

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 14, 2015

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Sharon Town Hall at 7:37pm with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk John J. McGrath, Selectman Walter B. Roach and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Susan Price – MAPC Update & Reappointment

Ms. Price has noted that she has completed two terms and is seeking a third term. She enjoys the work –they exchange news and ideas of planning and zoning issues, as well as regional transportation issues. She brings information back to town leaders related to potential grants or topics of interest.

MOTION: To reappoint Susan Price to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for a three year term to expire on April 14, 2018
(Roach – McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Police Chief Search Process Update

Steve Unsworth of BadgeQuest was present for the discussion.

Mr. Unsworth provided a summary of his background in law enforcement as well as the work of BadgeQuest. He expects the search process to take three to four months. He is seeking feedback from Police Department personnel as well the townspeople – the citizen survey is on the town's website and will be in the newspaper. After a thorough review of the resumes, he expects the number of candidates to be culled down to 15-18.

He discussed the challenges and culture of the Police Department with the Chief and hopes to meet individually with each of the members of the Board of Selectmen. He provided an explanation of assessment center process. The Board of Selectmen is welcome to observe the assessment center.

Selectman Roach asked how many candidates will be forwarded to the screening committee after the assessment center. Mr. Unsworth replied that each assessment center can handle five candidates. If a second assessment center is needed, then upwards of ten candidates can be submitted to the screening committee.

Selectman McGrath noted Mr. Unsworth's outstanding reputation and is looking forward to working with him.

The Board thanked Mr. Unsworth for his time.

Consent Calendar

- Vote to accept regular session minutes of March 31, 2015
- Vote to sign the 2015 Annual Town Meeting warrant
- Authorize the Treasurer/Collector to conduct a tax title sale
- Schedule the Board of Selectmen to participate in three-board financial meeting on Thursday, September 10
- Vote to appoint Jim Grasfield as a full member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2017

MOTION: To approve the April 14, 2015 consent calendar
(McGrath - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- The federal government has only granted reimbursement for the initial January blizzard and not for the remainder of the winter
- With respect to Sharon Commons, the portion of Old Post Road will be redesigned to accommodate both the commercial and residential project. This will be presented at the end of May to the Board of Selectmen for approval for the road project; ZBA does the rest
 - Chairman Heitin noted that the town is willing to work with retail and commercial partners on getting the project moving forward
- The five-year Capital plan is being revised and will be a great tool for next year's budget cycle
- We are hoping to have board/committee meetings at the Community Center by June
- Contracts for the executive class will be ready shortly for the Board's review

NSTAR/Eversource Switching Station Discussion

Mr. Turkington noted that Eversource has provided responses to the questions posed by the Energy Facilities Siting Board. He noted that Eversource's concerns with the alternative location include:

- Additional cost of site development
- Time lag with getting land swap approval (Town Meeting and special legislation)

Selectman Roach rode by the site on Canton Street and commented that areas have been cleared and Mr. Turkington replied that it is part of their annual vegetation management program. Selectman McGrath added that the Board and Mr. Turkington have been working hard on this issue.

John Hansen, 25 Apple Valley Drive, reiterated their concerns that the Town not pay too much attention to mitigation measures and instead focus on the fact that improper notification took place. He believes that visual and safety mitigation measures should be taken, if the switching station is placed on Canton Street, such as a bicycle path and camouflaging and modifications to the street, all of which should be the responsibility of Eversource. With respect to the alternative location, Mr. Hansen commented that Eversource's responses are not conclusory and doesn't believe that serious consideration was taken.

Selectman McGrath said that the priority is to work on the alternative location but if that is not possible, the Town will work hard on proper mitigation measures.

Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed concern that there is no plan for the two-year period during construction if the project were to move forward at the Canton Street site. Mr. Turkington asked the Board if the town is in a position to ask them to seriously explore the Bullard Street site knowing there are potential issues at the proposed alternative site or do we want them to explore it and get back to us with answers to the town's questions. The Board believes Eversource should get back to the town with answers to its questions. Mr. Turkington would ask for specifics in their answers. Eversource is looking at vegetation measures, but the Board likes the idea of streetscaping.

Michael Lang, 60 Canton Street, asked if Eversource received permission to do test borings on their site from the Conservation Commission and another neighbor indicated that the Conservation Commission granted permission.

Mr. Turkington will circulate a final draft letter to the Board in the coming days.

Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting

None

Executive Session – 8:10pm

MOTION: To enter into executive session at to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and at the end, to 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 8:27pm

(Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye

McGrath: Aye

Roach: Aye