

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 5, 2016

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

Approval of Wine Sales – Crescent Ridge Farmer’s Market

Mark Parrish, President of Crescent Ridge, came before the Board to request that the Board permit Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery to sell wine at the Crescent Ridge Farmer’s Market for 21 Saturdays, beginning June 11 and ending on October 22. The hours of operation are 10:00am to 2:00pm. They are not planning any changes to the way the market has operated the past three years. He added that Westport Rivers have been a participant since the 2013 season.

MOTION: To approve the sale of wine at the Farmer’s Market
(McGrath - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

High School Renovation Project Statement of Interest Approval

Rory Marty, Director of Maintenance & Operations for Sharon Public Schools appeared before the Board.

Mr. Marty explained that the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the high school renovation project is due to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) by April 8. This does not obligate the Town to move ahead with any project or commit to any funding. It is merely a vote approving the School Department to submit the SOI to the MSBA showing the deficiencies of the present building. Chairman Heitin asked what the process is moving forward. Mr. Marty said that the School Committee will be signing it tomorrow night. Once it is submitted to the MSBA, it is a two to three year process.

RESOLVED: Having convened in an open meeting on April 5, 2016, prior to the closing date, the Board of Selectmen of Sharon, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 2016 for the Sharon High School located at 181 Pond St. which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future Renovations and Additions or a new High School building and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Water Management Advisory Committee Interview – Paul Lauenstein

Paul Lauenstein appeared before the Board. Chairman Heitin asked Mr. Lauenstein to tell the Board about his background and why he wishes to serve on the Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC).

Mr. Lauenstein noted that he had been serving on the WMAC and is interested in water conservation. Mr. Lauenstein reviewed a list he provided to the Board of accomplishments during his time on the Water Management Advisory Committee. He feels he has done a lot and learned a lot and can contribute a lot to the Town by serving on the WMAC. He feels he is a change agent and admits he can be somewhat controversial.

Selectman McGrath commented that he sees Mr. Lauenstein out and about, taking readings and doing the grunt work. He noted that this is quite a list of accomplishments and thanked him for his work.

Selectman Roach asked Mr. Lauenstein about the \$400,000 for water conservation related to Sharon Commons. Selectman Roach said that the Board was heavily involved in the negotiations, and doesn't believe that Mr. Lauenstein should be taking credit for negotiating the money. Selectman Roach noted that with respect to the stormwater control measures at Bella Estates, he and the Town Engineer spent a lot of time on this. He pointed out that no one acts alone. Mr. Lauenstein replied that the list of accomplishments he provided the Board took place during his time on WMAC, and are not solely his accomplishments.

Selectman McGrath said that Mr. Lauenstein's name was held during the reappointment process; he believes this is a correction and has no problem reappointing Mr. Lauenstein.

A resident that lives 115 Maskwonicut Street believes we must invest in water in Sharon and that Mr. Lauenstein is committed.

Sam Liao, 12 Turning Mill Road, noted he is a neighbor of Mr. Lauenstein. He sees Mr. Lauenstein out taking measurements, samples, photos of the area and believes this shows his interest and dedication. He hopes Mr. Lauenstein will be reinstated to the WMAC.

Chairman Heitin asked Mr. Liao if when he served on the School Committee, did all of the members vote the same way. Mr. Liao replied that there was often dissent on the School Committee, but added that the majority opinion governs.

David Crosby, Chairman of the WMAC, noted he has been chairman for nine years. At that time he began serving as chairman, he asked Mr. Lauenstein to create a conservation subcommittee. The WMAC began to look at water rates to encourage conservation; the block rate structure actually works as a subsidy, whereby larger families are subsidizing smaller households, which they believe is fundamentally unfair. They proposed a water rate increase structure that would charge the same block rates and do away with the subsidy, and he noted that Mr. Lauenstein opposed that proposal. They also looked into irrigation meters, which Mr. Lauenstein opposes. Mr. Crosby feels that Mr. Lauenstein does not provide new ideas or work with the WMAC to come up with new ideas. He doesn't feel Mr. Lauenstein has helped with any conservation measures during Mr. Crosby's time on the Board.

Mr. Crosby said that Mr. Lauenstein requested water usage data from Town Hall, and told staff that it was needed for the WMAC. Mr. Crosby noted that it was not necessary to seek the data, as the committee could get the de-identifying data from the Superintendent of Public Works. Additionally, that information is not available to the general public.

Mr. Crosby also stated that Mr. Lauenstein publically attacked Mr. Hearne for having a differing opinion, which Mr. Hearne can speak about. Mr. Crosby feels that working outside the committee is not helpful.

Selectman McGrath asked Mr. Crosby when he recommended that Mr. Lauenstein not be reappointed. Mr. Crosby replied that it was three years ago, before the last reappointment cycle. Selectman McGrath noted that

Mr. Crosby's comments that Mr. Lauenstein disagreed with the other members of the WMAC is not a good argument, as not every committee member will agree on all issues. He feels differing opinions are welcome.

