

**MINUTES**  
**SHARON SELECT BOARD**  
*April 12, 2021*

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Select Board Clerk, William Heitin, remotely via Zoom. Select Board member Hanna Switekowski was 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.

**Retirement Recognitions**

The Board wished to take a few moments to recognize the retirement of two long-time employees of the Town of Sharon, Deputy Chief Rick Murphy of the Sharon Fire Department and Michael Teixeira of the Sharon Public Works Operations Division. Two proclamations were read.

Deputy Chief Murphy served on the Fire Department for twenty-one years with the last nine being in the role of Deputy Chief. Mr. Murphy has retired as of March 26 on an involuntary basis due to an unexpected medical issue.

Mr. Teixeira has held a number of roles in his 29-year career, retiring on April 10 from the position of DPW Operations Supervisor.

Both Mr. Murphy and Mr. Teixeira will be dearly missed. The Board expressed their thanks to both gentlemen for their many years of dedicated service to the Town and wished them both good health and well deserved enjoyment in their retirement.

**Elizabeth Ellis, part-time land use planner and economic development specialist**

Mr. Pat Pannone of the Economic Development Committee introduced Ms. Elizabeth Ellis to the Select Board. Ms. Ellis is a recent graduate of BC law school and the Tufts land use graduate program. She has been hired to consult 15-20 hours per week on the implementation of the master plan as well as to staff initiatives of the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Ellis described her background to the Board and expressed her excitement at the opportunity to use her skills in planning and economic development in Sharon.

The Board welcomed Ms. Ellis and expressed their well wishes for her success in this position.

**Outdoor dining at Sharon Community Center**

Mr. Avi Shemtov of the local restaurants Simcha and A La Esh has approached the Town with an outdoor dining concept on the Community Center lawn overlooking Lake Massapoag from May to October. Issues being explored include one-day beer and wine licensing if permissible on Town property, lighting, restroom facilities, and storage of tables, chairs, and equipment on site. A copy of the Town bylaw governing alcohol use on Town property along with a draft RFP has been included in the meeting materials for review since the space would be offered to other restaurants as well.

Based on the discussion, the Town will proceed with the process for requesting proposals.

**Jenks fountain location update**

Continuing the discussion from the previous meeting, the proposed location for the historic Jenks fountain has been staked out at Town Hall. It appears further from the sidewalk than originally expected and seems like an

appropriate location with less of a crowded esthetic than first thought. The Board advised that Mr. McGrath may proceed with the restoration of the fountain.

The Board will take a formal vote at the next meeting.

#### **Discussion on Annual Town Meeting Article 20**

This discussion was tabled.

#### **Discussion on Police Chief appointment process**

It is anticipated that there will be an internal search conducted for the police chief beginning July 19, 2021 and concluded by November 30, 2021 for appointments effective March 1, 2022. The three lieutenants, and two sergeants with a master's degree, will be eligible to apply. It is the intent to use a police executive assessment firm to conduct and grade oral interviews and written essays. The Select Board will conduct public interviews with finalists. We anticipate filling the resulting vacancies from the active promotional lists. With respect to the future organizational structure following the promotion process, there are several possible options:

- three lieutenants and five sergeants, reducing the current leadership team by one position that would be added to patrol of detectives; or
- retain the deputy chief position along with two lieutenants and five sergeants; or
- add a sixth sergeant to lead detectives rather than a lieutenant.

There would be a two to three-month mentorship with Interim Police Chief Brewer before transitioning to the new leadership in February or March of 2022.

#### **Review and approve consent calendar**

- I. Vote to approve the regular and Executive session minutes of March 23, 2021
- II. Vote to approve a Common Victualler's license for A La Esh, 366 South Main Street
- III. Vote to authorize helicopter landing at Gavin's Pond for mosquito control larvicide application
- IV. Vote to transfer the care, custody, management, and control of a portion of the property known and numbered as 18 Briar Hill Road from the Select Board as Water Commissioners to the Select Board for general municipal purposes, include sale of said land. The parcel of land to be transferred is further described as: A portion of the property known and numbered as 18 Briar Hill Road, shown as "Parcel A" on a Plan of Land entitled, "Approval Not Required Plan of Land, 18 & 20 Briar Hill Road, Assessors Map 24 Lots 35 & 36, Sharon, Massachusetts, Prepared for Richard Polifero, 20 Briar Hill Road, Sharon, MA 02067", prepared by Brian J. Murphy, P.L.S., Farland Corp., 21 Ventura Drive, Dartmouth, MA 02747, on file with the Town Clerk, , containing 4,907 square feet more or less. Being a portion of the same property acquired by the Town of Sharon by a Deed dated November 25, 2019 from Florence R. Einis and recorded with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds at Book 37414, Page 531.

**MOTION:** To approve the consent calendar.  
(Heitin-Switlekowski)

Heitin: AYE  
Switlekowski: AYE  
2-0 **PASSES**

#### **Report of the Town Administrator**

Mr. Turkington provided the following update.

Residents should expect to see Town Meeting warrants in their mailboxes in the next few weeks. The Finance Committee warrant hearing will take place remotely via Zoom on April 26.

Recruitment is ongoing for several positions at Public Works including a planning/engineering specialist, administrative assistant, and a part-time custodian.

Interviews were conducted with three candidates for a Financial Analyst/Veteran's Confidential Assistant in the accounting office.

We have received or exchanged 20 pieces of correspondence between 12 noon on March 18 and 12 noon on April 8, 2021:

- An email advocating for support of the CPA project to rehabilitate two athletic fields at town meeting;
- An email asking whether the Town could make Lakeview and Morse Streets pedestrian only on Sundays during the spring and summer months and Town response;
- An email requesting replacement of berms during the Old Post Road repaving project;
- Emails requesting sidewalks, traffic mitigation measures, and reduction of the speed limit to 25 mph on Old Post Road and road closures during stadium events;
- Letter from the Office of the Attorney General approving the three-year artificial turf field moratorium passed at the October 12, 2020 annual town meeting;
- An email exchange summarizing actions and timetable for actions to be taken to address traffic concerns on Old Post Road;
- An email explaining that the CPA project on field improvements sponsored by Sharon Youth Lacrosse and private citizens will be administered by DPW if the appropriation is approved at 2021 annual town meeting;
- Memoranda from Library Board of Trustees and Sharon Library Foundation concerning zoning issues and financing of the possible acquisition of 66 North Main Street for the library project; and
- Letter from supporters of the Norfolk County Agricultural High School questioning decisions of the Board of Trustees.

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

Ms. Switekowski provided the following updates:

- Sustainable Sharon is hosting a week-long, Town-wide clean-up for Earth Day which is April 22. Details of the program can be found on the Sustainable Sharon website;
- This is National Telecommunications week and the Board wishes to thank all public safety dispatchers for the good work that they do;
- Ramadan begins today and is celebrated through May 12;
- The Sharon Public Library has some very interesting virtual programs. Ms. Switekowski stated that interested residents can find more information on the Sharon Library webpage.

#### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to contract negotiations collective bargaining and adjourn for the evening at the conclusion.  
(Heitin – Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE  
Switekowski: AYE

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

List of Documents

- Proclamation (2)
- Job posting
- Resume and application
- Chapter 113 of the Sharon bylaws
- Proposed outdoor dining location
- Minutes
- Application materials
- Memorandum
- Certificate of Vote
- Town Administrator's report