

**Sharon Selectboard
REGULAR Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2022 FINAL**

This meeting was held in compliance with the January 2022 VT Open Meeting law amendments regarding fully-remote electronic meetings.

Attending In-Person from Sharon Town Offices: Margy Becker, SB Assistant; Nicola Shipman, SB Assistant-in-training; Attending remotely via Zoom: Joe Ronan, Selectboard Chair; Mary Gavin and Kevin Gish, Selectboard; Deb Jones, Finance Manager; Cathy Sartor, Town Clerk; Margaret Raymond, Treasurer; Ira Clark, SPC; Sue Sellew, SPC; Lee Simek, SPC; Nicole Antal, member of the public; Donna Foster, Vermont Land Trust; Attending via Phone: Frank Rogers, Road Foreman

Joe Ronan convened the meeting at 6:32 PM;

1. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the agenda as submitted. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comments:

No public comments.

3. Review/Approval Minutes:

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 regular meeting with modifications. Second by Kevin Gish and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2022 special meeting. Second by Mary Gavin and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 special meeting with modifications. Second by Kevin Gish and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Joe Ronan to approve the minutes of the February 1st special meeting. Second by Mary Gavin and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Warrants:

Motion by Joe Ronan to approve the AP Warrant 1264 in the amount of \$15,585.52 including payments to ATG Westminster \$2507.31, Cargill \$7446.50, Casella Waste \$72.86, Chapell Tractor Sales \$86.44, Chase Site Svcs \$4665.00, Compucount \$468.98, Consolidated Communications \$243.90, DeLage Landen Financials \$94.53. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the AP Warrant 1265 in the amount of \$6,704.22 including payments to EC Fiber \$151.00, Evans Motor Fuels \$5304.91, Evolution Edges \$482.50, Fastenal Co. \$258.50, Foley Services \$115.86, Goldstar Products \$391.45. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the AP Warrant 1266 in the amount of \$1,889.60 including payments to GMP \$891.10, H P Fairfield \$277.91, Indelible \$37.50, Key Communications \$116.76, Kimball West \$466.44, Lucky's Trailer Sales \$99.89. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Joe Ronan to approve the AP Warrant 1267 in the amount of \$13,766.67 including payments to Madison Nat'l Life \$207.16, Magee OP \$235.00, Mascoma Bank \$12481.80, NE Delta Dental \$467.64, Overhead Door \$345.20, Royal Auto Parts \$29.87. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the AP Warrant 1268 in the amount of \$17,037.44 including payments to Sabil & Sons \$52.83, So Ro Rescue \$6824.50, Herald of Randolph \$253.32, Tri-Valley Transit \$4054.00, Tyler White Heating \$148.00, USPS \$974.00, Valley News \$711.10, VMERS \$3878.98, Welch's True Value \$25.76, White Cap \$114.95. Kevin Gish asked if the Tri Valley payment is an annual payment. Deb Jones confirmed, yes, it is the annual payment. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kevin Gish to approve the AP Warrant 1270 Downer in the amount of \$1,262.53 including payments to Pine Hill Cemetery \$1262.53. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Gavin to approve the AP Warrant 1271 Recreation in the amount of \$63.00 including payments to Stateline Sports \$63.00. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mary Gavin to ratify the Payroll Warrant for the period ending 1/29/2022 with a cash draw of \$16,852.69. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Finance Manager Reports:

Deb Jones reported that there is about \$1,000,000 remaining to collect for property taxes and this is similar to previous years. There are ninety payments that will come in through CoreLogic in the amount of \$200,000 that arrives as a lump sum to the town. Kevin Gish asked for clarification as to the function of CoreLogic. Deb Jones responded that CoreLogic is a clearinghouse contracted with banks and is set up for homeowners who hold their taxes in escrow. CoreLogic pays the town directly.

Deb Jones also referenced a question she received concerning access to ARPA fund from Carol Langstaff. Deb wondered whether the town should provide an application or some sort of request form for those who wish to access funds. There was some discussion, and Mary Gavin encouraged caution since it is still very early in the process. Mary recommended a Request Form be created for those who wish to access those funds rather than a formal application.

6. Road Foreman Reports/Highways:

Frank Rogers opened with reference to the bids received for the purchase of a new town truck. Frank recommended that the Selectboard approve the purchase of the Western Star 4700SF. Based on his experience, the Western Star requires less maintenance and has a higher resale value among other pros. He also referenced the Freightliners having issues with wiring.

Deb Jones did note that although the Western Star is \$3,358.00 over budget of \$120,000, the difference in trade-in value on the Western Star is substantially more than the Freightliner.

Mary Gavin asked Frank if he would wish for a fleet of Western Star trucks. Frank responded yes. He mentioned that this would streamline the issues in the maintenance as parts would be interchangeable from truck to truck and the Western Star is already more reliable with fewer breakdowns.

Kevin Gish also noted the Western Star has a \$12,000 higher trade-in value, is a better vehicle and would have less time in the shop.

