February 27th, 2017 Minutes

219 Massapoag Avenue Sharon, MA

**Present:** William Brack, Patricia-Lee Achorn, Alexander Korin, Ira Miller, Gordon Gladstone and Edward Phillips, Arnold Cohen, Charles Goodman and Hanna Switlezowski

Absent: Laura Nelson

1. **Review ATM Warrant Article Re: Sharon Gallery Zoning – Robert Shelmerdine**

Robert Shelmerdine, counsel for 95 LLC David Spiegel, presented their proposal which seeks to go into the existing business district D bylaw and clean up the criteria. The sponsor of this bylaw will be the Planning Board. Mr. Shelmerdine will meet with the Selectman on February 28th, 2017 and then both the Planning Board and the Conservation Committee on March 2nd, 2017 for final remarks regarding the proposal. The proposal also includes use changes as well adding new uses to the district.

The Planning Board has requested new design requirements, making it more sustainable and serving as a green development. These plans include smart location, reduced parking footprint, water conservation, bike facilities, demand management and more.

Mr. Chermosky, marketing representative from CB Ventures, shared his vision in regards to a new plaza. The approach will be similar to that of Wayland Town Center or Chestnut Hill Square. Expansion into a lifestyle center combined with urgent care is key.

1. **Review Schools FY 18 Budget and receive input on any relevant Warrant Articles**

Timothy Farmer, Superintendent of Schools, presented the budget regarding reductions, basic rollovers and moving the district forward. There is an estimated $1,040,524.05 in staff rollover costs and a projected $140,000 in savings. January 10th is the deadline for retirements and as of now seven notices of retirement have been received.

The increases in budget include $202,453 in the circuit breaker funding and $322,328.93 in SPED tuitions. The School Committee asked for one more class period of Mathematics as well as increasing the Elementary Math Coordinator from .8 to .9 in FY18.

Reductions presented include $14,085 in less materials and supplies, the transitioning of SPED materials saving of $25,108.07 and the funding shift for lounge program custodian. The schools have also decreased their summer budget saving $25,000 and an additional $20,000 due to their need changes for an Instructional Assistant.

Based on the presented information, the schools are requesting $42,423,517.74, which is an increase of 2.79%.

The School Committee hasn’t voted on the budget yet but will do so Wednesday, March 1st, 2017.

A discussion regarding class size requirements and new student numbers for grades kindergarten through twelfth grade was conducted. There will be 220 kindergarteners next year, which is an increase from 198 to 220. Fourth grade at Cottage Street Elementary has a class size starting at twenty-four students, therefore if five or six more students join, they will hit their maximum causing some students to attend another school. Another number that the schools are watching is the number of students in sixth grade. The class sizes currently look to be about twenty-five students per classroom.

Last year there was an addition of four elementary special education teachers who are all content specialists in literacy. Early data has shown a higher level of success and confidence in students. Some of the 5th grade students will move into 6th and they will need a LEAP teacher in middle school. Next year Sharon High School will undergo an accreditation process in regards to if they should stay the same or make any major changes. In the English Language Learners program there are 125 students and this number has gone up by approximately 20 students since last year.

The New England School Development Council’s chart and numbers were provided regarding enrollment projections. The chart projects 3652 students, however Timothy projects 3509, which is about 200 less students.

The School Committee is looking to add one member, to increase their numbers from six to seven members. This will make it easier when it comes time to vote. Veronica Wiseman brought this article forward. The Committee voted unanimously in support.

Article sixteen regarding the Heights Roof funding stated that the Schools need the town to commit to the net of $1,200,000. The School Committee has voted unanimously in support. Timothy Farmer and John Marcus have received 84 prospects for the build and have invited 17 back to see the two sites. Article twenty-five focuses on creating an account to pay for the unanticipated SPED costs.

The long term vision for the Schools is to have a building made specifically for communication education.

Dr. Victoria Greer will be taking over for Timothy Farmer as of July 1st, 2017.

1. **Review other ATM Warrant Articles with updates from Town Administrator**

Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, presented the tentative warrant articles. The Planning Board will meet on March 2nd, 16th and 30th of 2017 and vote accordingly. There are several zoning articles being considered such as Sharon Gallery, the zoning bylaw change at 68R South Walpole district, the adoption of stretch energy code and the as of right siting zoning change.

The Priorities Committee will meet to discuss whether or not to add the $133,289 to the revenue forecast or rather to use it for debt reduction. Capital Outlay Committee will vote on the 1:1 laptops, COA van, Heights Roof and the generator and the Sharon Standing Building Committee still need to present their town office project recommendation to the Selectman.

The non-financial articles include the property tax workoff program, the schematic design documents for One School Street library location, codification articles and the School Committee moving from six to seven members.

1. **Review and Approve Minutes from November 21st, 2016, December 6th, 2016, December 12th, 2016 and January 9th, 2017**

**MOTION:** to approve the November 31st, 2016 minutes by Ira Miller **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 8-0-1. Hanna Switlezowski abstained.

**MOTION:** to approve the December 6th, 2017 minutes by Ira Miller **SECONDED:** by Patricia- Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 7-0-2. William Brack and Charles Goodman abstained.

**MOTION:** to approve the December 12th, 2016 minutes by Ira Miller **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 8-0-1. Charles Goodman abstained.

**MOTION:** to approve the January 9th, 2017 minutes by Ira Miller **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 8-0-1. Arnold Cohen abstained.

**5.Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours Prior to Posting**

The Finance Committee will meet next on March 6th, 2017 and the meeting will include the Citizen’s petition, Priorities Committee and Fred Turkington, Town Administrator.

**6. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** to adjourn by Edward Phillips **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 9-0-1.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.