

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 17, 2020
Minutes (Draft)**

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

Attendance:

Selectboard Members via Zoom: Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin;
Staff via Zoom: Margy Becker (Selectboard Assistant), Frank Rogers (Road Foreman), Deb Jones (Finance Manager)
Members of Public via Zoom: Ira Clark; Steve Gagliardone; Beth Mayer; Loretta Kittle; Marian & Jim Weatherbee, Sandy & Warren Johnston.

1. **Call to Order:**

Chair Joe Ronan convened the meeting at 6:30PM via Zoom.

2. **Review/Approve Agenda:**

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

3. **Public Comments:**

There were no public comments unrelated to warned business items.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of August 6 and August 10 minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

5. **Road Foreman Reports:**

Frank Rogers reported briefly on road crew operations. Hard pack is being hauled. D&D will start hauling winter sand shortly. The crew plans to top dress Cross Road. Frank reports he plans to change out five more culverts this season.

2020 Paving: Pike is behind in its invoicing. Mary Gavin reported she has already noted a shoulder failure along Fay Brook Road, where paving had occurred. The crew will check this out. Mary also commented on the culvert length at a location on River Road. Joe Ronan provided a brief status report on recent phone call with Meritor.

6. **Better Roads Grant for Storm Water Improvements – Moore Road:**

Mary Gavin made the motion to award the bid for excavator services for storm water improvements on Moore Road to RL Nott for the rate of \$80/hour. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the Better Roads grant agreement for Moore Road Storm Water Improvements, and to authorize the Chair to sign. Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The State award is for \$9,252.00.

Frank Rogers requested, and the Selectboard agreed, that RL Nott be retained to assist with one culvert replacement on Moore Road after the ditching project was completed. It is estimated that this involves an approximate \$800 - \$1,000 subcontractor expense.

7. **Sharon Rink Committee:**

Ira Clark and Steve Gagliardone spoke on behalf of the Sharon Rink Committee, which is requesting use of town recreation funds to help support its volunteer effort to construct a storage shed on the elementary school grounds. The shed will house the rink liner, boards, lights, and other pieces of equipment which are, currently, stored in scattered fashion around the grounds. The committee has been in existence since 2012. Ira and Steve noted the rink is used not only by school kids but by many adults. Pick-up hockey nights and tournaments are a big draw. The Rink Committee donates proceeds from fund raising events to Sharon Fire Department, which helps flood the rink.

The School District and Recreation Committee both have expressed support for the project. The Recreation Committee, however, asked that the Selectboard make the decision to grant \$3,000 from the recreation fund in support of lumber and materials.

Deb Jones explained the fund balance in the recreation fund has dwindled to \$14,000, since the town has not replenished funds in several years. The recreation fund continues to support annual expenses associated with youth sports and summer camp. The fund balance had been as high as \$38 - \$40,000, since the voters had appropriated extra funds one year in support of a recreation director. A director was never hired.

Steve Gagliardone explained the school district has provided funds to support the rink in the past, including purchase of a new liner. After further discussions it was noted that the school has an account at Bethel Mills, where materials were purchased. **Kevin Gish made the motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$3,000 in recreation funds to reimburse the school district for construction of the rink shed based on submittal of invoices from Bethel Mills. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Old School House Air Circulation – Improvements:**

Margy Becker indicated Andrew Lane and TSA are still awaiting notice as to TSA's eligibility for a major grant for HVAC improvements.

The water softener has been installed, and the question remains who should be responsible for maintaining salt levels. Margy Becker will follow-up with P2 Environmental.

9. **Health Officer Report:**

Interim Health Officer Joe Ronan reported on the emergency health order that has been issued to Dylan McCullough as owner of rental housing at 880 Broad Brook Road. The Town will continue to advertise for a health officer.

10. **Animal Control Matters:**

Margy Becker reported on a dog complaint on Eastman Road, and that she had met with the owner. Several violations of the dog ordinance were noted. Selectmen discussed additional enforcement measures to be taken. It was agreed the whole community needs to be reminded the dog ordinance requires that dogs be confined to the owner's property, unless on a leash or otherwise under voice command. Dogs are required to be licensed and vaccinated. Brief discussions ensued regarding the possibility of combining the Animal Control Officer position with the Constable position, which was how Roland Potter served the town for many years. Perhaps this combination of duties might draw more interest in the position. The Town will continue to advertise both vacancies.

