

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
June 20, 2017

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman John J. McGrath, Clerk William A. Heitin, Selectman Walter B. Roach and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pinning Ceremony for Firefighters Derek Sorafine and Peterson Curalov

Fire Chief Jim Wright introduced Derek Sorafine and Peterson Curalov as the department's newest firefighters. They performed exceptionally well during 10-week Firefighting Academy training and graduated on June 5, 2017. For the pinning ceremony, Captain Ricker pinned Firefighter Sorafine's badge and Firefighter Curalov's wife pinned his. Senator Walter Timilty and Ted Phillips of Representative Louis Kafka's office presented the men with citations from the State House in recognition and of their swearing in as firefighters. The Board congratulated the new members.

Kalman Koblick - Conditional Offer of Employment as a Full-time Police Officer

Police Chief Tilden Kaufman seeks to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Phil McEnany with a conditional offer of employment to Kalman Koblick. He is currently a dispatcher and special police officer for the department. He graduated from Sharon High School and Brandeis University and served in the Israeli Special Forces. Chief Kaufman noted that Kal ranked in the top 3 on the Civil Service test - even though they do not follow civil service - and passed an oral interview and background investigation. Selectman Roach remarked that he has known Kal since he was in High School. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Mr. Koblick.

MOTION: Vote to approve the conditional offer of employment, on the recommendation of the Chief, to Kalman Koblick subject to successful completion of the Police Academy
(Heitin-Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Presentation of Proclamation - Sharon Eagles Girls Tennis Team State Champs

Chairman McGrath introduced the 2017 Sharon High School Girls Tennis Team. On Wednesday, June 14 the team became Division I State Champs. This was the first time in the history of Sharon High School. Selectman Heitin read the proclamation from the Board of Selectmen. The Board congratulated the team and coaches.

2017 Sharon High School Girls Tennis Team:

Head Coach - Diane Micheroni assisted by Vinny Micheroni

Assistant Coach - Colleen Durno

Sachi Bhasin, Makalia Cheung, Sophia Fein, Lauren Glass, Sydney Gordon, Julia Kirshenbaum, Katherine Merport, Rithika Neti, Alysha Posternak, Elizabeth Ellie Romantz, Akhila Sangadi, Nupur Shukla, Jessica Tarnoff, Emily Wen, Mariel Lulu Yuan, Emily Zhang

Public Comment and Vote for Municipal Solid Waste Collection & Recycling Program

Chairman McGrath thanked the citizens for their input on the trash and recycling proposal discussion since the last Selectmen's meeting. He said the Board finds the comments and questions very helpful. He noted that

in reading the letters there was some discussion as to the fairness of the process of negotiations made on behalf of the Town by Mr. Turkington. He believes the process was very open and honest and that Mr. Turkington was very clear during the meetings about the way the negotiations would be handled. He felt it was creative and did no harm since the Town may still go to bid if they choose.

All three Board members have done independent research since the last meeting. Chairman McGrath spoke to other contractors and selectmen and even drove around on trash night to get an idea of what was being put out for trash. He found most households have two barrels and feels there is a middle ground between the 35 gallon program and what is currently offered. He would like to look at options best tailored to the needs of the community based on the feedback and go out to bid.

Selectman Heitin had the opportunity to meet with smaller scale trash companies. He found that the large publicly traded companies are only interested in profits. He believes if they can identify a stable, smaller scale company that works with municipalities that may work best. Selectman Heitin said he is not ready to take action on this item tonight and that the Board needs to do their due diligence. He believes they have a sense for where the citizens stand base on the emails received. In the meantime the deficit needs to be addressed. Selectman Heitin concurs with Chairman McGrath about a middle ground. He is in favor of weekly recycling and found that communities that offer it reduced trash dramatically. He believes that the savings just isn't there for reducing down to a 35g cart yet we need an option to reduce trash and increase recycling.

Selectman Roach has been in touch with other towns about their trash programs. He proposed a motion to increase the fee from \$54 per quarter to \$76 per quarter to cover the deficit until they get a new program underway. Chairman McGrath asked Mr. Turkington, for the purpose of clarification, to explain why the Board would need to make the motion to increase the fee. Mr. Turkington explained that the current program fee has not increased since 2010. During that time the collection program had annual COLA's of 2-2.5%, and the tipping fee for solid waste has risen from \$35.52 per ton to \$63.30 per ton. That jump came at the end of a 30yr contract the Town negotiated during a time when SEMASS had just built a plant and were looking for communities with stable waste generation versus Cape towns where it is more seasonal. Mr. Turkington has created a summary of citizen concerns and options to consider during the bidding process. The timeline would be to go out to bid by early fall and plan on implementation in April. The fee proposed by Selectman Roach in the motion is necessary to continue services as is, at least through the next year. Chairman McGrath gave assurance that the fee increase will continue the exact same trash service until a decision can be made on a new program.

