

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 17, 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.

Police Department FY18 Budget Review

Chief Tilden Kaufman and Deputy Chief John Ford are present for the discussion.

Chief Kaufman explained that the budget calls for a full complement of 31 police officers. He noted a retirement will be coming in January 2018, and hopes to be able to fill that person quickly, so he won't be down to 30 officers. He is promoting training for all officers in the coming year, as well as an Officer in Charge training program. He would like to have a Detective Sergeant in place by mid-2018, as well. Chief Kaufman went on to review some elements of the budget, including the utility costs and the training line items.

Chief Kaufman noted that the transition into the new building has been great, and they are reviewing punch list items now.

The Board thanked Chief Kaufman and Deputy Chief Ford for their time.

Fire Department FY18 Budget Review

Chief Jim Wright is present for the discussion.

Chief Wright explained that the FY18 budget is generally level-funded, and the salaries were increased by 2%, pending contract negotiations with the firefighter union. There are two items that he would like to propose to the Board. One item is to promote four people (one in each group) to Lieutenant so that they can coordinate the activities of the firefighters while the Captain is handling other tasks, and to handle routine calls while the Captain remains at the station to handle other calls. The position is currently in the union contract, but if approved, he would send a job description to the Personnel Board. The other item that he is requesting is a daytime position for the EMS Coordinator, which would be at the Lieutenant level. Currently, there is only a part-time EMS Coordinator, and he does a fabulous job, but he only receives a \$1,000 stipend and spends many hours of his own time performing these duties. Chief Wright pointed out that many of the area communities all have full-time EMS Coordinators. If he had to prioritize, the EMS Coordinator would be number 1, and the shift Lieutenants would be number 2.

Chief Wright and the Board spoke about the benefits of mutual aid. Chief Wright added that the new public safety building is terrific and they are co-existing together. Chief Wright provided an update on the search for a new Captain.

The Board thanked Chief Wright for his time.

Mr. Turkington pointed out that the Lieutenant positions are in the budget, and the delta for the EMS Coordinator is approximately \$60,000, which will need to be found.

Proposed Energy/Gas Pipeline Letter to Legislature Discussion

Resident Bri McAlevey was present for the discussion. Ms. McAlevey thanked the Board for entertaining her request for support of a letter asking the Legislature

Chairman Roach asked who wrote the letter and Ms. McAlevey replied that it was drafted with input from advocates and several organizations. Selectman Heitin asked if the Board would be signing onto this letter or writing its own letter and Ms. McAlevey said that the Boards of Selectmen would be signing onto the same letter.

Selectman Heitin noted that some components of the letter are items that he is not familiar with, and wonders if many Boards of Selectmen are. He went on to point several sentences/comments that he cannot verify. He would support some sort of letter that would put pressure on the Legislature, but the Board does not know about all of these matters.

Chairman Roach asked how time sensitive this is. Ms. McAlevey replied that she thinks there are a couple of weeks left to sign onto this letter. Chairman Roach suggested discussing a revised letter at the Board's next meeting. Selectman McGrath said that he thinks the Board agrees on a concept of a letter, but the Board needs an edited letter. Ms. McAlevey noted that the nine communities that have signed on would sign onto this revised letter.

The Board thanked Ms. McAlevey for her time.

Green Communities Designation Discussion

Resident Silas Fyler appeared before the Board. The Green Communities Act has several requirements that the Board has to meet, and if they do, they are deemed a "Green Community" and then get one-time money (\$150,000) and then the town is eligible for grants. Two warrant articles are for As-of-Right Siting and the adoption of the Stretch Building Code.

Chairman Roach noted that the representative from the state will appear at a Board meeting in February and added that placeholders will be added to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion

#	ARTICLE TOPIC
1	Appoint Finance Committee Members
2	Act on Reports
3	Property Tax Workoff Program - Increase Maximum Credit
4	Personnel By-Law
5	FY2018 Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials
6	Capital Outlay
7	Community Preservation Act Annual Funding & Projects
8	Heights Elementary Roof Funding
9	Norfolk County Retirement Annual Assessment
10	Unemployment Fund
11	Funding Other Post-Employment Benefits (O.P.E.B.) Trust Fund
12	Funding Stabilization Fund

13	Funding Master Plan
14	Revolving Fund Authorizations
15	Property Tax Exemptions
16	Sharon Friends School Fund Records & Appointments
17	Annual Audit Appropriation
18	Schematic design documents for proposed One School Street library location
19	Codification of Town By-Laws
20	Zoning By-Law change: Expansion of business uses & change design standards - Business District D (Sharon Gallery)
21+	Green Community Designation - <i>would require possibly several warrant articles (including zoning by-law changes)</i>
24	Creation of a Special Needs Reserve Fund
25	Increase Composition of School Committee from 6 to 7 Members
	<u>ADJOURNED SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2016:</u>
	Zoning By-Law Change: Recreation and Residential Overlay District – Spring Valley Country Club

Mr. Turkington noted that most of the articles are perfunctory, but some are new, including the increasing of the maximum credit for the property tax workoff program, funding the replacement of the Heights Elementary School roof, funding the consultant for the Master Plan, approval of schematic design documents of the new One School Street location, codification of town by-laws, a zoning by-law change to expand the business uses and change design standards for Business District D, two articles for Green Community designation, creation of a special needs reserve fund, and increase the composition of the School Committee from 6 to 7 members.