Mary Gavin made a motion to award the bid to ATG Westminster LLC for the purchase of a 2023 Western Star 4700SF in the amount of \$198,358.00 minus the \$75,000 trade-in value of the 2017 Freightliner 108SD AWD for a total payment of \$123,358.00. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

In reference to the recent snowstorm, Frank mentioned that there were no breakdowns, no town vehicles stuck and there were limited complaints, if any. Mary Gavin noted that in

fact there were compliments on Facebook regarding the condition of the roads. Joe Ronan extended a thank you to Frank and the Department.

Frank also mentioned that he and his crew are noticing that more people are plowing across the roads, and he thinks it is worse this year. Frank wondered if the Selectboard would consider an ordinance because if the road had frozen snow chunks in the road, it could lead to serious accidents. Furthermore, Mary Gavin also noted it is a violation of Vermont statute to plow across state or town highways.

Margy Becker mentioned that there is language in a revised ordinance currently in draft form that will address illegal plowing as well as other revisions to assist with enforcing state speed limits. Joe Ronan suggested the Selectboard have a first reading of the revised language of the ordinance at the next meeting.

Margy Becker noted that the Mileage Certification needs to be signed and that there were no changes to the town's Class I, II, III or IV Town Highways.

Kevin Gish made a motion for the board to sign for the Certificate of Highway Mileage for year ending February 10th, 2022. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Margy suggested the board revisit how the town reports and enforces the special weight limits on the truss bridge. Mary Gavin asked about the manner of enforcement. Margy responded that an ordinance may be required and thinks may be a good time to revisit this issue. Frank responded that their department will supply some research on this matter.

7. Sharon Town Plan: Status Report Sharon DRB re: readoption of 2015 Plan

Ira Clark continued the conversation regarding the readoption of the 2015 Town Plan. The Planning commission doesn't feel any changes are needed and recommend readopting without any edits.

Joe Ronan made a motion to accept the transmission of the SPC's report and to schedule a hearing for March 10th at 6:30pm. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. 4-Town Consortium: Status Reports from Meghan Asbury

Megan Asbury provided a status update regarding the 4-Town Consortium and how the consortium might look into approaching Vital Communities or another similar local organization to help with regards to fiscal sponsorship and to provide for the longevity of the Consortium. The Steering Committee will be looking into that more formally. Multiple projects are being pursued by the Consortium including securing funding for the newly-purchased North Tunbridge General Store. Deb Jones also noted there is \$5,000 of unallocated trail improvement funding that could be accessed for trail improvement.

9. Ashley Community Forest: Status Reports

Joe Ronan noted that the purchase of the community had formally closed. Kevin Gish confirmed and noted that all documents are recorded with the town. Two representatives need to be appointed to the committee, and he will share a position description to be circulated once it is approved by the Strafford Selectboard. Margaret Raymond made a note of a \$165 recording fee that as yet is unpaid. The Town will temporarily pay the fee and will bill the community forest for reimbursement once the committee has been established.

10. Sharon Website: Status Reports

Margy Becker updated the board with regards to confusion about the roles between technical support and website design. Margy referenced a proposal submitted by Indelible for review. Mary Gavin suggested the board would like to give Nicola Shipman, the newly hired Selectboard Assistant, time to review the current website situation and to present a plan to the board at a later date. All agreed that would be a reasonable next step.

11. Regional Emergency Management (REMC) Appointment:

Mary Gavin made a motion to appoint Keith Lyman, Jr to as representative for the REMC. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Delinquent Tax Collector's Report: 01/24/22

A total of \$198,154.30 in taxes are delinquent currently. Mary Gavin asked how the town might fashion a tax sale as some properties are saleable and have been on the rolls for years. Joe Ronan mentioned that there was a lack of legal assistance in the past. Mary Gavin mentioned this issue had been discussed in previous meetings. Joe Ronan said it was a fine topic to raise and that the report seems to be business as usual. Deb Jones also raised that there had been discussion regarding the sensitivity of anything like an eviction taking place during the pandemic.

13. SB Assistant Reports: None**14. Coronavirus planning/updates: None****15. Harlow Road:**

Joe Ronan has not contacted Chris Noble any further. Kevin Gish tried to contact Chris, but it was not productive.

16. February-March Meeting Schedule

Thursday, February 10th, 2022 at 6pm - ARPA Informational Session

Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 at 6pm – Remote Australian Ballot Informational Hearing and Special Meeting of the Selectboard

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 at 6:00pm - Town Meeting

March 10th, 2022 at 6:30pm - Hearing for Adoption of Town Plan

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 at 6:30pm - Special Meeting of the Selectboard

17. Executive Session:

Joe Ronan made a motion to move to Executive Session at 8:24pm to discuss personnel matters. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Gavin made a motion to leave Executive Session at 8:34pm. Kevin Gish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Reconvene Open Meeting

Kevin Gish made a motion to extend an offer of employment to a candidate for the role of Finance Manager. Mary Gavin seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

19. Adjourn:

Mary Gavin made the motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Nicola Shipman