Adam Shain of 3 Paul Revere Road asked if the \$76 fee will bring us up to budget neutral. Mr. Turkington responded that the fee will bring us slightly above neutral to erode some of the deficit.

MOTION: Vote to increase the trash fee per quarter from \$54 to \$76 per quarter to cover the budget deficit effective July 1, 2017

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

Chairman McGrath asked the audience to share their ideas while being respectful of the speakers and asked they refrain from presentations.

- Mindy Levine of 35 Cottage Street was approached by the Sustainable Sharon Coalition with the challenge of reducing her trash. She was skeptical but found that with some modifications, more recycling and composting it was markedly easier than expected.
- Art Newman of 18 Sentry Hill Road appreciates Fred Turkington for his thoroughness and thanked the Sustainable Sharon Coalition (SSC) for their hard work. He's a fifty year resident of the Town with a family of four and is in favor of the SSC SMART cart proposal or something close to that. He is onboard with Mr. Turkington's suggestion to keep recycling bi-weekly with an additional bin as

needed at no extra charge. He stated that the SMART program is not unprecedented, as 147 other communities have adopted the program in Massachusetts. He said we are extremely fortunate that Sharon is among one of the healthiest in the country and feels it is our responsibility to reduce waste to preserve the gift that we have been given.

- Laurence Tamkin of 35 Crest Road has a family of 5 and recycles a lot; rarely filling a 35g barrel each week. He believes it can be done through educating the public about what can be recycled. He is hoping the service providers could help.
- Scott Schroeder of 14 Sentry Hill Road showed a map of the all the Towns in Massachusetts related to how much trash they generate. He believes the problem with the current program is that for a fee you can throw as much as you want a way, but the SMART program causes you to think about what you are throwing away. He showed that Towns with the program are producing far less trash than Sharon. He believes if we do recycle and reuse we could save money and it will be better for the environment.
- Lyla Mandell of 45 Arboro Drive learned about recycling through the Girls Scouts and is from a family of five. Her parents thought it would be impossible to recycle that much, but were able to get down to one cart within a week.
- Dr. Ricky Stern of the Sustainable Sharon Coalition read from prepared remarks in favor of the 35 gallon SMART cart program.
- Yuriy Novikov of 82 Glendale Road believes we should start the process with weekly recycling pick up and see what we change with the amount of trash we generate and then move to smaller barrel sizes
- No name provided – His family of five recently moved from Wrentham where they have the SMART cart program. He said they probably generate the waste of a family of seven and never had to purchase the PAYT bags. He said some neighbors had, but it did not seem to be a big deal to them. He said the SMART program is really doable.
- Cheryl Schnitzer of 5 Terrapin Lane said Easton has weekly recycling and the 65g barrels and they fall into the same category as Sharon for wastefulness on the map. She is worried that moving to the 65 g cart - even with weekly recycling - will still not reduce trash.
- Mary Mandell of 45 Arboro, mom of the Girl Scout, Lyla, who spoke earlier. She learned about the SMART cart program through the Sustainable Sharon Coalition. She feels the restrictive cart size forces you to look harder at your recycling. As a Girl Scout leader she said that the kids were shocked and disappointed about where Sharon fell on this issue. She asked to think about the kids too.
- Mr. Pellows of 15 Pleasant Street believes the PAYT option is not good practice. He feels it will reduce efficiency and has concerns about animal intrusion.
- Mary Cohen of 23 Barefoot Hill Road works in Boston Public Schools as a psychologist near a dump site where there is always trash blowing around. She feels it is easier to be more wasteful when you do not live near a dump to see its impact. She offered to volunteer her services as a psychologist to help people implement the program changes.
- Adam Shain of 3 Paul Revere Road originally opposed to the 35 gallon SMART program. He hopes as we evaluate the programs we are careful about the statistics. He asked the Selectmen and Sustainable Sharon Coalition to continue the educational process as a way to reduce trash without necessarily the need to impose financial penalties on people. He inquired about the best way moving forward for citizens to remain involved.