11. **Finance Manager Reports:**

Deb Jones reported that work on the website is under way to enable options for online payments of property taxes. She hopes to have these options functional well in advance of the September 16 due date for the first installment. Tax bills have just been mailed. The Delinquent Tax Collector has just brought in \$5,000 in collections, which Deb has not accounted for in her revenue projections to-date.

An intercom system and remote rear door entry hardware is to be installed this week at the Town Offices. Selectmen did not have any questions on financials presented to-date. Mary Gavin noted a VT Digger article that reports on a projected \$300 million shortfall in state revenues. Towns should be very conservative in their spending over the ensuing months.

12. **Coronavirus Planning/Updates:**

Jack Jones is completing a second plexiglass partition for the Selectboard/Treasurer office. The Food Shelf needs more volunteers. The next IC meeting is August 24th.

13. **Harlow Road Updates:**

There were no updates regarding the Harlow Road case. However, SB members noted recent news of an assault on River Road and expressed their intent to follow-up with the VSP and Windsor County Sheriff about the incident.

14. **Legal Trail Signage:**

SB heard a final round of comments from interest residents concerning proposed signage to be installed at both ends of the legal trail from Whitney Road to Town Farm Road. Once again there was a widely divergent range of viewpoints expressed on acceptable uses of the trail. In final discussions, it was agreed that signs will be installed at both access points. Sharon Road Crew will order and install the signs. The signs encourage respectful use and stewardship of the trail, while noting it is under consideration for restricted use or closure.

15. **Racial Justice Issues in Sharon:**

SB members expressed their intent to hold discussions on revising the town's personnel policies, which are out-dated, to accommodate observance of Martin Luther King's birthday as a paid employee holiday. SB members agreed to defer to the State of Vermont in its discussions regarding observance of Juneteenth. It was further agreed that SB training should occur before the SB undertakes crafting policies that address racism and racial justice. The SB has requested samples of data the Windsor County Sheriff sends to the state regarding fair and impartial policing. Mary Gavin noted the 2010 census data on Sharon's demographics has been updated with interim community survey data. Staff will request this data from Two Rivers Regional Commission, as it will be almost two years before 2020 census data is available.

16. **Baxter Library Drainage Improvements:**

Margy Becker reported she is waiting to hear back from Will Davis at Horizons Engineering, who appears to be on vacation, concerning the work needed to bring the project to bid and construction.

17. **Approval of Warrants:**

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the payroll warrant for the period of August 2nd to August 15, 2020 with a cash draw of \$14,715.47. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1058 in the amount of \$10,802.04 which includes payments to BCBS of VT \$4,794.16; Casella Waste Management; Compucount for July payroll; EJ Pringle Midway for supplies; Evans Motor Fuels for diesel \$1,370.89; EyeMed; Ferguson (2 invoices for culverts/storm pipe) \$3,703.85; Foley for 3 weeks of uniforms; and Future Supply for fuel additive. **The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and carried unanimously.**

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1059 in the amount of \$18,013.85 which includes payments to Green Mtn Mowing for one month; Have Trash Will Travel for trash removal; Lucky's for Western Star truck parts and straps for F550; Dave Phillips for repairs and mowing at Wallace Double Day cemetery; Pike Industries for 1169 tons of 3/4" ledge pack @\$8/ton for a total of \$9,353.12; Radio North for installation of a

radio in new F550 \$1094.00; and South Royalton Rescue \$6,823.92 for August services. **The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and carried unanimously.**

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1060 in the amount of \$734.05 which includes Health Equity HRA reimbursement for 2 weeks; 5 Magee Office invoices for masks, paper, fans, hand sanitizer, cleaners; and WB Mason for water cooler rental. **Kevin Gish seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1061 in the amount of \$8,501.99 including payments to Royal Auto for parts; Sabil & Sons for parts; Valley News for a legal notice for Excavator/Operator; VT Fire Extinguisher for inspections at the Town Offices and Garage; VT Offenders for another 59 E911 house plates; VMERS for July \$2,730.94; Welch's for garage shop expenses; and Windsor County Sheriff for 80 hrs of patrolling over 4 weeks plus 4 hours in traffic court at \$58/hour for a total of \$4,872. **Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1062 in the amount of \$3,744.80 and for payment to ATG Westminster (formerly Patriot) for recent work done on 2017 Freightliner 4x4 with front end issues. **Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.**

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1063 OSH in the amount of \$40.00 for payment to VT Fire Extinguisher for inspections at the OSH. **The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

18. Executive Session – Personnel:

Mary Gavin made the motion to enter executive session at 8:40PM to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 8:54PM.

19. Adjournment:

Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 8:55PM which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Submitted by, Margy Becker