May 22nd, 2017 Minutes

219 Massapoag Avenue Sharon, MA

**Present:** William Brack, Patricia-Lee Achorn, Alexander Korin, Ira Miller, Gordon Gladstone, Daniel Lewenberg, Charles Goodman, Hanna Switlekowski, Edward Philips, Arnold Cohen and Anja Bernier.

**Absent:** Laura Nelson

1. **Introduce new members**

Two new Finance Committee members were introduced.

* Anja Bernier has been living in Sharon for three years with her two children. She works as an Investment Banker and Business Appraiser and is originally from Germany. She obtained dual citizenship recently and has been involved with finance for many years.
* Daniel Lewenberg has been living in Sharon for five years with his wife and two children. He has a Masters in Economics and a background in Finance. He was an Equity Analyst for many years.
1. **Review Reserve Fund Transfer Request**

Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, discussed the reserve fund transfer request regarding the overlap of salaries, election schedule, early voting overtime staffing needs and supplies.

* A mandate came through requiring staffing of the Town Clerk’s office to be done more than twelve days’ prior.
* A handicap accessible ramp at town hall was added to meet compliance.
* Some state funding was received.
* The original request amount changed from $21,800 to $18,647.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to appropriate $18,647 from the reserve fund **SECONDED:** by Hanna Switlezowski **VOTED:** 11-0-0.

Fred Turkington continued speaking about the reserve fund transfer request regarding a consulting accounting firm need due to the long term illness and passing of Finance Director, Cindy Doherty.

* A CPA firm was hired who specializes in filling in for local governments.
* The remaining balance is $23,000.
* There is nine weeks of unspent salary left.
* The Board of Selectman will vote to select a hiring committee for the new Finance Director shortly.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to appropriate $23,000 from the reserve fund **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 11-0-0.

1. **Discuss and vote reorganization under Article 2, Section 2 of the Town By- Laws**

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to appoint Patricia-Lee Achorn as the new Chairman **SECONDED:** by Edward Philips **VOTED:** 10-0-1. Patricia-Lee Achorn abstained.

**MOTION:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn to appoint Ira Miller and William Brack as the two Vice Chairman **SECONDED:** by Ira Miller **VOTED:** 11-0-0.

**MOTION:** by Edward Phillips to appoint Alexander Korin as the Clerk **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 11-0-1. Alexander Korin abstained.

1. **Set June and summer schedule**

The Finance Committee will have their next meeting on June 26th, 2017 at 7:00 pm. The joint board meeting will follow at 7:30 pm.

1. **Vote Minutes: January 23rd, February 6th, February 27th, March 6th and March 13th**

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to approve the January 23rd, 2017 minutes **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 9-0-1. Anja Bernier and Daniel Lewenberg abstained.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to approve the February 6th, 2017 minutes **SECONDED:** by Hanna Switlezowski **VOTED:** 9-0-1. Anja Bernier and Daniel Lewenberg abstained.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to approve the February 27th, 2017 minutes **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 9-0-1. Anja Bernier and Daniel Lewenberg abstained.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to approve the March 6th, 2017 minutes **SECONDED:** by Hanna Switlekowski **VOTED:** 8-0-3. Anja Bernier, Daniel Lewenberg and Edward Philips abstained.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to approve the March 13th, 2017 minutes **SECONDED:** by Arnold Cohen **VOTED:** 8-0-3. Anja Bernier, Daniel Lewenberg and Hanna Switlekowski abstained.

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

Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, discussed the current state aid increase of $130,000 more than originally projected.

* The plan is to apply that to the potential tax increase in the fall, leaving the town at 3.5%.
* Free cash was certified at $4.9 million dollars.
* An estimated $2.3 million will be the cost of the roof.

The target date for town meeting is November 6th, 2017. Items for the town meeting include the Town Hall project and funding for the schematic design for the High School.

1. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** by Edward Philips to adjourn **SECONDED:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED:** 11-0-0.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.