by appointment only.

Selectmen agreed to transition to Zoom as the platform for upcoming remote meetings, until it is known whether Microsoft Teams is another viable option.

8. **Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:40AM made by Mary Gavin. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Joe Ronan  
Kevin Gish  
Mary Gavin