Mr. Turkington added that there may be a couple of citizens' petitions

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve executive session minutes of December 20, 2016
- II. Vote to approve regular & executive session minutes of January 3, 2017
- III. Vote to approve banner request from Sharon Soccer Association for Jan 30-Feb 6 in second position, for Feb 6-Feb 13 in second position, and to approve request to post lawn signs around town on public property from January through April 8th.
- IV. Vote to approve and sign Class II Auto Dealer License
- V. Vote to approve and sign One-Day Liquor License for Recreation Department program: "Adult Pottery Workshop – Pinot and Pottery" on Thursday, February 16, 2017 @ 6:30pm; and to approve to waive the police detail for same.
- VI. Vote to approve permission for the Massapoag Yacht Club to place markers and/or buoys, in accordance with the State Uniform Markers System.
- VII. Vote to approve the "Sharon LETR Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics MA" event at Lake Massapoag on Saturday, February 25, 2017 beginning at 9:00am
- VIII. Vote to approve and sign employment agreement between the Town of Sharon and Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Chairman Roach explained that the Board took up this matter in executive session, but need to announce the vote in open session. Chairman Roach said that the vote was 2-1, and the contract is for three years, beginning July 1, 2017. Selectman McGrath explained that he voted against the contract because of one provision only – the residency requirement. The contract will allow Mr. Turkington to defer his moving to Sharon for three years. It wasn't the request for the extension that was an issue for Selectman McGrath, but rather the residency requirement altogether. He feels that the Town may miss out on great candidates for positions in police and fire leadership, as well as the Town Administrator position, because they have hardships that may prevent

them from moving to Sharon. He questions the purpose of the requirement if the town cannot enforce it, and believes that language could be drafted to have a radius limit, such as 20 miles.

Selectman Heitin said that there was a disagreement on the Board. He believes that the chiefs should be residents and be able to respond to emergencies. Selectman Heitin pointed out that Mr. Turkington had some unforeseen changes in his personal life and wanted to allow flexibility and allow an extension of the residency requirement. Selectman McGrath spoke at length about residency for police and fire staff.

MOTION: To approve the January 17, 2017 consent calendar, items 1-7
(Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To approve item 8 on the January 17, 2017 consent calendar
(Heitin - Roach) 2-1 **PASSES** (*with Selectman McGrath voting in the negative*)

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported the following:

- Provided more detailed information on the property tax workoff program: the proposed warrant article will raise the maximum benefit from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Sharon has offered four tiers ranging from \$725 to \$1,000 under the current program; the three highest categories are means tested. The proposal would eliminate the non-means qualified category and increase the three-tiers to \$1,000, \$1,250 and \$1,500 to qualifying applicants.
- The Finance Committee will review its sector budgets on January 23, as well as articles pertinent to those sectors; February 6 will be a review of the Selectmen's budget and preliminary capital outlay projects; February 13 will be a review of all other warrant articles; February 27 and March 3 will be a review of the school budget; and March 13 is reserved for Personnel Board recommendations and final budget vote.
- At the January 31 meeting, the Board will review human services and library budgets, a presentation on the COA needs assessment survey results, and a presentation and vote on the proposed beach pass/parking fee structure.

Some concerns were raised about the volume of water being used by the medical marijuana dispensary, and the proposed amendment would allocate 10% of the payment to the Town in Section A.1 to the water department, subject to a cap of \$45,000. Selectman Heitin agrees with the amendment.

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

MOTION: To accept the Conservation Restriction for the Townhomes at Saw Mill Pond Condominiums development
(Heitin - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Resident Ed McSweeney expressed concern about his warrant article and the cost of Town Counsel services. The Board advised him that his article would be added to the warrant as a Planning Board article.

Selectman Heitin announced that he attended the First Baptist Church's Martin Luther King Day program yesterday, and found the program very moving.

Executive Session – 8:15pm

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to pending litigation, 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.
(Roach - McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

Roach: Aye
McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:40pm
(Heitin – McGrath) 3-0 **PASSES**

McGrath: Aye
Roach: Aye
Heitin: Aye

List of Documents:

Police FY18 budget (refer to FY18 budget binder)

Fire FY18 Budget Review (refer to FY18 budget binder)

Legislation that will Prohibit the “Pipeline Tax”

- 01-04-2017 Email from Bri McAlevey of NoSharonGasPipeline.org
- Draft of letter to legislators

“Green Communities” Discussion

- 01 10 2017 MA Dept. of Energy Resources (MDER), Seth Pickering Presentation
- 12 22 2015 MDER “Green Community Designations Reach 155”

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- List of warrant articles (25) as of 1/12/17
- 01 12 2017 A. Cheyer, Draft Petition Article re: Gavins Pond & DPW GIS Map dated 12/28/2016
- 01 05 2017 Email from T. Farmer (Superintendent of Schools) re: M.G.L. c.40, s. 13E Language

Consent Calendar

- December 20 executive session minutes
- January 3 regular session minutes
- January 3 executive session minutes
- Banner request of the Sharon Soccer Association
- Class II Auto Dealer License for Motorcars Unlimited LLC/Steven G. Stein
- 01-12-17 C. Kasparian application for One-Day Liquor License
- 12-25-16 Letter from D. Keller of Massapoag Yacht Club re: State Uniform Markers System
- Flyer & insurance for “Sharon LETR Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics MA”
- Employment agreement for Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.

Report of the Town Administrator

- Bi-weekly report of 1/12/17
- Proposed amendment to Host Community Agreement with Four Daughters Compassionate Care (FDCC)

Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

- Conservation Restriction for the Townhomes at Saw Mill Pond