Chairman McGrath responded that communication works both ways to be effective. We have information on our website on specific issues and citizens can follow the Selectmen's meetings by checking the website for their agendas, meeting minutes or by accessing the meeting replays through Sharon Cable Television's website. He said then you can engage the Selectmen via email. Chairman McGrath said that Mr. Turkington's willingness to listen and answer questions is really like none other. He encourages citizens to be engaged. Mr. Turkington would like the citizens to email their suggestions to the Board so they may be included in the bidding process to get the best possible package for the Town. He will be gathering the ideas over the next few months and then posting the information via executive summaries to the website which can then be

shared on Facebook and Sharon related pages. Mr. Turkington is trying to strike a balance between the program currently offered and the 35g program. He will do due diligence to provide a program that will satisfy the majority of the town.

Update on Sharon Town Hall Project

Kevin Paton principal of BKA Architects was present to provide the Board with an update. He said that since his last presentation the decision was made to proceed with a single free standing building instead of a renovation. The project details have been refined as a result of meeting with individual departments to assess their needs. Subtle changes have been made to the plans to make construction more efficient and to accommodate existing and future programming functions of the Town Hall. An additional 600 square feet of space was gained by expanding the depth of the building to increase the lobby area to accommodate early voting. The process has proved difficult at the current Town Hall and adequate space was a concern of the Town Clerk. The staff room was relocated and storage area reconfigured. Mr. Paton believes the plans meet the needs of today and into the distant future. He provided the Selectmen with a plan that shows the existing space of the each Town department shaded in blue dropped into the new space of each department. Chairman McGrath and Mr. Turkington thought it was very helpful to show the contrast.

Richard Marks of Daedalus was present to explain the budget for the project. Two estimates were gathered - one from his firm and one via a consultant of BKA Architects- which were within 2% of each other. The estimated construction cost is approximately \$9.5 million dollars for a 15,000 square foot building, demo of the Fire Department building, associated site work, parking and all the work necessary to complete the building. Then, they took that number and added the soft costs for a grand total of \$12.5 million dollars. The amount includes previously approved design funds. The soft costs were based on the experience of their firm and that of the Sharon Standing Building Committee and include the following: inflation of construction costs, design funds, moving costs, technology costs, furniture and a \$700,000 contingency to capture unaccounted for items. Mr. Marks said they do their best not to spend the contingency money, but need a cushion for unexpected expenses to proceed with the project when they arise. Mr. Gladstone said the intention is not to spend the contingency funds.

Mr. Marks noted the timeline will be two years from approval with roughly 6-7 months of design and bidding and 16 months of construction. Mr. Gladstone asked about the bid market. Mr. Marks replied that it is still positive and healthy for new construction with less interest in remodels. The proposed Special Meeting date of November is ideal, bringing start of construction to May or June.

Chairman McGrath asked if the plans could still be tweaked. He noticed the Town Clerk had some concerns. Mr. Turkington explained that the most recent concerns were related to archiving and the vault. Mr. Marks said that even though the plans are well developed there will continue to be tweaks over the next 6-7 months. Mr. Turkington explained that the only department he thought may need some plan changes was the Board of Health. The department underwent a study of their operations and may require some plan changes as a result of operational changes. While Board of Health is still in flux, the other department's concerns have been pretty well vetted.

Mr. Gladstone wanted to be sure that the public understands that the budget presented by Mr. Marks tonight may not be the actual budget amount approved by the Sharon Standing Building Committee - it will be voted by their committee. Mr. Gladstone asked Mr. Turkington if each department has approved their space allocations. Mr. Turkington said to his knowledge, yes. As far as the Town Clerk's needs for early voting, he wants to provide enough space without overdoing it, since it is a function that only happens twice a year. Mr. Gladstone requested formal approval of the plans as they exist so that he may organize with the Board of Selectmen a sales program to promote the project to help the public understand the need for a new Town Hall.

Selectman Heitin feels the addition of 6,000 square feet was dramatic and understands why it has been done, but would like to dig deeper.