Mr. Crosby said that he welcomes differing opinions, but he is not getting new ideas from Mr. Lauenstein; he is getting new ideas from other members. He said that it is difficult to get new members to WMAC because members are attacking other members. Mr. Lauenstein pointed out that the last two committee votes on the water rates were unanimous.

Mr. Hearne suggested Selectman McGrath come to their meetings. Mr. Hearne came tonight to talk about Mr. Lauenstein's character, which he is not comfortable talking about. Mr. Lauenstein's work is commendable. Three years ago, Mr. Hearne met with Selectman Roach and former Town Administrator Ben Puritz about an email that Mr. Lauenstein distributed to his distribution list, stating that Mr. Hearne supported a water rate structure that would personally benefit him. Several people approached Mr. Hearne in the community about this matter. Mr. Hearne feels this email is slander. Mr. Hearne noted that Mr. Lauenstein apologized privately and Mr. Hearne asked him to apologize via the distribution list, which he never did. Mr. Lauenstein stated that he did. Mr. Hearne believes it is unacceptable behavior. Selectman McGrath noted that although Mr. Hearne told the Board of Selectmen at the time, the Board reappointed Mr. Lauenstein anyway. Mr. Hearne believes that reappointment at this time condones this behavior. Mr. Hearne said that he wanted to resign at the time, but Mr. Puritz asked him to continue serving. Selectman McGrath does not believe that there has been another incident like this since that time, so why would the Board not want to reappoint him. Mr. Hearne believes the Board made a mistake three years ago by reappointing him.

Mr. Liao said that as a committee member, people should expect comments about them. With respect to water rates, he wrote a memo and spoke with Selectman Roach and Mr. Powell several years ago about what he believes to be a mathematical error about bearing the brunt of water usage.

Chairman Heitin said that he has consistently requested an analysis that the tiered rate generates any savings. He agrees with Mr. Crosby about how new building requirements are driving water conservation measures. We are saving money for infrastructure, and that is what we need to focus on. Chairman Heitin stated that in 2013, Mr. Lauenstein called the Department of Environmental Protection about the Town of Sharon's withdrawal permit. The state may have misunderstood Mr. Lauenstein's role, but regardless, he spoke with the state about the town's withdrawal permit.

Chairman Heitin believes that taking actions on the other side of the committee is inappropriate and undermines positions taken by the WMAC, the water department and the Board of Selectmen. Selectman McGrath believes that this issue should have been addressed at the time, and not waiting until a year later. Mr. Lauenstein stated that he can't help if they think he was a water commissioner. When specifically asked he admitted that he had indeed taken the action of calling the DEP and MWRA on behalf of the Town.

Selectman Roach said that he would prefer to wait until the Board hears from the other prospective candidates before making a decision. Chairman Heitin agreed. Selectman McGrath believes that when Mr. Lauenstein was up for reappointment, there were no other candidates, and that he is in favor of reappointing Mr. Lauenstein.

MOTION: To reappoint Paul Lauenstein to the Water Management Advisory Committee
(McGrath - no second) **FAILS**

MOTION: To not appoint Paul Lauenstein to the Water Management Advisory Committee
(Roach - Heitin) 2-1 **PASSES**

Police Department Supervisory Structure Discussion

Police Chief Tilden Kaufman appeared before the Board. He explained the current vacancies within the department and noted that would like to fill the Lieutenant position. The proposed Detective Sergeant will fill the day Sergeant's regularly scheduled days off, which are currently being filled by the Operations Lieutenant. There needs to be a separation of ranks and having the Operations Lieutenant cover shifts on a regular basis is not desirable. He went on to explain why the Detective Division activities and investigations continue to increase in both numbers and complexity.

Selectman McGrath noted that this new Detective Sergeant wouldn't be doing too much detecting, as he will be filling the day Sergeant's regularly scheduled day off. He would hope the Chief would find a way for the Detective Sergeant to do his detective issues. Chief Kaufman replied that for now, the Detective Sergeant would be doing 50% filling in for the day Sergeant's days off and 50% doing detective work.

MOTION: To authorize the fifth sergeant position, as described
(McGrath - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Host Community Agreement Update - Town & Eversource Energy

Mr. Turkington explained that Selectman Roach joined him on the meeting with the Eversource officials last week, and provided them with the town's requests for mitigation measures. He also reviewed the documentation recently sent by the Town. As of tonight's meeting, Eversource has not yet provided a draft agreement for the Town's review.

Mr. Turkington noted that he was surprised that the host community agreement meeting also had a conversation about the mitigation measures. Mary Lou Kirkpatrick, a representative of the MacIntosh Farms condominium complex, said that the MacIntosh Farms representatives were disappointed that they could not be part of the discussion about the mitigation measures and a meeting with MacIntosh Farms and Eversource will not take place for several weeks. Mr. Turkington pointed out that the MacIntosh Farms representatives asked for a delay, as some of the residents could not attend. He also added that the host community agreement is between the town and the utility company. For the benefit of the Board and the MacIntosh Farms neighborhood, Mr. Turkington provided a brief overview of the proposed enclosing structure.

