

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 17, 2015

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center at 7:30pm with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Selectman John J. McGrath, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Officer Matthew Rovaldi - Life Saving Award Presentation

Police Chief Tilden Kaufman explained to the Board and to the guests in the audience that on September 12, 2015, Officer Rovaldi responded to a serious motor vehicle accident on North Main Street. Upon arrival, he noted the victim had his leg severed and Officer Rovaldi applied heavy pressure to his artery until the fire department arrived. His immediate efforts helped to stem his arterial bleeding and likely saved his life. The paramedics concurred at the scene that Officer Rovaldi's immediate actions likely saved his life.

Chief Kaufman noted that the gentleman that Officer Rovaldi saved was in the audience tonight. He then presented Officer Matthew Rovaldi with the department's Life Saving Award.

The Board took a brief recess to allow for photographs.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of November 3, 2015
- II. Vote to approve a one-day alcohol license for Get In Shape For Women/Wiser Fitness, LLC (wine & malt only)

MOTION: To approve the November 17, 2015 consent calendar
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Sharon Gallery Road Layout & Development Agreement Discussion

Chairman Heitin noted that this item will be held until the December 1 meeting, as the final discussions involving the interested parties will be concluding soon.

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- He reviewed the recommended budget policy considerations for the FY17 budget provided by the Finance Committee, including having a goal of maintaining the town's current bond rating, using one-time revenue for capital purchases to help augment the town's reserves for emergencies and establishing a four-board meeting in December of each year to review the next fiscal year's budgets. Mr. Turkington noted that he doesn't see any issues with any of the items.
- The 2015 board/committee reappointments and license renewals will be handled at the December 15 meeting.
- The December 1 meeting will consist of the Sharon Gallery Road Layout & Development Agreement discussion; and representatives from Spectra will discuss the proposed expansion of the gas pipeline with the Board and will be available for questions from the audience.
- He will be providing details to the Board soon on the recommendations of the architects for the renovation of the Town Hall.

Ruth Palan Lopez – Council on Aging Board Interview

Chairman Heitin asked Ms. Lopez to tell the Board about herself and why she should like to serve on the Council on Aging Board.

Ms. Lopez grew up in Sharon and is a gerontological Nurse Practitioner and is a professor of Nursing at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. She has extensive experience caring for older adults in many settings including home, hospital and long term care. She is at a point in her life where she would like to give something back to the Town. She works well with people and believes she has something to offer. Selectman Roach noted that if she were appointed, she comes in at a great time, as there is a new Council on Aging Director. Selectman McGrath believes she would be a welcome addition to the COA Board. Chairman Heitin believes she would be a great liaison between the Council on Aging Board and the Board of Health. Ms. Lopez hopes to find ways to encourage older adults to be able to stay in Sharon.

Chairman Heitin noted that the Board does not typically make appointments the night they interview the candidate, but Ms. Lopez will be hearing from the Board after their next meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Lopez for her time.

Police Management and Supervisory Structure Discussion – Police Chief Tilden Kaufman

Chairman Heitin noted that the Board has received written communication from the Police Chief about the process he underwent to determine who he would recommend to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman McGrath believes the selection process is incorrect and flawed. He believes any promotions within town departments should be uniform. He explained that there was no process for promotions for the Deputy Chief position since the position was established in 2010. In order to maintain credibility, he believes the Board should be fair and consistent. The Chief's recommendation has a great deal of weight but feels the Town should post the position, establish position criteria with the assistance of the Chief of Police and interview prospective candidates.

Chairman Heitin believes the town has a process and noted that the process has happened twice since the position of Deputy Chief of Police was established. He noted that the Board takes the recommendations of the department heads for positions such as this. There is a detailed job description and in both previous cases, the former chief recommended both deputies, one of which was Selectman McGrath. Selectman McGrath reiterated that he believes the process is flawed and incorrect. Chairman Heitin said that the Board does not drive what happens in the department.

Selectman McGrath believes there could be several members of the department that could be considered eligible for the position. Chairman Heitin reiterated that this was the same process that was used when both Selectman McGrath and Chief Kaufman were appointed Deputy Chief.

Selectman Roach said that if it has worked for the previous two deputies, there is no reason why the process can't be used in this instance as well. He noted that a lot of personnel have stayed in the department for a long time, so it can't be a bad place to work. Selectman McGrath believes that there are good candidates that are being overlooked.

Selectman McGrath said that this is one two non-civil service position in the departments and that this position should be handled similar to the way other promotions are handled in the department.

Chairman Heitin said that he believes the Chief is capable of making a recommendation based on his experience and knowledge of the department. Mr. Turkington then asked Chief Kaufman to explain how he arrived at the recommendation he did.

Chief Kaufman said that he would be hard pressed to bypass a lieutenant for a lower ranking officer and added that this promotion will trigger other promotional opportunities. Chief Kaufman explained that he met with both lieutenants and told one lieutenant that he was leaning toward the other, and understands

Chief Kaufman read both his recommendation memo and his memo outlining the process he undertook to make his recommendation. His recommendation for promotion to Deputy Chief is Lieutenant John Ford.

MOTION: To accept the Chief's recommendation to promote Lieutenant John Ford to the position of Deputy Chief of Police
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0-1 **PASSES** (Selectman McGrath abstained)

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| Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting |
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None

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| Adjournment |
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MOTION: To adjourn at 8:10pm
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**