MOTION: Vote that the Board support initial plan to be reviewed by the Sharon Standing Building Committee as presented
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Mr. Turkington offered a quick overview of the finances and timeline. The Board has set a tentative date for a Special Fall Town Meeting on November 6. They devised a schedule working back from that date. He believes they have capacity for \$9 million of the proposed budget to be absorbed within the Town's retiring debt in 2019. The balance could be funded through a combination of other sources such as stabilization funds, free cash and additional borrowing. Schematic design money for a new High School will be requested at the same meeting. He said it will take some creativity in financing if you do not want to incur excluded debt which will require a ballot question.

Mr. Turkington read a statement from Paul Remy Chairman of the Commission on Disabilities:

The Commission is deeply appreciative for the dedicated work town officials are doing in getting an accessible Town Hall constructed. The Commission members are going to create an educational video about the needs for a new and larger Town Hall. In addition, we will be writing an article hoping to get it published in the Sharon Advocate and on Sharon's Facebook page. Below I have questions and comments.

1. When several wheelchair and scooter users were voting at one time during the 2016 elections they had difficulty maneuvering in the Town Hall lobby. I came close to hitting a scooter user as my personal care assistant was pushing me in a wheelchair out of the building. Will the lobby of the new Town Hall be larger and less congested for wheelchair and scooter users in the future for early elections?

Response: Yes, substantially.

2. Today more people with disabilities and many seniors some with mobility impairments are working into their late 60's and beyond. This raises the possibility that some Town Hall employees will be wheelchair or scooter users in the future. An accessible Town Hall can accommodate employees with other types of disabilities. I think it would be essential for the video and my article to mention those points to further stress the needs for a new Town Hall.
3. Sharon Community Television records Board of Selectmen's meetings. With Sharon Community Television permission can I use statements made about the Town Hall project during the March 21 meeting and this meeting in my article?

Response: Yes.

Mr. Remy is also planning to interview town officials and Board members via email which is his best means of communicating.

A young man in the audience asked why demolish the old Fire Station building rather than remodel. Mr. Turkington explained that the Sharon Standing Building Committee looked at three options and the most cost effective option was determined to be a new building. Chairman McGrath thanked Mr. Paton and Mr. Marks for their presentation.

Discussion regarding possible changes to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Chairman McGrath explained this agenda topic arose due to the excessive traffic and complaints generated by Household Hazardous Waste Day each year. He said the Town does their best to mitigate the problem by having auxiliary police on staff but are seeking an alternative solution. Suggestions received from citizens

include changing the site location and possibly having two separate collection times.

Superintendent of Public Works Eric Hooper was present to provide feedback. He said that over the years they have looked into ways to make improvements. This year they increased police presence including a bicycle officer. The problems arise from the volume of traffic during the four hour time frame. Mr. Hooper said they handle roughly 400 cars with a rush at the very beginning of about 40-50 cars that diminishes in the last few hours.

Mr. Hooper explained that they have looked into an alternate location such as Deborah Sampson Park. The location would allow traffic to flow more freely, but there are concerns about children at the field and the ability to contain an accidental spill. Containing a spill is one of the advantages of holding it at the DPW. The lot is paved and the staff could mitigate it quickly. Other potential sites include Gavins Pond Soccer Field, Mountain Street dump, or one of the schools. Mr. Turkington believes the schools could be a good solution if it could be managed around school events. He believes we have plenty of time to explore the options before next year.

Chairman McGrath inquired about offering two different dates. Mr. Turkington explained that it would be too costly – roughly double. Selectman Heitin asked about a reservation system. Mr. Hooper said other Towns have done it fairly successfully and could be considered. Mr. Hooper doesn't believe a weekday collection at the Deborah Sampson location will work, nor the school unless it is during school break. He said they are not tied to a specific date so holding it at a school during school vacation or summer break could work. Selectman Roach thinks that Deborah Sampson could be tough and that the school location might be the best bet. Chairman McGrath thanked Mr. Hooper for coming.

Update on Finance Director / Town Accountant Search

Mr. Turkington reported that the Finance Director/Town Accountant Search Committee interviewed three candidates and recommended two to proceed with interviews with the Board on July 11. He said both are strong candidates and sitting Finance Directors in other communities – one large, one small. The temporary consultant will be available until the new Finance Director/Town Accountant begins no sooner than August.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular & executive session minutes of June 6, 2017
- II. Vote to approve the employment agreements for executive group amended to reflect FY 2018 salaries
- III. Vote to authorize the *Susan G. Komen* first annual *Impact Ride* cycling event to pass through the Town of Sharon on Sunday, October 1, 2017 from approximately 10:30am to 12:00pm on the following designated route: Lakeview St, East Foxboro St, Beach St, Pond St, Massapoag Ave, Capen Hill Rd, Morse St, Mountain St, East St and Bay Rd. Further, to allow for road paint to be applied two weeks prior to the event to mark the route and for signage to go up one week before the event. Event logistics to be arranged with the Police Department. Police Detail required.

