Minutes

March 7th, 2016

Sharon Community Center- 219 Massapoag Avenue

Present: Patricia-Lee Achorn, Gordon Gladstone, Alexander Korin, Steven Ross, Aaron Agulnek, Edward Phillips, Charles Goodman, Ira Miller, William Brack and Hanna Switlezowski.

Absent: Laura Nelson and Arnold Cohen.

1. **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review - Citizen Petition – NSGP – Birgitta McAlevey (7:30)**

Chuck Boardman of 14 Pleasant Street in Sharon, began by discussing a resolution regarding the pipeline The community is looking to address the proposed tariff being added to resident utility bills. Sharon’s residents would be paying the added cost for a total of twenty years, even if the gas is not needed and the pipeline is no longer relevant. Individuals living near this pipeline will be in the risk of safety hazards. Spectra has a poor reputation for maintenance and safety.

Birgitta McAlevey of 14 Century Hill Road in Sharon, discussed the request to continue putting pressure on the government to stop this project. The Town can make these changes to existing easements on Town land by filling out a short form. The Massachusetts DPW is currently having a hearing regarding the twenty-year contract and that the petitioners are awaiting the result.

A few more residents including Heather Zevinsinski of 18 Falls Road in Sharon and Phillip Kitha of 40 Main Street in Sharon shared their concerns regarding costs, safety and risk as well as physical aspects involved with the project. Paul Lauenstein of 4 Gavins Pond Road in Sharon, referenced the Global Warnings Solution Act with expectation of a substantial reduction in dependence on hydrocarbon technology eliminating the need for this pipeline.

There will be a forum on April 7th at Sharon High School at 7:00 pm, where four experts will share even more information regarding the Spectra pipeline.

1. **FY 17 Budget Review – School Department – Tim Farmer (7:45)**

Timothy Farmer, Superintendent for Schools, reviewed the School Department budget. Rollover of existing programs includes: Staff salary rollover costs are $1,149,853.15 representing a 2.8% increase. Projected retirement savings of $120,000. There is a decrease in the SPED tuitions of approximately $15,000 and a decrease in Circuit Breaker funding of around $315,000.

Staffing adjustments to maintain class size include: Addition of two elementary sections and an offsetting reduction of grade 6 teachers ($123,224). The High School will drop approximately sixty students and staffing reduction of 1.25 FTE for $64,682.60. An adjustment to middle school foreign language staffing will add costs of $12,322.

Required staffing adjustments include need for added ELL teachers ($36,967) due to the increasing number of children whose primary language isn’t English. The expense is partially offset by reductions in the Kind Revolving fund and instructional materials and supplies.

In conjunction with the School Strategic Plan and Five Year Financial Plan, Sharon schools are implementing the special education program currently contracted with the New England Center for Children. This would allow a Sharon students to remain in their local district with a reduction in costs from $200,000 to $85,000. There is potential for students from other districts moving to the Sharon Schools programs generating revenue (perhaps 2-3 out of community recruits at $40-45,000 each). The contingency fund for students that need to go out of the district for learning requirements is being reduced to $84,644, which should be sufficient for any new special needs student entering Sharon Schools.

Other items impacting the FY17 School budget include use of the Kindergarten Revolving account for supplies and charges to Community Education for the use of School property reflecting an increase in utilization as well as the new FLES and Leap Programs that may both cost a substantial amount. Ira Miller questioned the budget in this regard and his concerns to sustain the budget overall, however Timothy Farmer responded that they will likely cut other programs to expand the FLES program, meaning no substantial costs will be added.

The School Capital Outlay requests totaling $1,249,000 were discussed. Those requests include lighting at the Cottage Street School, HVAC at East Street School, computers for the continuation of one-to-one at the Middle School, the architectural services for the new Heights Roof as well as furniture, technology, acoustical treatments and new vans for the special education fleet.

**ATM Warrant Review and Warrant Schedule**

The warrant articles will be finished on March 21st, 2016. The Finance Committee will request a revised warrant from Lauren Barnes prior to this meeting and on the 21st of March, Capital Outlay, CPC and Personnel Board will attend the meeting along with Fred Turkington.

1. **Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Edward Phillips to adjourn **SECONDED** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm.

The next meeting will be March 21st, 2016.