

**SHARON SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 17, 2021**

MINUTES (Final)

*This meeting was held in compliance with the Vermont
Open Meeting Law with Electronic and Telephonic Participation*

Participating via Zoom: Selectboard members Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin, Kevin Gish; Margy Becker (SB Assistant), Deb Jones (Finance Manager), Road Foreman Frank Rogers; Cathy Sartor, Town Clerk; Ira Clark (resident), Sue Sellew (Historical Society), Ken Wright (Delinquent Tax Collector), Kit Hood (Library Trustee).

Kevin Gish nominated Joe Ronan as temporary chair. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried 2-0-1, Joe Ronan and Mary Gavin voting affirmatively and Kevin Gish abstaining.

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

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Nomination of Officers; Regular Meeting Schedule

1. Kevin Gish nominated Joe Ronan as Chair. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried 2-0-1, Kevin Gish and Mary Gavin voting affirmatively, Joe Ronan abstaining.
2. Mary Gavin nominated Kevin Gish as Vice Chair. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried. 2-0-1, Mary Gavin and Joe Ronan voting affirmatively and Kevin Gish abstaining.
3. Kevin Gish nominated Mary Gavin as Clerk. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried 2-0-1, Kevin Gish and Joe Ronan voting affirmatively and Mary Gavin abstaining.
4. Mary Gavin made the motion that the SB continue to hold its regular meetings the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:30PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

5. Review/Approve Agenda:

Kevin Gish made the motion to reorder the agenda and to place highway business at 8PM. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Comments:

Ira Clark, resident, noted that the portion of **Dyer Road** which is closed during the winter months remains closed. He does not feel the public's interest is being served by continued closure beyond the April 30 posted date, and requested the road be re-opened. SB members agreed to ask Frank Rogers why the road remains closed. Kevin Eaton, a Director for the White

River Partnership, later commented that he was interested in investigating the potential for acquiring federal funding to improve the White River access via Fish & Wildlife lands adjacent to the Jeffrey Rice property on Rte. 14 south of the Village. Several parties and stakeholders would be required to work together on the project, which would require in-stream work and a US Army Corp permit. SB members directed Kevin to the Conservation Commission, as potential federal grant applicant. Kevin indicated he may provide more information at the June 7th meeting.

7. Review/Approve Minutes:

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 Australian Ballot information meeting as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 special meeting as submitted. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval of Warrants:

Joe Ronan made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1159 in the amount of \$10,555.28 for payments to Allen Wight \$69 for reimbursement for med card physical; ATG Westminster \$1,621.99 for 3 invoices related to repairs for the 2015 Western Star; Aumentum Technologies \$2,121.40 (dba 'Manatron') for the Listers' Cama License; Bethel Mills \$881.52 for materials for the town garage mezzanine office and stairs; BCBS of VT \$5,861.37 for June premiums. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1160 in the amount of \$15,447.00 for payments to Cargill \$4,653.68 for 3 loads of salt due to warnings of potential supply shortage; Casella Waste \$90.86; City of Lebanon Landfill \$67.42 for Green Up Day; Community Bank Na \$8,908.88 for ½ yr loan payment for Ford 550 loan; Compucount Payroll Svs. \$166.85; Dartmouth-Hitchcock \$116.00 for Joe Robinsons medical card physical; EC Fiber \$79.00 for Town Office; Evans Motor Fuel \$1306.64; and Eyemed \$57.67. Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Joe Ronan made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1161 in the amount of \$4,384.81 for payments to Fastenal \$32.52; Ferguson Waterworks \$2757.63 for culverts; Foley Services \$112.96; Have Trash Will Travel \$13.00; Magee Office Products \$152.80; Pike Industries \$1315.90 for hardpack. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1162 in the amount of \$10,298.55 for payments to RC Brayshaw \$2795 for Town Report printing; South Royalton Rescue \$6823.92 for May 2021; Tarrant, Gillies et al \$492.80 in legal fees; Vermont Awards & Engraving \$127.64 for the Town Clerk's retirement gift; Welch's True Value \$59.19. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Joe Ronan made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1163 in the amount of \$24,991.59 for a payment to Sharon School District \$24,991.59 for final balance of education tax owed from the Town to the School district. **Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant 1164 RECREATION in the amount of \$167.96 for payment to Samantha Potter \$57.96 to reimburse for wipes and hand sanitizer for baseball, and to Stateline Sports \$110.00 for baseballs. **Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Kevin Gish, and second by Mary Gavin, to ratify approval and prior signatures to the Payroll Warrant for the period April 25th through May 8, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Finance Manager Reports:

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the pay table dated April 30, 2021. Kevin Gish seconded. Discussions followed and SB members identified changes to be made. The pay table will be further considered again at the June 7th regular meeting, and the motion to approve remains on the table.

