

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, August 3, 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: Peter Anderson, Steve Gagliardone; Lucia Gagliardone, Andrew Lane (The Sharon Academy); Ira Clark; Kit & Allen Hood; Jacob, Beth, and John Mayer; Wyatt Blanchard; Bart Tuttle; Loretta Kit & Charles Ryan; Marian Weatherbee, Sandy & Warren Johnston.

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

**1. Review/Approve Agenda:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the agenda with addition of an executive session regarding a personnel matter. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.**

**2. Public Comments:**

Peter Anderson thanked the SB for the good job done with Howe Hill paving. He requested additional warning signs ("Be Prepared To Stop") be installed above the railroad trestle.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2020 as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded, and the motion carried.**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2020 as submitted. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried.**

**4. Road Foreman Reports:**

Road Foreman Frank Rogers reported more front-end repairs are needed to AWD Truck #10 for approximately \$3,500. Frank Rogers recommended the SB consider unloading the truck and replacing it with a 2WD or low profile AWD truck. He reported the crew would lose the functionality of the belly scraper next spring, however, continued investment in the truck does not appear to make sense. Deb Jones reported other towns across the state are trying to unload trucks with Meritor front ends to states with warmer climates. She agreed to forward

her tally of repair costs to-date for the next meeting. It was agreed Frank will further research options for alternative repairs and/or replacement.

5. **2020 Paving Closeout:**

Frank Rogers and Deb Jones are working with Horizons Engineering on obtaining the certificate of 'substantial completion'. Deb reported she estimates the project is approximately \$40,000 under budget to-date, but the Town has not seen all invoices yet. Frank briefly reported working with Pike and Horizons Engineers to repair a bad pavement joint at Lyman Road and Howe Hill. And he indicated he will work with Pike to assure the roads are striped. SB members indicated their desire to see Pike's final numbers regarding traffic control, since there was at least one day without flaggers on Howe Hill.

6. **Sand Hauling Bid Review and Award:**

Deb Jones indicated three bids were received. The bid unit is \$/yard to haul 2,250 yards of winter sand. D & D Excavating bid \$6.65/yard, KL Rogers bid \$7.11/yard, and Adam Stone Trucking bid \$7.49/yard. D&D Excavating is the lowest bidder. D&D has worked for the town before. **Motion by Mary Gavin to award the bid to D&D Excavating to haul 2,250 yards of sand at \$6.65/yard. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Site Visit to Richard Johnson – Beaver Meadow Road:**

Mary Gavin reported the road did not seem to be as built up at Richard Johnson's location. It was also narrower than other sections of Beaver Meadow Road. It was agreed the road crew will install two loads of hard pack and perform some gentle grading. Mary Gavin also noted Mr. Johnson's request for "ROAD NARROWS" signs. Frank Rogers agreed to order and install these signs.

8. **Baxter Library Drainage:**

It was agreed Margy Becker will contact Will Davis of Horizons Engineering to inquire what additional work may be needed in order to bid drainage repairs.

9. **Procurement Policy:**

Sole source language will be considered at the next meeting.

10. **Coronavirus Updates:**

Joe Ronan reported on his participation in a phone call with US Representative Peter Welch. Representative Welch is optimistic about compromise on another federal aid package, which will include aid for municipalities.

**11. Discussion of Black Lives Matter Issues in Sharon:**

Lucia and Steve Gagliardone met with SB members to discuss their work to draft the beginnings of a town Anti-Racism and Racial Justice Policy. Steve explained statements in the policy are excerpts of language from policies in place at Thetford Academy and Hartford School District. Additionally, the policy quotes directly from Ibram Kendi's *"How to Be an Antiracist"* and Layla F. Saad's *"Me and White Supremacy"*.

Joe Ronan spoke of differences in the functions of town government and schools, indicating the SB needs to consider the practical affects of a policy statements. One proposed policy statement addresses the issue of policing. Discussions followed regarding the history of the Town's contractual relationships with Windsor County Sheriffs and Royalton PD. Steve Gagliardone observed the Town has leverage over law enforcement and can request data and information on internal policies. Steve also drew attention to another one of Lucia's original requests - that the SB consider displaying a visual reminder of solidarity.

SB members expressed the need for some time to reflect on the proposed policy as drafted to-date. They also noted the conspicuous absence of input from people of color in the nascent dialogue on racial justice issues. SB members agreed to reach out to VLS faculty and neighboring communities, and to the public for further input. SB members and staff continue to research training options. The proposed Anti-Racism and Racial Justice Policy will remain on future agendas for further discussion and public input.

**12. Request to Restrict Travel on Legal Trail #1: Whitney Road to Harlow Road:**

Area residents joined the SB for continued discussions regarding a request from trail abutters to restrict travel of motorized vehicles on the legal trail due to careless vehicle operation, noise, nighttime travel, trail damage, and concerns over personal safety when walking on the trail due to speeding motor bikes. SB members listened to additional comments from Wyatt Blanchard, Jacob Mayer, Bart Tuttle, Beth Mayer, Loretta Kit and Charles Johnson, Kit and Allen Hood, Sandy Johnston, and Peter Anderson. Others listened in on the Zoom discussions but did not participate.

