

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 16, 2018

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman William A. Heitin, Clerk Walter B. Roach, Jr., Selectwoman Emily E. Smith-Lee, 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.

Sharon Police Department - Approval of Recommendations for a Police Officer

Chief Ford explained that an entry level exam took place in June. He reviewed the test and found it to be very challenging. Of the 80 candidates who applied, the review committee brought 22 candidates for second interview. These 22 candidates were narrowed down to 6 quality finalists. Of these finalists, two are being presented this evening. Both candidates are Sharon residents.

The Police Department anticipates a retirement in the near future. As it takes about a year to replace a candidate, this evening the Board will have a first look at a second candidate. It is Chief Ford's hope that the Board will consider having the second position filled in advance of January, 2020.

The first candidate is Kris Demeris. Kris was born and raised in Sharon and carries on the family tradition of law enforcement. Both his father and brother are police officers. Kris is currently a full time student at UMass Boston. He is pursuing degrees in Criminology and Political Science. He is scheduled to graduate this December. Kris is a graduate of the Army Basic Training and Infantry School where he received a Distinguished Honor for top GPA in the Basic Leader Class. He is currently active as a member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Kris is also a graduate of the South Suburban Police Institute and currently serves the town of Sharon as both a police special officer and as a part-time dispatcher.

The second candidate is Peter Canuto. Peter was born and raised in Sharon and currently resides in Town with his family. He currently works for the MBTA as a Foreman and supervises fleet management. Peter is a skilled carpenter and has utilized his practical skills in volunteer work throughout the Town of Sharon for those in need. Peter has taken two semesters in Law Enforcement and Business Management at Massasoit Community College and intends to continue toward earning his degree. Peter volunteers as a coach for Pop Warner and High School Football. He is also an auxiliary member of the United States Coast Guard and an active member of Sharon Rotary.

Both candidates scored in the top tier of the entry exam and their psychological profiles indicate strong ethical and work related success as they relate to a potential law enforcement career. Both candidates also excelled in the interview process.

MOTION: That both candidates be appointed to the Police Department conditionally pending medical background.

(Roach-Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

Sharon Police Department -K9 Officer Presentation

Chief Ford explained that there is a need for a K9 Officer in town. Other neighboring communities such as Stoughton, Foxboro, and Canton have K9 Officers. Recently the Department has had increasing call outs for dogs from another community or the state, for tracking. Tracking is vital in getting a quick resolution in locating missing persons or in cases of robbery.

George Demeris is passionate and committed which is integral in developing a successful program. This would be an expensive program but Chief Ford feels that the benefit is worth the expense. There is Grant opportunity with the Stanton Grant. The cost for training could come from drug forfeiture.

Officer Demeris has been with Sharon PD for 3 years. He started as a dispatcher and then moved on to special officer. He explained that having a K9 Officer is another option for diffusing situations and would decrease the Department's reliance on outside agencies. The implementation of a canine program was found to be 33 percent more effective than officers without narcotics trained dogs when calculating the number of arrests. They reduce issues in Fourth Amendment cases where searches are warranted and are pre-emptive in narcotics trafficking in the area. Narcotics dogs can be additionally trained to track humans from suspects to dementia patients or special needs community members. Having a canine program can also bridge gaps with the community and can be effective ice-breakers with youths when talking about narcotics.

The Stanton Grant is a non-competitive grant in the amount of \$25,000 which covers the cost of a dog, handler training, retrofitting an existing cruiser, kennel construction and the first three years of food and veterinary care. It may also help to defray the costs of Overtime Help in the way of up to \$14,000 at \$1,000 per week to cover K9 Patrol School; and up to \$4,000 total at \$1,000 per week to cover 4-week Narcotics Detection School. The funds would be awarded upon completion of each school. In order to qualify, the dog must be dual-purpose. The foundation will make arrangements for, and help with, dog selection. Grant money must be placed in a separate account to track expenses. Quarterly reports are required for the first year then annually from years two through five. The program must run for a minimum of five years. A kennel must also be constructed at the officer's home.

Additional statistics and a cost breakdown were presented. Officer Demeris would love to talk cost offset. Tonight, the Department is looking for support from the Board of Selectmen. The Police Department is sensitive to the negative connotation associated with canine breeds, German Shepards in particular. Chief Ford believes the budget funding is available and Officer Demeris is the right person to get this program up and running. Both Officer Demeris and Chief Ford appreciate the Board's consideration.

The Board unanimously expressed their support.

Update from Energy Advisory Committee

Energy Advisory Committee Chairman, George Aronson, and member Silas Fyler presented a brief update to the Board. The Committee has met four or five times and has drafted an RFP for a Community Aggregation Broker. Proposals are scheduled to be received on November 1.

Mountain Street landfill was also discussed. Mr. Turkington mentioned there is a possibility of a partnership with the Town of Norwood with respect to a part-time energy manager.

The Board expressed that they look forward to the next update in November.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular and executive session minutes of October 2, 2018.
- II. Vote to approve the following banner request:
 - a. One Book One Town (March 25, 2019-April 1, 2019, 1st Position)
 - b. One Book One Town (April 8, 2019- April 14, 2019, 1st Position)
- III. Vote to authorize SSBC Chairman Gordon Gladstone as designee to sign the Local Actions and Approval Certification Letter for the High School Feasibility Study Project.

MOTION: To approve the October 2, 2018 consent calendar

Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reported the following:

- Continue to work on Capital Improvement.
- Updates every other week from Lauren on Town Hall project.
- Remainder of discussion will be given in Executive Session.

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

There was a brief discussion on parking issues experienced at Town Hall.

Executive Session

MOTION: At 7:55 pm to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to pending litigation with regard to real property – Mountain Street, LLC v. Sharon Zoning Board of Appeals Housing Appeals Court Docket # 04-01; Leslie Myatt, et al. v. Board of Appeals of the Town of Sharon and Mountain Street, LLC Norfolk Superior Court Civil Action No.: 0382CV02377. The Board will not return to open session.

Discussion of this item in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.

Roll Call Vote 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye

Roach: Aye

Smith-Lee: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Roll Call Vote 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin: Aye

Roach: Aye

Smith-Lee: Aye

List of Documents

- Candidate Biographies – Recommendations for Hiring of Two Entry Level Police Positions
- Banner Request Forms – One Book One Town
- Minutes
- Email from Gordon Gladstone