

MINUTES SHARON SELECT BOARD

The March 8, 2022 meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Select Board Chair William Heitin remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Hanna R. Switekowski and Emily Smith-Lee were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governance Study Committee

There was recently a resignation received by a member of the Governance Study Committee. The committee has met and discussed their thoughts on filling the position. The Select Board received a formal request to fill the vacancy was received from the Chair, Paul Pietal who was in attendance to discuss the committee's position.

Mr. Pietal relayed the position of the committee that they were less likely to encounter tie votes if another member were added and that more diversity and experience would be helpful to accomplish the committee's charge. He further mentioned that the committee felt having another female perspective or that of a parent of school aged children would be helpful for diverse perspectives regarding consistent access to Town Meeting. There are currently only two women serving on the committee since the resignation.

Ms. Smith-Lee commented that she wished to clearly understand the Governance Study Committee's request about diversity and reflection of the community and thus was reluctant to return to the prior applicant pool. She asked Mr. Pietal to expand upon the request by the committee. He reiterated the committee's desire to fill the seat with a preference for emboldening the female or parent perspective and/or, if luck would have it, perhaps someone with experience in surveys, marketing, or public relations. Ms. Switekowski agreed with the need around diversification and perspective of a parent of school aged children thus she supported beginning the search process again. She mentioned also that there is no guarantee that responses will come from individuals with the qualities or experiences sought. She encouraged the committee to reach out to the PTO organizations. The Board agreed to open the search process again and will keep Mr. Pietal updated.

There was a brief discussion about attendance and the time commitment of serving on the Governance Study Committee. Ms. Switekowski and Ms. Smith-Lee encouraged the committee leaders to reach out discuss their concerns, if needed.

With respect to the committee's second request to require boards and committees to post courtesy copies of their meeting notices on the website, Mr. Heitin stated that all groups, including subcommittees are already required to post. Although it may not be within the scope of the committee, he felt it was important to find ways to improve governance including accessibility to meetings and regular reminders such as the email sent by Mr. Hogan not too long ago may be a way to accomplish that goal.

Sharon PEG access license renewal capital equipment needs report

Mr. Charles Levine of the Technology and Telecommunications Advisory Committee and Attorney William August who is representing the Town's interest during contract renewal negotiations with Comcast brought this request before the Board. They advised that this is step 2 of a 3-step process, the first being an ascertainment hearing which took place on November 3, 2022. Mr. August was highly complimentary of the amount of preparation by Sharon TV with the materials for the ascertainment hearing. He conducts many of these negotiations and felt that this should serve as a model for other communities.

MOTION: The Select Board, in its capacity as the cable television Franchising Authority of the Town of Sharon, Massachusetts, hereby adopts the attached 'Town of Sharon PEG Access License Renewal Capital Equipment Needs' report and overview titled 'Town of Sharon Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access License Renewal Needs' and attached budgets and statements of need therein as the Select Board's findings of need for use in the franchise renewal negotiation process to identify the Town's cable renewal community needs during negotiations. The foregoing adoption of finding of needs for Town cable license

negotiations purposes is subject to the Town reserving the right to modify these findings at any time during and/or after the renewal process subject to applicable law.
(Switekowski - Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Acquisition of 94 South Main Street

Mr. Turkington advised that the Town has been approached by the family of the property owner of 94 South Main Street indicating that they would like to sell the property and inquiring as to the Town's interest. Mr. Turkington was able to secure an appraisal by an independent third party to obtain the fair market value of the property. He hopes now to get funding through direct acquisition, not financing with approval at Town Meeting and close on the property. Been focused on obtaining parcels which about Key acquisition due to strategy.

Securing this property would be similar to the Town securing the Pond Street property next to the existing High School which offered the School Department flexibility with the new High School building. The Board felt this is worth pursuing if able to obtain for a fair, reasonable price and would allow possible future expansion of either the Town Hall building or parking area. Ms. Switekowski expressed concerns about how long the property might sit vacant and the purchase cost of the property. It was explained that the opportunity for the Town to purchase property for future needs does not often present itself. Ms. Smith-Lee explained that although she appreciates the inquiry about the use of the property, this is also a strategic move as if the property were developed and another home constructed, there increases the potential for consumers of school system which is a significant expense. She feels that this is a prudent purchase and cannot see a downside if the Town can secure the property at a fair price, even if there is no immediate use for the property at this time.

MOTION: That the Town attempt to acquire the property located at 94 South Main Street as discussed.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Warrant articles

MOTION: To approve the order of the warrant articles as presented.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Act on Reports	Select Board	3-0 Support
2	Sharon Friends School Fund Records and Appointments	Select Board	3-0 Support
3	Personnel By-Law		3-0 Support
4	Property Tax Exemptions	Select Board	3-0 Support
5	Revolving Fund Authorizations	Select Board	3-0 Support

6	Amend Expenditure Limit for Solid Waste and Recycling Revolving Fund	Select Board	3-o Support
7	Authorize Five Year Ambulance Billing Service Contract	Select Board	3-o Support
8	Appoint Finance Committee Members and Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee Members	Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee	Candidate list not yet available
9	Compensation of Elected Officials	Select Board	3-o Support
10	Capital Outlay	Select Board	3-o Support
11	FY2023 Budget	Finance Committee	3-o Support
12	Community Preservation Act Annual Funding and Projects	Community Preservation Committee	3-o Support
13	Acquisition of 94 South Main Street	Select Board	3-o Support
14	Establish new historic district on East Street	Historical Commission	Hold for more information
14	Amend Personnel Bylaw - Changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day	Select Board	3-o Support
16	Amend Charge of Lake Management Study Committee	LMSC	3-o Support
17	Amend Penalty Fees for Unlicensed Dogs and Dog Control Violations	Select Board	3-o Support
17	Amend Penalty Fees in Boats and Watercraft Bylaw	Select Board	3-o Support
18	Establish Outdoor Water Use Bylaw	WMAC	Hold for more information
20	Amend Stormwater Protection Bylaw	Conservation Commission	3-o Support
21	Codification of Zoning Bylaws	Planning Board	3-o Support
22	Long Term Lease Authorization for High School Solar Project	Standing Building Committee	3-o Support

The Board wished to hear more information on articles 14 and 18 before committing to a support position.

