

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
August 25, 2020

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 5:00pm by Chair Emily E. Smith-Lee remotely via Zoom in accordance with Governor Baker's emergency declaration regarding public gatherings. Select Board members William A. Heitin and Hanna R. Switekowski were in attendance, as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Annual Town Meeting Logistics Update

Mr. Turkington explained that staff met at the high school yesterday to discuss logistics for the Monday, October 12 outdoor Annual Town Meeting, including electricity and access. Public health officials expressed concern about EEE and West Nile Virus if we were forced to meet on Tuesday evening. He added that he participated in the weekly job meeting for the high school project, and spoke about available parking and walkways to ensure that voters can access the field. Staff is collecting quotes for chair and tent rental as well. We are looking at Sunday, October 18 outdoors as the rain date; if that should also be a rain date, Annual Town Meeting will take place Tuesday, October 20 indoors.

Discuss & Confirm Position of Annual Town Meeting Article 4

Mr. Turkington said that the Finance Committee has asked that the Select Board re-visit Article 4 in light of COVID-19. Mr. Heitin believes we can easily cover these expenditures given the state aid Sharon will be receiving in Fiscal Year 2021. Ms. Switekowski pointed out that the public sector is different from the private sector. Ms. Smith-Lee is comfortable with the proposal that the Board previously supported.

MOTION: To reconfirm its full support for Article 4 as presented and discussed
(Heitin – Switekowski) 3-0 **PASSES**

Smith-Lee Aye
Heitin Aye
Switekowski Aye

Discuss & Vote to Include Annual Town Meeting Articles Related to Sharon Gallery & 80 South Main Street

Mr. Turkington explained that representatives from Sharon Gallery have requested the Select Board to sponsor a zoning bylaw article as well as a general bylaw article to permit a gas station tied to a specific retailer looking to lease space in this project. Currently, gas stations are not permitted in the water resource protection district. Ms. Smith-Lee pointed out that the Board will take a position at a later date.

MOTION: To add the draft article for the Sharon Gallery project as presented in the packet for the warrant
(Heitin – Switekowski) 3-0 **PASSES**

Smith-Lee Aye
Heitin Aye
Switekowski Aye

Mr. Turkington explained that CVS is looking to expand its building and is interested in purchasing the parking lot owned by the Town adjacent to their building. They are asking for the lot to be deemed surplus so that may purchase the property. Mr. Heitin believes this project is in line with the redevelopment of the area, and is supportive of sponsoring an article.

MOTION: To add the draft article for the CVS project as presented in the packet for the warrant
(Heitin – Switekowski) 3-0 **PASSES**

Smith-Lee Aye
Heitin Aye
Switekowski Aye

Discuss & Vote to Adjust the FY2021 Select Board Sector Budget

Mr. Turkington provided a summary of the reductions made to the FY2021 Select Board sector budget in meeting the reduction of \$63,484:

Elections & Registration (eliminate funds related to a fall STM): \$13,700

- Salary - \$5,764
- PA system/stenographer - \$1,800
- Postage - \$1,200
- Printing - \$4,936

Select Board – in-state travel (eliminate funds for employee day, conferences): \$4,500

DPW – wages (library custodian – reduce from 40 to 18 hrs./wk. effective 10-3-20): \$20,360
(building official – reduce to reflect retirement to new hire): \$ 10,144

COA – salaries (savings from vacant program coordinator and van driver): \$14,780

These changes reduce the previously approved FY2021 budget by \$63,484 from \$14,487,710 to \$14,424,226.

MOTION: To approve the FY2021 Select Board sector budget as presented by Mr. Turkington
(Heitin – Switekowski) 3-0 **PASSES**

Smith-Lee Aye
Heitin Aye
Switekowski Aye

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

Ms. Switekowski made a brief statement related to an incident that occurred recently in the community that was discussed on social media, and asked that folks show kindness to each other. She added that there is no place for hate.

Executive Session

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy and negotiations with non-union personnel and the acquisition of real property and, at the end, to adjourn for the evening. Discussion of these items in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.
(Switekowski – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Smith-Lee Aye
Heitin Aye
Switekowski Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:12pm
(Switlekowski – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Smith-Lee Aye
Heitin Aye
Switlekowski Aye

List of Documents

- August 17 correspondence to Finance Committee re: Article 4
- Sharon Gallery draft article
- 80 South Main Street draft article
- Proposed FY2021 final budget