MOTION: To approve the June 20, 2017 consent calendar, as read and understood
(Heitin-Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported the following as ongoing or upcoming meeting items:

- He plans to continue the discussions for options of bidding
- Interviews for the candidates for Finance Director / Town Accountant
- Recreation Advisory Committee has completed their choice for Citizen of the Year
- Three Board Committee Financial Summit strategy update – School Committee members have time off scheduled and are unavailable to meet next Monday. The Finance Committee will meet to organize itself and elect member to Priorities, Capital Outlay; finish the snow & ice reserve fund transfers and end of fiscal year clean up. Looking now at availability of the School Committee on July 10, 17 or potentially August 7. The new Superintendent of Schools begins at the start of July. Mr. Farmer will be available for the transition. They spent some time looking at the financial information so he is up to speed on costs and projected debt.
- Still waiting on the State budget
- Independence Celebration on July 3
- Square Jam is on Thursday, August 3. He talked to Ben Puritz and the band they have identified is playing at B.B. King's in New York the day before, so high quality act.

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

Selectman Heitin announced the following:

2017 Sharon Independence Day Celebration Schedule - All activities held at Veteran's Memorial Park Beach

Sunday, June 25, 2017:

- 9:00 am - 52nd Sharon Five Mile Road Race

Monday, July 3, 2017:

- 4:00 pm – Decorated Bicycle, Doll Carriage, and Costume Parade (parade will travel on Beach Street to the bandstand – line up at Beech Tree Park at 3:45pm – all participants receive recognition and a frozen treat)
- 4:00–6:00 pm – Re/Max Hot Air Balloon – Sharon High School field
- 4:30 pm – Lakeside Celebration – Roaming Railroad, carnival games, face painting, stilt walker, balloon artist, and a wide variety of food provided by town organizations as well as Boston area food trucks
- 6:30-9:30pm – Live music by the Dixie Diehards – Traditional New Orleans Jazz Music
- 7:30pm – Pie Eating Contest - \$50 prize for winner. Must be 18 years or older.
- 9:30pm – Independence Day Finale – fireworks fired from barge on Lake Massapoag.

Executive Session – 8:50pm

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to contract negotiations with non-union personnel, to discuss collective bargaining and pending litigation, and at the end, to adjourn of the evening. Discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the Town.

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

Roach: Aye
McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:06pm
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents:

- Email request from Fire Chief James Wright for pinning ceremony
- Letter from Police Chief Kaufman recommending Kalman Koblick as a full-time police officer
- Press release regarding the 2017 Sharon High School Girls Tennis Team Division I Championship, list of team members and draft proclamation
- Fred Turkington – Update on MSW & Recycling Collection Program Proposal as on June 16, 2017
- List of trash program emails received
- Fred Turkington – Outline of Sharon Trash Program (as shown on Town website)
- Fred Turkington – Frequently asked Questions about the Trash Program (as shown on Town website)
- Fred Turkington – May 31, 2017 Memorandum regarding MSW & Recycling Collection Program
- Fred Turkington – MSW & Recycling Collection Program Budget – FY 2018
- Daedalus - Sharon Town Hall Total Project Budget update as of June 13, 2017
- BKA Architects – Updated Town Hall Project Plans (option 3C)
- June 6, 2017 Board of Selectmen Minutes
- Executive Group Contracts amended to reflect FY 2018 Salaries
- Patricia Belden, Development Coordinator for Special Events, Susan G. Komen New England – Request to authorize the First Annual Impact Ride (cycling event) to pass through Sharon
- Report of the Town Administrator
- Supplemental Materials –
 - 2017 Sharon Independence Day Celebration Schedule
 - Letter from Katrena Traut-Savino informing them of the scheduled events
 - Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2017
 - Fred Turkington- Talking Points for discussion on potential changes to MSW & Recycling Collection Program
 - Fred Turkington – Email response from Michael T. Lavin, Jr. regarding the Town of Wrentham's trash program
- Miscellaneous Correspondence