Select Board sector budget

Mr. Turkington provided the full fiscal year 2023 budget with the Board's meeting materials for this evening. He explained that an allocation of \$15,235,348 was presented to the Priorities Committee which reflects a 2.713 percent increase over fiscal year 2022. This amount reflects the current best estimates for local revenue, state aid, fixed costs, and property taxes inclusive of new growth and the Proposition 2 ½ increase. However, an adjustment was made to the allocation on February 17 to reflect changes in estimates for state aid and charges, local receipt estimates, insurance premium estimates and capital projects funded with cash. The Priorities Committee voted 4-2 to adjust the allocation by \$75,000 to the School Committee taking the amount in proportionate amounts from the Select Board and Finance Committee sectors. The result of the revisions is an allocation of 3.4826 percent.

The proposed Select Board sector budget is \$15,341,296, an increase of \$503,563 or 3.3938 percent over the previous fiscal year and \$13,175 less than the target allocation set by the Priorities Committee. The proposed

budget includes estimated general wage and applicable step increases for all labor contracts for fiscal year 2023. Step increases in collective bargaining agreements range from 1 percent to 2.6 percent depending on the bargaining agreement.

MOTION: To approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Select Board sector budget as presented.
(Smith-Lee -Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Consent Calendar

Review and approve the consent calendar:

- I. Vote to approve the following minutes
 - a. February 1, 2022 – Executive session
 - b. February 15, 2022 – Regular session
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request/requests:
 - a. Cottage Street PTO fun fair, May 4-9, 2022 in 2nd position
- III. Vote to accept donations from various benefactors for the Lakeside Concert Series and Kafka Learn to Sail program
 - a. Memoranda from Recreation Director, Linda Berger
- IV. Vote to award a contract to Environmental Partners for engineering and design in the amount of \$816,110 for phased construction of long-term water treatment options at Wells 2, 3, and 4
 - a. Memo from Eric Hooper, Public Works Superintendent
 - b. Proposal and draft agreement
- V. Vote to approve a Common Victualler license for The Daily Grind Nutrition LLC of 364 South Main Street
 - a. Application form
- VI. Vote to approve a one-day liquor license for Congregation Menachem, the Friendship Circle of Sharon's Purim Party on March 17, 2022.
 - a. Application materials
- VII. Vote to renew the following ice cream truck vending licenses:
 - a. Lauren Prenaveau of Sweet Sixteen Ice Cream application materials
 - b. Sara Kalinsky of Sweet Sixteen Ice Cream application materials
- VIII. Vote to approve an ice cream truck vending license for Charles Prenaveau of Sweet Sixteen Ice Cream
 - a. Application materials

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Smith-Lee -Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

We received / exchanged approximately 54 pieces of correspondence between 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 11 and 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 4. Topics included:

Twenty-nine emails relative to lifting of the mask mandate in the schools and five emails regarding lifting the mask mandate in public spaces and requesting a return to public meetings;

Seven emails sent to School Committee, copied to the Select Board, regarding full-day kindergarten, DEI position, and other elements of the school budget;

Six emails exchanged regarding preparation of shelter space in the event of cyberattacks on vital water, natural gas and electricity infrastructure;

Email with proposed FY2023 School budget PowerPoint; and,

Notices regarding Town offices closure due to winter storm, police promotional ceremony on February 26, vigil in support of Ukraine, invitation to Anti-Semitism virtual forum on March 28, follow-up on Juniper Road construction issues, and appearance by Sharon HS students on WGBH *High School Quiz Show* program on March 5.

Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Supplemental agenda:

IX. Vote to approve the Sharon Lions Club White Cane Day spring fundraiser in Sharon center on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 9:30 am to 13:30 pm
a. Request letter

X. Vote to award a contract for tree removal services to North-Eastern Tree Co. of Cranston, RI in the amount of \$24,800.00
a. Award form

MOTION: To approve the supplemental agenda.
(Smith-Lee -Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE
Switlekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Ms. Switlekowski mentioned that today is International Women's Day. She also mentioned that she would like to make some gesture in support of Ukraine and asked if the Board could discuss this at a future meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION: To enter Executive Session at 8:03 pm for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel, the acquisition of real property located at 66 North Main St., and adjourn for the evening at the conclusion.

DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS IN OPEN SESSION MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE TOWN

(Heitin – Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE

Switlekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Email correspondence
- 2021 GSC Applicant list
- PEG needs report, budget
- Draft motion
- Article list
- Budget
- Minutes
- Banner request
- Memoranda (3)
- Proposal
- Draft agreement
- CVL Application
- Ice cream vending applications (3)
- Town Administrator's report
- Northeastern University PSLC description
- Northeastern University PSLC commitment letter