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve renewal of employee dental insurance benefit provided by Plan 7 through VLCT/Northeast Delta Dental. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

In later discussions Deb Jones was granted authorization to order a new desk for the Town Clerk. Discussions on the specifications for hauling and purchase of winter sand will be finalized at the June 7th meeting.

10. Investment Policy:

Treasurer Margaret Raymond explained her purchase of a CD for the Norwich Technologies decommissioning funds. The current amount is \$15,000. Mary Gavin expressed her desire to see the funds grow at a greater rate than provided by a CD. The Treasurer noted the funds being invested were technically not the Town's funds and will be paid back to Norwich Technologies upon successful decommissioning. Other SB members concurred that earnings could be increased by investment in a stock fund.

Joe Ronan called attention to the final revised version of the proposed Investment Policy, which now specifically addresses management of third-party funds, such as decommissioning funds. SB members and the Treasurer expressed satisfaction with the final draft as presented. Deb Jones inquired whether the proposed policy was to be applicable to Library investments. SB unanimously agreed the Town's Investment Policy does not apply to Library funds under stewardship of the Trustees.

Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the Investment Policy as submitted. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Vermont Inclusion Pronouncement/Juneteenth:

Joe Ronan noted the State's newly-adopted policy on inclusion and inquired whether the Town should consider a parallel policy. SB members expressed support for consideration of such a policy. Further inquiries will also be made to confirm whether or not the State established Juneteenth as a state holiday. Discussions regarding an inclusion policy will be scheduled for June 7th.

12. Historical Society Mini-Grant Application:

Sue Sellew, member of Sharon Historical Society ("SHS") described a grant opportunity through the Preservation Trust of Vermont Robert Sincerbaux Fund. There is no flashing between the existing asphalt ramp and the exterior brick wall. Water enters the building through the porous bricks and has rotted a frame member, flooring, and some woodwork on the front wall. The SHS would like to use the PTP grant funds to hire an architect with experience in designing ADA ramps for historic buildings.

Mary Gavin made the motion to approve a local match of \$700 for the Historical Society's grant application in the amount of \$700 for preparation of new plans for an ADA ramp. The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and carried unanimously.

Finance Manager Deb Jones pointed out there were \$1,000 remaining in the FY21 buildings R&M budget that could be applied towards the project.

13. Ashley Forest Planning:

Kevin Gish provided his status report on negotiating committee discussions. The Committee is finalizing proposed Inter-local Agreement and Conservation Easement for review by the Land Trust and towns' attorney.

14. Baxter Memorial Library Front Walkway:

Kit Hood, Library Trustee, spoke of the deteriorating condition of the cement walkway leading from the sidewalk to the library front door. She noted its uneven nature poses a trip hazard. Kevin Gish volunteered to speak with Jacob Mayer regarding repairs.

Kit Hood and Sue Sellew discussed the condition of the antique lights on the front of the library. The lights are cracked. Ken Wright expressed support for a proper investment in restoration of the lights. He asked if a donor could be found to underwrite the costs. He suggested that Bruce McShinsky be contacted to see if he could perform welding repairs. Sue Sellew indicated she would share her prior research and cost estimate obtained from Conant Custom Brass in Burling, which does repair antique lights.

15. Status of Delinquent Tax Collections:

Ken Wright indicated he enjoys his work as delinquent tax collector. Ken indicates he has made good progress in reducing the balance owed in delinquent taxes of \$244,265 to \$147,546, which means he has collected \$96,719 in delinquent taxes since February 11, 2021. The balance remaining delinquent is consistent with prior years. Ken will now focus efforts on the 26 remaining parcels that still owe delinquent taxes. 5 parcels owe 66% of unpaid taxes, penalty, and interest. Ken indicated that he may consider a tax sale in September/October 2021.

16. **Road Foreman Reports:** postponed

17. **Agreement with Avery Excavation, Inc.:**

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the Agreement for Services with Avery Excavation, Inc. and to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Avery Excavation Inc. has been awarded the contract for replacement of a box culvert on Quimby Mountain Road below Morrill Hill Road.

18. **Drum Heller Road Sign:**

The SB Assistant will further research the extent of the public right-of-way along Drum Heller Road between Downer Forest Road and Beaver Meadow Road. Discussions concerning a newly-erected sign that indicates 'no through traffic allowed' will continue on June 7th.

19. **Unfinished business:**

SB members confirmed the re-scheduled Hazard Mitigation Planning meeting on May 20th and agreed to add a special meeting for discussions on community policing alternatives on Monday, May 24. Coronavirus planning discussions centered on the need for people to continue with vaccinations. There were no SB reports concerning the Harlow Road case.

20. **Adjourn:**

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:45PM. The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and carried unanimously.

Submitted by Margy Becker