SB members explained their preference for a travel by permit solution. Loretta Kit noted VAST trails have a 'curfew', and there is definitive season of use. Jacob Mayer inquired how obtaining a permit is beneficial to users. He touched on the need to support many ways to recreate, the fact that it was only some people who were complaining of noise, and that there are noisy vehicles travelling on roads at night. The SB received several questions about how permits would be issued and enforced. Peter Anderson asked if a permit requirement could be 'phased-in' to allow time to educate the public first. Bart Tuttle reminded SB members the legal trail is an emergency route into and out of the Harlow Road and White Brook Road area. Beth Mayer spoke in favor of continued monitoring of trail use, and of the desire to reach out personally to reprimand one youthful vehicle operator for reckless behavior. Trail abutters reported, however, that it is more than one person that operating recklessly. Allen Hood reported he was almost hit by three kids on dirt bikes. He could not

identify them, because they had helmets on and took off after the incident. Kit Hood expressed support for a 'curfew' and a speed limit.

Discussions concluded for the evening upon a suggestion, followed by agreement from SB members, that an educational sign be erected at trail entrances. Members of the public were asked to contribute suggestions for wording to appear on the signs and to send the suggestions to Margy Becker in the Selectboard Office [selectboard@sharonvt.net](mailto:selectboard@sharonvt.net).

**13. Air Circulation in Old School House Building:**

Andrew Lane, Head of TSA Middle School and SB members discussed procurement requirements and plans for improvements to air circulation within the Old School House building. TSA is still waiting to hear if it is eligible for the grant funds to cover the cost of the improvements. TSA would like the grant to cover installation of a new HVAC system in addition to bathroom fans. Efficiency VT is recommending heat pumps. It was agreed that should TSA be issued a grant, it would proceed to procure Efficiency VT's chosen contractor. The contractor needs to be licensed and insured.

Deb Jones reported a \$40,000 cash balance in the Old School House enterprise fund. Over the past several years the fund has paid for several improvements to the building, inclusive of roof repairs, window and door replacements, boiler upgrades, and upgrades to flooring and lighting. SB members expressed support for proposed improvements, yet they refrained from committing funds to the project at this time. Andrew Lane was asked to provide additional specifications and information on exchange rates and to keep the SB informed of its status as an eligible grant recipient.

**14. Finance Manager Reports:**

Deb Jones notes she is still waiting for the Listers to recommend a tax rate. She will contact Galen and inquire whether he could meet with the SB by the week's end. She further reported a drop box has been installed in the rear door to the Town Offices. Jack Jones is currently fabricating a second free-standing plexiglass sneeze guard for the SB/Treasurer Office. Additionally, a portable sneeze guard is on order. Deb Jones reported on her efforts to introduce ACH and online payment of property taxes.

**15. Corona Virus Planning:**

The issue of employee travel out-of-state was raised. This matter will be further discussed in executive session.

**16. Bicycle Pedestrian Grant Opportunity:**

It was agreed the Margy Becker will begin preparation of a grant application addressing village sidewalk improvements.

**17. Harlow Road Updates:**

SB members did not have any new developments to report concerning the Harlow Road case. Kevin Gish reported briefly on his concern that Dylan McCullough appears to be moving ahead without septic and wastewater permitting for installation of a mobile home at 62 Harlow Road. He has started filing a complaint with the ANR.

**18. Selectboard Assistant Reports:**

SB members discussed the status of RL Vallee's Act 250 application for modifications to Sharon Trading Post and agreed they had no objections to changes in RL Vallee's plans for improvements to the building.

**19. Approval of Warrants:**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve check warrant #1055 in the amount of \$630,492.36 for payment to Pike Industries for highway improvements. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve check warrant #1056 in the amount of \$15,049.01 inclusive of payments to Consolidated Communications (\$319.49) and EC Fiber (\$79.00) for telephone service, Evans Motor Fuels (\$927.90), Green Mountain Power (\$414.39) for electricity, HD Supply for blacktop (\$132.80), The Lincoln National Life (\$224.04) for Life, long-term and short-term disability insurance premiums, and to Mascoma Savings Bank (\$12,951.39) for 2017 Freightliner loan and interest expenses. Mary Gavin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve check warrant #1057 in the amount of \$11,319.21 inclusive of payments to McCullough Crushing, Inc. for 28 tons of 7" stone (\$392.00), Pike for ¾" gravel (\$3,734.24), Twin State Sand & Gravel for sand (\$2,107.17), Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission for 50% of the town's contribution towards the regional energy coordinator position (\$2,950.00), US Bank for copier maintenance (\$143.10), USPS for postage and mailings (\$550.00), Valley News for advertising expense (\$98.60), and to Worksafe for signs (\$1,344.10). Kevin Gish seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the payroll warrant for the period July 19 – August 1, 2020 for a cash draw of \$12,985.59. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

**20. Executive Session – Personnel:**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to enter executive session at 9:13PM to discuss a personnel matter with the Road Foreman and Finance Manager in attendance. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

The Board exited executive session at 9:33PM. No subsequent action was taken.

21. **Adjournment:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 9:34PM, which was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by, Margy Becker

DRAFT