

**Sharon Selectboard
Special Meeting Minutes
October 28th, 2022 DRAFT**

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

Participants attending via Zoom: Kevin Gish, Chair; Mary Gavin, Vice Chair; Sarah Pfeiffer, Clerk; Lucy Pierpont, Finance Manager; Deb Jones, Resident

1. **Call to Order**:

Kevin Gish called the meeting to order at 7:30AM.

2. **Review/Approve Agenda**

Mary Gavin made a motion to accept the agenda with an executive session to discuss personnel contracts per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). Attendees to include Mary Gavin, Kevin Gish, and Sarah Pfeiffer. Sarah Pfeiffer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **IREC Goals**

Kevin Gish asked to add “educating and assisting commercial and residential property owners on the benefits of weatherization and funding opportunities” to the IREC goals list.

Sarah Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the IREC Goals as presented with the added goal to “educate and assist commercial and residential property owners on the benefits of weatherization and funding opportunities”. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Selectboard Goals**

Mary Gavin asked to make the Selectboard goal of "Updating outdated policies and/or implementing new policies to improve Town operational efficiency" a priority. Mary noted that the Town needs to regularly update policies and would specifically like to see the personnel and road policies updated. Mary also suggested using the VLCT model template, plugging in relevant information for the Town of Sharon and then bringing the final draft to the town attorney for approval. Deb Jones mentioned that Nicola is already looking into the personnel policy.

Kevin Gish made a motion to accept the Selectboard goals as listed. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. ARPA Funding

Mary Gavin wants to encourage people to tap into grants/etc. for home energy improvements rather than give \$20,000 of ARPA money towards it. She is concerned with how the Town would go about vetting the people in need. Kevin Gish will go back to Jeff Martin and Ryan Haac to clarify how this could be administered.

Mary Gavin asked if the Town could pay for the Sharon Health Initiative proposal from the town budget rather than from ARPA. Deb Jones said the Town could allocate money from the general fund. Mary expressed feeling uneasy about ongoing costs like "programming funds" and "volunteer stipends", but she also said paying for equipment makes sense.

Mary Gavin made a motion to approve \$1,686.00 to be paid from the town funds to the Sharon Health Initiative for the purpose of purchasing an iPad and health monitoring equipment as described in the SHI handout from October 17th, 2022. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Gish mentioned that Larry Davis has offered roofing material for the kiosk.

Mary Gavin wondered if the previous pedestrian study could be updated. Kevin Gish said the plan was reviewed but the Town was told it's too old to use. Mary Gavin suggested that we apply for the Transportation Alternative Grant program.

Deb Jones asked how the \$25,000.00 would be used for the South Royalton Rescue building. Mary said it will be used for startup and engineering costs and any excess will go towards reducing the overall borrowing cost.

Deb Jones mentioned asking the Chester Downer fund for help repairing the historical society structural repairs, but the Board of Trustees may or may not approve a temporary fix. Deb Jones mentioned that Jack Jones also noticed during an exterior inspection of the building that the grade of the land on one side drains water directly onto one of the big foundation stones which is now shifting. The Selectboard decided to keep this current line item an amount on the ARPA budget sheet.

Deb Jones expressed concern for the current town garage site as possibly being eliminated from the list of future sites having had previously used oil pits. She wonders if the Town should start off by getting a consultation by an environmental engineer. Mary Gavin suggested calling the firm that Nicola Shipman is familiar with and asking about it.

Kevin Gish said the Town is still waiting to hear back from the school board about the library drainage project and Memorandum of Understanding. Deb Jones suggested the Town could use town fund reserves in place of ARPA funding, if need be, for this project.

Deb Jones mentioned that there was an audit this week and due to an excel error with regards to the school, there will be \$10,667.00 shown as receivable for FY22.

Kevin Gish made a motion to commit up to \$15,000 from ARPA to the Pedestrian/Bike study. Mary Gavin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Gavin made a motion to commit \$5,700 for AEDs for the town office, library and town garage, and \$25,000 to the South Royalton Rescue building study/design with any left-over money going towards construction costs. Kevin Gish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session

Kevin Gish made a motion to enter executive session at 8:30am for the purpose of discussing personnel contracts per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1). The Board exited executive session at 8:31pm due to technical difficulties.

No action was taken.

7. Adjourn

Kevin Gish made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32am. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Sarah Pfeiffer and Nicola Shipman