

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES (Draft)  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

*Public participation in this remote electronic meeting was held in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law changes effective March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.*

Selectboard Members attending: Joe Rona, Kevin Gish, Mary Gavin

Staff attending: Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Margy Becker  
Selectboard Assistant; Frank Rogers, Road  
Foreman.

Members of the public: Are noted by agenda item.

**1. 6:30PM Convene Meeting/Zoom Orientation**

Joe Ronan called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**2. Review/Approve Agenda**

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the order of business as warned. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comments**

There were no public comments on town business other than items on the agenda.

**4. 6:40PM Road Foreman Reports:**

Frank Rogers provided a report on the road crew activities. He discussed his plans to put hardpak down on Cross Road. The project costs are within the FY21 budget. Royalton will provide mutual aid trucking (two 10-wheelers), and the Sharon road crew plans to respond in-kind as-needed. Selectmen expressed concern that Royalton get the same return value for its mutual aid in this case.

Selectmen inquired regarding preparations for winter. Staff will follow-up on the status of the Chase Site Services contract to plow Sharhart Road. Frank Rogers and the crew will assist, to the extent feasible, with installation of the elections drop box at the Town Offices. Frank indicated the crew cannot do concrete work, if a pad is needed.

**5. 7:00PM Ashley Community Forest Vote – Discussion with Strafford Selectboard**

Stafford Selectboard members Toni Pippy, Patrik Kelly, and Mary Linehan joined the meeting. Stafford SB members described their current plans to bring the question of acceptance of Ashley Community Forest to a vote in Strafford on November 3rd. Their plan is to ask the voters to accept the donation of 87.7 acres of forest land (the Strafford portion of Ashley Community Forest acreage). Strafford SB indicated it is not in favor of joint ownership of the community forest with the Town of Sharon.

Joe Ronan inquired as to the Strafford SB sentiments about the concept of a new community forest. Patrik Kelly indicated he was 'indifferent'; Mary Linehan noted she is already able to access a varied network of trails in the area and indicated concerns about the towns taking on additional land management responsibilities. She prefers very minimal municipal involvement in the project.

Patrik Kelly asked how the Sharon SB felt about the project as proposed by the AVC. Kevin Gish injected the board had agreed to put the question to the voters. Joe Ronan indicated the Board had not yet given thought as to the wording on the ballot in response to AVC's suggestion to move ahead with town votes prior to negotiated inter-local agreement.

Joe Ronan indicated he was not in favor of holding the Sharon vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He suggested the towns could hold the vote at another time. He remarked that March 2021 may be too late for AVC's needs. Rett \_\_\_\_\_, from Strafford, indicated he thought the reason the AVC is pressing the towns to move ahead with their votes is due to the potential loss of a \$150,000 VT Housing & Conservation Board grant related to the community forest project.

Toni Pippy asked why each town could not manage its own acreage separately? Kevin Gish indicated he thought the Ashley Forest existed as one parcel, which is why the AVC proposes joint ownership. No subdivision would need to occur. The timber appears to be evenly distributed across the parcel.

Mary Gavin inquired if the Selectboards put the question to the voters, would they then be compelled to negotiate an inter-local agreement? Kevin Gish responded that yes, he thought this would be the case.

Deb Jones, Town of Sharon Finance Manager, commented the Selectboards appear to be seeking an 'advisory vote'. Why not send out a survey instead? Patrik Kelly indicated acceptance of the donated land comes with long-term consequences. The towns are not just accepting a gift of land.

Mary Gavin inquired if it would be a problem for the AVC if the towns each accepted their own acreage individually?

Joe Ronan stated he wants the AVC to be able to benefit from the VHCB grant, and that a date for the vote should be agreed to. It was subsequently agreed the towns should put similar language on their ballots. As discussions closed selectmen of both boards agreed to consider the possibility of an early December vote. Mary Linehan agreed to forward the wording of Strafford's ballot. The topic will remain on the agenda for upcoming SB meetings in both towns.

