

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 25, 2014

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Sharon Town Hall at 7:00pm with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk John J. McGrath, Selectman Walter B. Roach and Town Administrator Fred Turkington.

Tax Classification Public Hearing

The Board of Assessors is recommending that the Board of Selectmen select a residential factor of "one" for fiscal year 2015. This would result in each property class maintaining 100% of its full value tax share.

The Board of Assessors recommends that the Board of Selectmen choose not to adopt a residential exemption for fiscal year 2015. This would result in each residential property maintaining 100% of its full value tax share.

The Board of Assessors further recommends that the Board of Selectmen choose not to adopt a small commercial exemption for fiscal year 2015. This would result in each commercial property maintaining 100% of its full value tax share.

Administrative Assessor reviewed the additional materials/data he provided to the Board, which supports the recommendations of the Board of Assessors.

MOTION: To open the public hearing at 7:05pm
(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To close the public hearing at 7:05pm
(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To accept the three recommendations of the Board of Assessors, as discussed this evening
(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Special Police Officer Introduction – Sean Somers

Mr. Somers graduated from Sharon High School and currently resides in Foxborough. He is currently working as a licensed journeyman electrician and graduated from the Municipal Police Training Council Reserve/Intermittent Police Academy in October. He was also recently hired by the Sharon Police Department to serve as a part-time dispatcher and Chief Bernstein and the command staff believes he would be an asset to the department as a Special Police Officer.

The Board believes the town is fortunate to have him serve the town.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of Chief Bernstein and appoint Sean Somers as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Sharon
(McGrath – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Review & Approve Consent Calendar

- ❖ Vote to accept regular and executive session minutes of November 13, 2014

- ❖ Vote to approve the banner request from One Book, One Town for February 23-March 2, 2015 in first position and March 9-16, 2015 in first position. One Book, One Town kindly requests the board waives the fee as in years past.
- ❖ Vote to approve the banner request from Ner Tamid Community Day School for December 8 – 15, 2014 in the first position to highlight their book fair
- ❖ Vote to approve and sign the second amendment to the solid waste collection and transportation agreement with Allied Waste for a three year term – January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017
- ❖ Vote to approve amended revised Town of Sharon Alcohol License Regulations, reflecting recent license fee changes

MOTION: To approve the November 25, 2014 consent calendar
(McGrath – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Board of Health Update – Stanley Rosen

Chairman Heitin noted that the Board has asked for a representative from each of the major boards to come and talk about what the Board of Health has been doing.

Present before the Board is Stanley Rosen. Mr. Rosen noted the composition of the Board. He noted that the town is without a Health Administrator and the position has been vacant since June. The recruitment for a replacement has taken place and they received over 100 applicants. They narrowed that field down to ten candidates and a subcommittee interviewed the ten candidates. They chose five to come before the full Board and four ultimately were interviewed. They arrived at a unanimous decision and unfortunately, the candidate ultimately declined the offer. The Board is interviewing several other finalists. With respect to the Sanitarian position, the Board has terminated the contract with the former Health Administrator's company. Sheila Miller, the public health nurse, has been conducting the inspections. Selectman Roach questioned who would be conducting the inspections. Mr. Rosen noted that Ms. Miller is conducting some inspections but the Board is determining who will conduct inspections in the future.

Other things going on with the Board: most of the Board members attended a recent training. The newer members found the training enlightening. Mr. Rosen said that the drug coalition is of personal interest to him and the Board is thinking of conducting programs with the seniors.

Mr. Rosen commented that the Board of Health was formed in 1996 by a vote at Town Meeting. He has been appointed every three years since then and desires to be reappointed again.

Selectman McGrath noted that a discussion took place several months ago about the possibility of moving the Health Department to the Community Center. Mr. Rosen replied that the Board did have a discussion, and the Board of Health prefers to be relocated to the fire station in the future. They feel the Community Center is off the beaten path. There was no formal vote taken on the issue.

The Board thanked Mr. Rosen for his time.

