August 20th, 2018 Minutes

Finance Committee Meeting

**Present:** Patricia-Lee Achorn, Arnold Cohen, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Daniel Lewenberg, Ira Miller and Hanna Switlekowski

**Absent:** Anja Bernier, William Brack and Edward Phillips

1. **Library Update- Lee Ann Amend, Director**

Lee Ann Amend, Library Director, provided a synopsis of the damage to the library and costs to repair or construct a new building.

* The July 13th, 2018 flood came through the lower level entry in two places; the ADA ramp and community room door. The history room was flooded.
* All of the materials were saved.
* An insurance claim was submitted and an estimate of approximately $100,000 to $150,000 for the July 13th flood damage was given.
* The pink sheet gave a timeline. Reports, files, requests, repairs and more were used to create it.
* In 1979 it was noted that the lower level will flood sometime in the future.
* Library was closed in December of 2003 due to damage of walls, electrical panel, elevator and fire alarms.
* Water problems have occurred twice a year.
* In 2005 a major septic flood occurred with lots of money spent.
* Skylights in the North side of 1979 edition began to leak as of August of 1980.
* Anthony Bronca, building inspector, documented leaks on May 10th, 1981.
* South edition had a skylight that flooded the computer area and was removed due to being against state building codes.
* AC unit should be on sleepers, but it is directly on the roof. Known to create future roof issues.
* Major roof problems didn’t occur until 1950’s and the structural issues began in 1960’s.
* Four structures were removed in 1960 and the fifth in 1992.
* Two layers of asbestos are in the flooring, roof, ceiling and building envelope.
* The money spent this year due to damage is approximately $7.3 million dollars.
* Total cost to rehab the building is $8 million dollars.
* Total cost to build a new library is $17 million dollars, but only $10 million dollars from the town after receiving funding of $7 million dollars from the state.

Lee Ann Amend discussed the grant process.

* Sharon is number two on the list.
* In July, Marlborough, Greenfield and another town was funded.
* If any others fall off, Sharon will be number one on the list.
* July of 2019 is the go ahead date.
* The town vote will have to be done within six months to accept funding.

Lee Ann Amend provided details regarding how they are obtaining usage of the library until the grant process begins.

* Sand bags outside the lower level doors.
* Awning over lower level entry way to prevent flooding into community room.
* Fixing the ramp.
* Getting the staircase fixed.
* A wet vacuum cleaner is readily available and a disaster plan has been designed.

Further information was provided by the Library trustee members.

* The new building will have double the capacity.
* A new building would allow for programs that the library currently cannot do.
* The computer capacity in a new building will grow.
* Thirty-one parking spots will be gained.
* $75,000 in state funds have been used for a traffic study, feasibility study and building repairs.
* Trustees have been to four town meetings, Planning Board, Board of Selectman, DPW and Finance Committee meetings and have done focus groups and surveys throughout town.

The Finance Committee will request Peter O’Cain attend the next meeting to answer questions regarding the existing building and its usage.

\*Use of service documents and historic summary—PUT on website

Cynthia O’Connell was introduced as a member of the Sharon Public Library Foundation.

* They fundraise for some of the expenses for the new building program and to provided extras that are beyond the town’s budget.
* Started up again in October of 2017.

1. **Town Manager and Finance Director Updates**

Krishan Gupta, Finance Director, provided a financial update.

* In the process of closing the books, beginning with schools.
* A new business manager was hired for the schools, who started a few weeks ago.

1. **Minutes to be voted: July 9th, 2018**

**MOTION:** by Hanna Switlekowski to approve the July 9th minutes **SECONDED:** by Gordon Gladstone **VOTED:** 6-0-1. Arnold Cohen abstained.

1. **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance**

Two vacancies to be filled in the Finance Committee.

The next three Finance Committee meetings are as follows.

* September 17th, 2018
* October 15th, 2018
* November 19th, 2018

1. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to adjourn **SECONDED:** by Daniel Lewenberg **VOTED:** 7-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.