## 6. 7:30PM TSA Proposal for Old School House HVAC Improvements

Andrew Lane, Ken Wright, and Sean Hurley (Alliance Mechanical) met with Selectmen to continue discussions regarding TSA's recommendations for HVAC improvements at the Old School House building. The TSA was awarded a grant by Efficiency VT for some, but not all, of the estimated project costs. Discussions focused on the process of cost estimating used for the grant application, TSA's allocation of grant funds to the High School and Middle School projects. Sean Hurley was asked to provide more details on HVAC mechanical specifications.

Ken Wright encouraged the town to purchase CO2 monitors for both the OSH and Town Offices, in order to get a scientific reading of air quality in both buildings. He cautioned the energy costs to run the new HVAC motors would be substantial. Sean Hurley acknowledged Alliance Mechanical has relied on CO2 monitoring data to guide installation of air circulation equipment in schools in southern Vermont. Discussions of air exchange rates and the feasibility of conducting CO2 testing followed. No formal action was taken to move forward with the tests.

The TSA request for increased bathroom ventilation was not funded by Efficiency Vermont grant. Sean Hurley indicated Alliance used an estimate of 50-70 cfm per toilet for design. Schools are considered 'high traffic areas' for design purposes. The system will vent to the outside. A wall hood will be installed on the outside of the building. Andrew Lane noted that the Town would need to procure for the project, which is estimated at \$7,500.

Mary Gavin noted she had conducted research on the Efficiency VT grants for schools. The E-VT website claims the grants are to fund 100% of HVAC projects. Andrew Lane was directed by the SB to request Efficiency Vermont fund 100% of the project costs and to report back to the Town.

## 7. Appointment of Animal Control Officer

Mary Gavin noted John Duprey's willingness to serve as Animal Control Officer. He is interested in becoming more involved in the community. **Mary Gavin nominated John Duprey for the position of Animal Control Officer. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.** Margy Becker will follow-up with him.

## 8. Finance Manager Reports

Deb Jones and Road Foreman Frank Rogers agreed on a plan to contact Pike regarding closing out its invoicing for the 2020 paving project. The Selectboard is against participating in the federal payroll tax deferment plan. Deb Jones will inform Compucount, the Town's payroll administrator, of the Town's position.

## Unfinished Business:

### 9. Town Health Officer Matters:

Joe Ronan agreed to follow-up with Dylan McCullough's attorney regarding compliance of the emergency health order. The rental housing inspection report of the Sheri Knox rental at 146 Dyer Road has been finalized, and the state Fire Safety Division inspection report has been included in the Town's inspection report.

#### 10. Coronavirus updates

Kevin Gish provided a brief summary of the recent IC meeting. Sharon Fire Department has a large stock of masks. Joe Ronan noted the stimulus bill is tied up in Congress. The Governor has extended the Emergency Executive Order until October 15.

#### 11. Selectboard Assistant Reports

Margy Becker inquired about the October meeting schedule; she agreed with Mary Gavin that the SB needed to start thinking about how to convene Town Meeting in 2021. A schedule for budget meetings will be presented at the next SB meeting.

#### Regular Business:

#### 12. Review & Approve Minutes: September 8, 2020 Special Meeting

Postponed until September 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### 13. Approve Warrants:

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the Payroll Warrant for the period ending 9/12/2020 with a cash draw of \$12,696.04. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant 1072 for \$36,759.65 which includes invoices to BCBS for October \$5,987.98, Casella Waste for dumpster at the garage \$82.98, D & D Excavating for 648yds of sand delivered \$9,266.40, Dave Phillips for maintenance of the Wallace Doubleday cemetery for August \$120, Evans Motor Fuels for 3 weeks of fuel totaling \$1,080.47, Granite State Glass for plexiglass barriers for the structure at Margy's desk and for 2 portable partitions and for a hanging panel to go between Margaret and my space \$820, Health Equity HRA reimbursement \$6, and the final payment to Community Bank NA on the loan for the '15 Western Star dump truck \$19,395.82. **Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.****

#### 14. Adjourn

**Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:32PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by,  
Margy Becker