Council on Aging Update – Elliot Feldman

Mr. Feldman offered a report on the activities of the Council on Aging:

- Continuation of focus on aging in place (in community), focusing especially on housing and transportation.
- Enhance options for hearing-impaired public and provide trainings for Adult Center and other department staff as well as public. This was done through three different workshops held with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

- Continued collaboration with Recreation Department on programs, use of space, compilation and updating of facility use documents.
- Continue work on advocacy for senior issues and on property tax relief options for Sharon – COA Director is Chair of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) Property Tax Task Force and is a member of the Department of Revenue 360 Advisory Council and is on the MCOA Board; their Social Worker is a member of the NASW Health & Aging Issues Interest Group
- Coordination around veterans' property tax work-off program; met with Veterans Agent several times, provided explanation of program and follow up, available to receive any referrals at this time. The program accepts veterans of any age.
- Increased publicity – have developed Facebook page, had blog on Sharon Patch; websites were changed/staff is about to be trained to upload own material to website due to volume we send to webmaster.

Selectman Roach noted that when he went to the Bridgewater Council on Aging and they don't have the programs or attendance that Sharon has. Mr. Feldman commented that Sharon is one of the most active Councils on Aging in the area.

Selectman McGrath thanked the staff and the Board for their hard work. Mr. Feldman reiterated the need for land/property so that elders can age in place.

Recreation Advisory Committee Update – Margaret Marder

Ms. Marder read the mission statement of the Recreation Advisory Committee. She wants to hear from the community as to what they want from the Recreation Department.

The Committee is the sounding board for the Recreation Director. This summer, they instituted an inspection program at the boat launch – the jury is out if the program was successful.

The basketball league is underway as well as other programming – the Community Center is an active place. They reviewed the Recreation Department's capital requests and toured the recreation facilities around town. They also did an assessment of the use of the Community Center and would like to reach out to the new Town Administrator.

Ms. Marder asked the Board how they see the Committee's role, as they support the Board. Selectman Roach said that all of the boards/commissions/committees should communicate more. He would like to find some way to come up with a plan to address the beach hours during the summer, address the rate that the town charges the senior citizens to access the beach. Recreation Advisory Committee Chairman said that the Committee wrestles with the fees each year. This year will be more difficult, with the increase in the minimum wage.

The Board thanked Ms. Marder for the update.

Hammershop Pond Discussion

Chairman Heitin said that a number of residents have contacted the Board of Selectmen regarding Hammershop Pond. This was not an agenda item but said that they will allow the residents to offer a few comments.

The Board is fully supportive of the restoration of the dam at Hammershop Pond. There is a movement to seek CPA funds to replace the dam and the Board needs the neighbors to attend the Town Meeting in May and advocate for this project. The repair of the dam would not take place until after the start of the new fiscal year.

Keevin Gellar, 2 Canton Street and member of the Conservation Commission, noted that the Commission voted unanimously to support full restoration of the Hammershop Pond Dam. They are adamantly against breaching the dam and draining the pond. He added that the dam is historic and CPA funds could be obtained through the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Turkington said that town officials met with the Department of Conservation and Recreation recently and received an extension to get an inspection and a plan is in the works to temporarily shore up the dam until the funds can be received at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Mark Chernin, 11 Quincy Street, appreciates the Board for allowing the residents to speak and he read a prepared statement. They created a *Friends of Hammershop Pond* group and the group noted the reasons why the dam should be preserved:

- Public safety
- Conservation & wildlife maintenance
- Recreation & education
- Historic preservation
- Financial implications of restoring the pond

The group had an engineer walk the area and offered his comments, which the group read aloud.

Tom Apone, 6 Quincy Street, is happy to hear that the Board is supportive of the project and they will work to getting folks to Town Meeting.

There was a general discussion about the logistics to get this project to the floor of Town Meeting.

Report of the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Met with staff to discuss the staffing at the boat launch to check for invasive species
- The tax recap sheet will be submitted to the Department of Revenue – tax rate is \$20.30
- The Veterans Agent has open drop-in hours at his new office in the Community Center
- He prepared a draft budget/Town Meeting schedule for the next six months
- Departments have a December 9 deadline to submit their budget requests
- The Priorities Committee is meeting December 9 at 7:30pm
- He has prepared a 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule
- The Management Professionals collective bargaining agreement has been settled

Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting

None

Executive Session – 8:24pm

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and strategy with respect to collective bargaining, at the end, adjourn for the evening. Discussion of any of these in open session would be detrimental to the Town.

(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye
McGrath: Aye
Roach: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:30pm
(Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye
McGrath: Aye
Roach: Aye