The Board consented to drafting a letter of support of MacIntosh Farms' motion to extend the procedural schedule.

One of the MacIntosh Farms neighbors expressed concern about the enclosure will look industrial and not keeping in with the character of the area. Mr. Turkington said that Eversource couldn't fully enclosure the switching station and that the sketches provided at last week's meeting were a draft.

The MacIntosh Farms representatives expressed concern that Eversource met with the town first, even though they asked and they are more directly impacted. Mr. Turkington replied that the host community agreement needs to be negotiated between the utility and Eversource, and that Eversource has been willing to meet again with the MacIntosh Farms representatives.

A meeting on Friday at 3:00pm at the clubhouse was scheduled between Chairman Heitin and representatives from MacIntosh Farms.

Police & Fire Museum License Agreement - One School Street

This item will be held while discussions continue.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of March 21, 2016
- II. Vote to sign the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- III. Vote to approve the one day alcohol license for AEE, Inc. dba Catering to Tradition, Inc. for a Bat Mitzvah at the Community Center for the Golub family on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm
- IV. Vote to approve a One-Day Alcohol License for the Friends of Sharon Council on Aging on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm and waive the fee (Wine & Malt Only)
- V. Vote to approve the banner request from Sharon Independence Day Celebration Committee from June 20-July 3, 2016 in first position
- VI. Vote to approve the chlorinated rubber line painting contract with Standard Line Paint of Taunton, MA for a twelve-month period, May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017

MOTION: To approve the April 5, 2016 consent calendar
(McGrath - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Recognized Lauren Barnes for her work with the Finance Committee in coordinating the Town Meeting Warrant.
- He, along with Superintendent of Public Works Eric Hooper, interviewed and promoted Mike Teixeira to Operations Supervisor. The Assistant Operations Supervisor position will not be filled and the town will instead hire a laborer. He and Mr. Hooper agreed to allocate certain duties of the Assistant Operations Supervisor to Kevin Weber and Matt Baldassari. This strategy will enhance the responsiveness of the crew while taking advantage of Matt's construction inspection background.
- The town has received the results from the October 2015 civil service examinations for Lieutenant and Sergeant. The Police Department has conducted oral interviews conducted by an outside panel and hope to be able to recommend appointments on April 26.
- He, Finance Director Cindy Doherty and Assistant to the Town Administrator Lauren Barnes conducted interview with six candidates for the position of Treasurer/Collector. No ideal candidate has been identified and they are debating whether to re-advertise or a temporary appointment.
- National Lumber paid the back taxes, interest and lien fees, totaling approximately \$130,000, on the Bella Estates sales office building and plans to foreclose on the property to take title and then sell the site.
- Net solar metering credits discussions continue. Chairman Heitin noted this is the fifth time around on this topic.
- The Board has in their packets a rendering of the proposed new gateway to the Community Center. Once the town has received cost estimates and final design documents, he will be seeking the Board's approval to reconstruct the gateway using insurance settlement proceeds and a donation.
- Next meeting topics (April 26):
 - Appointment of police Lieutenant and Sergeants
 - Presentation by Dave Clifton on behalf of the Rotary and Lions Clubs regarding a celebration of Sharon's community diversity

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

Pat Pannone from the Planning Board was present. The Planning Board is discussing conducting a full Master Plan. The Board is debating its value and looking at the services of the MAPC for assistance. The Board would like to have an all-inclusive process and involve all of the boards/committees at a meeting on April 28, which would include a representative from MAPC. The Town isn't starting from scratch, as we already have an Open Space and Recreation Plan, etc. The Foxborough Town Planner is willing to meet to talk about lessons learned, tips, etc. It would be great for the Planning Board to be proactive. The Board agreed and Mr. Pannone will ensure the Selectmen receive an invitation to attend the April 28.

MOTION: To approve SYBSA's request to display lawn signs around Town to announce their opening weekend festivities and carnival; and approve SYBSA's request to display two electronic message boards to announce their opening weekend carnival from Friday, April 22 through Friday, April 29 at locations determined by the Police Chief
(McGrath - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Public Service Announcements:

March was National Nutrition Month and the Police, Fire, DPW, Community Center and Town Office staff participated in a food drive to benefit the Ilse Marks Food Bank. Each department and shift were given a bag with a recipe featuring non-perishable items and 25 bags were collected. Thank you to everyone for their participation and generous donations to this important community resource.

On May 24 at 7:00pm in the ballroom at the Community Center, the Board of Selectmen will host a gas pipeline discussion. Invited participants will include state legislators representing Sharon, Spectra Energy project managers, the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, an attorney from the Attorney General's energy division, local boards and committees with a role if the project is approved, and a representative of project opponents who are organizing opposition in several communities which the proposed pipeline will cross. Chairman Heitin hopes to have a panel discussion with time for questions and answers.

Selectman Roach suggested the Board organizing a food drive on Election Day, similar to what we did in the past. The Board agreed.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:50pm
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**