

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 3, 2017

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

Eagle Scout Proclamation Presentation

Will Gassman, Nathan Hanlon and Kevin Jones appeared before the Board. They all spoke about what scouting means to them and spoke about their Eagle Projects.

Will Gassmann—as Senior Patrol Leader he lead the Troop of 45 scouts, he was responsible for running the weekly meetings and coordination of monthly activities. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Will undertook and completed the installation of new walking paths at Deborah Sampson Park.

Kevin Jones—Has served as Chaplin's Aid for the Troop, was integral in the advancement of many younger scouts, has lettered in three sports at the high school. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Kevin undertook and completed the environmentally sensitive design and installation of trail head signs at Moose Hill.

Nathan Hanlon— Served as Troop Quartermaster for three years, and was responsible for the care and organization of thousands of dollars of equipment. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Nathan designed and constructed a military tribute garden and a handicap accessible raised vegetable garden at the Wingate Retirement Community in Sharon.

Selectman McGrath spoke about the importance of scouting and its history in Sharon. He then read each of the Eagle Scout proclamations prepared by the Board.

Chairman Roach thanked the scouts for their service but also to their parents for their sacrifices.

DPW/Water/Streetlights FY18 Budget Review

Department of Public Works Superintendent Eric Hooper was present for the discussion. He noted that the DPW budget is almost \$10 million.

There are no major changes to the DPW FY18 budget. He anticipates \$80,000 for utilities for the new public safety building. The other large item that is included is approximately \$80,000 for fields maintenance – contracted services for school fields. The money is for thing beyond that the DPW can handle. The fields are heavily used, and they need to be maintained because they cannot be rested due to field shortage. Salaries are increasing slightly less than 2%, due to turnover and starting new employees at lower salaries; no new personnel is being added.

On the water side, the salaries line item is up approximately 2%. The systems improvement line item has been decreased by \$1.2 million; this means there will be another year of no borrowing. Like last fiscal year, he has budgeted \$200,000 in a reserve fund. He spoke about the recent water main break on Route 1 and how he is determining how to fund more repairs in the spring.

With respect to streetlights, the budget is relatively fixed as the majority of the budget is the debt payoff from the original purchase. The town is saving a considerable amount from moving to the LED streetlights. We are not proposing major expansions of the railroad parking station at this point. There is some money in the railroad parking revolving fund for minor improvements.

Mr. Hooper believes that DPW does a good job with the staff we have. We have room in the budget to fill a truck driver/laborer position.

Selectman McGrath asked how old the fuel storage tanks are; Mr. Hooper is not sure, but they were updated relatively recently and are inspected. They have updated the dispenser mechanisms.

Selectman McGrath asked about the cost to mow Everwood fields if we were to use them; Mr. Hooper replied that he does not know the cost, but does not know what the discussions are with Everwood and what they are looking for in terms of money. Selectman Heitin added that Everwood is looking to construct two multi-purpose fields at the old Camp Gannett side and the town and youth sports organizations could use them during non-summer months.

Mr. Turkington noted that some of the fringe benefits have been shifted over to the Water budget, as we should be doing as a recommendation from the auditors.

Chairman Roach asked why catch basin cleaning is coming out of the Water budget. Catch basin cleaning and street sweeping is done about 1/3 of the time by town employees; the rest of the time is being contracted out. The rationale to moving it to the Water budget is because the contaminants from the catch basins can go into the groundwater. Some of this work also comes out of the railroad parking revolving fund. The new stormwater regulations will require communities to clean catch basins twice a year; Sharon presently does it once a year. Chairman Roach wondered if adding a second truck would be in the town's best interest. Mr. Hooper replied that he would look into it.

Selectman McGrath thanked the DPW for the illuminated flashing lights at Pond Street and the Heights Elementary School. Mr. Hooper noted that each sign is \$1,500 each.

The Board thanked Mr. Hooper for his time

General Government FY18 Budget Review

Mr. Turkington reviewed the general government budgets and noted that no major changes are proposed. The overall budget is \$19,000 below the projected priorities guideline. Chief Wright is proposing an additional firefighter, and tweaking the lieutenant positions.

Fall 2017 Special Town Meeting Date Discussion

Chairman Roach noted that the Town Clerk provided a list of suggested dates that work for her office, but Chairman Roach wanted to know from Mr. Turkington what date(s) he sees as being options. Mr. Turkington would select Monday, November 13 for the fall 2017 Special Town Meeting. Selectman McGrath noted that November 6 is only a week earlier and is Ms. Chused's third choice.

MOTION: To designate November 6 as the date of the fall 2017 Special Town Meeting
(Heitin – McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular & executive session minutes of December 20, 2016
- II. Vote to open the warrant for the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 8:30am and close the warrant on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 4:30pm
- III. Vote to approve the banner request of the Council on Aging for their Lakeside Gallery Exhibit for January 23-30, 2017 in second position and authorize a fee waiver
- IV. Vote to approve the banner request of the Sharon High School PTSO for their online auction for March 13-30, 2017 in first position
- V. Vote to approve and sign employment agreement between the Town of Sharon and Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

MOTION: To approve the January 3, 2017 consent calendar, as presented, with numbers 1 & 5 held (Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported the following:

- The Rabb family provided their \$75,000 donation to fund the Community Center gateway project. Hopefully work will be completed by late spring and we can plan an appropriate dedication and recognition ceremony.
- Priorities Committee meets this Thursday at 7:00pm for the first time this budget season.
- A second person, Silas Fyler, came to Mr. Turkington to discuss Sharon becoming a Green Community. More information to follow. A possible presentation may be scheduled for the January 17 meeting.
- Public safety budgets will be reviewed at the January 17 meeting.
- The January 31 meeting agenda will include budget reviews for Library and Recreation; beach fees, and a discussion on the COA needs assessment survey results.

Selectman McGrath asked if the Board will consider the letter from Bri McAlevey and her request to sign onto a letter. Selectman Heitin asked for time to review the letter and to talk to the legislative delegation. Mr. Turkington said that the Board can discuss the letter at their next meeting.

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

None

Executive Session – 8:56pm

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to consider the lease of real estate, potential acquisition of real estate, and contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and at the end, to adjourn of the evening. Discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the Town. (Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roach: Aye
McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:47pm
(Heitin – McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

McGrath: Aye
Roach: Aye
Heitin: Aye

List of Documents

Eagle Scout Recognition

- 12-13-2016 Email from James Hanlon
- Proclamation for Will Gassman
- Proclamation for Nathan Hanlon
- Proclamation for Kevin Jones

DPW/Water FY18 budget (refer to FY18 budget binder)

FY18 Budget Review (refer to FY18 budget binder)

Fall 2017 Special Town Meeting

- 12-1-16 Marlene Chused Email: Proposed dates for Fall 2017 Special Town Meeting

Consent Calendar

- Minutes of December 20, 2016 BOS Meeting
- Minutes of December 20, 2016 BOS Meeting – Executive Session
- Banner request of the Council on Aging
- Banner request of the Sharon High School PTSO
- Employment agreement between the Town of Sharon and Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Report of the Town Administrator

- Bi-weekly report 12/29/16