

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 29, 2013

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was opened at 6:45pm at Sharon Town Hall with Chairman Walter “Joe” Roach, Selectmen William Heitin, Selectmen Richard Powell and Town Administrator Benjamin E. Puritz.

Diane Malcolmson – Animal Control FY15 Budget

Animal Control Officer Diane Malcolmson presented her proposed three versions of the FY15 Animal Control budget. She noted that in her primary budget, it is level funded, and absorbs a 2% salary increase but as a result, her administrative costs were reduced by 2%.

Selectman Heitin noted for the audience that her proposed option 1 budget is \$72,759 which is a 2.1% increase over last year.

Marlene Chused – Elections/Registrations FY15 Budget

Held – will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Clarification of Water Rates Vote

Selectman Heitin noted that there was some confusion as to the October 24 vote on the water rates. He stressed that the only change to the Superintendent of Public Works’ proposal was an increase of \$5.00 per quarter for the base rate, so instead of it being \$15.00 as proposed, it will be \$20.00 per quarter. No other changes were made.

MOTION: To approve rates for water as presented by the Superintendent of Public Works with no exception, but - the base fee is going from \$15.00 to \$20.00 a quarter; the summer rates are going to be \$4.00, \$7.00, \$10.00 and \$13.50 and the winter rates are going to be \$3.00, \$6.00, \$8.00 and \$12.00, and the base rate at \$20.00

(Heitin – Powell) 2-1 **PASSES**

Approval of Executive Session Minutes – October 1, 2013

MOTION: To approve the executive session minutes of October 1, 2013

(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2013

MOTION: To approve the regular and executive session minutes of October 15, 2013

(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Banner Request – Sharon Adult Center Lakeside Gallery Exhibit

MOTION: To approve the banner request from the Sharon Adult Center for November 18-25, 2013 (2nd position) for their Lakeside Gallery exhibit and waive the fee
(Powell – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Remote Board/Committee Participation Discussion

Chairman Roach noted that the Board of Assessors has asked that town boards and committees be allowed to use remote participation for members who are unable to attend a meeting. He expressed concerns with this proposal and believes it takes away from the meeting. He understands that sometimes people can't attend every meeting but has concerns about instituting this policy.

The Town Administrator said that staff can look into what other area communities do relative to this issue. Selectman Heitin thought the Town did something like this at a Town Meeting. The Board asked that this be added to a future agenda.

Fall Town Meeting Warrant – Article 7

Finance Director William Fowler was present for the discussion. He explained that a total of \$100,000 of unused money was going to be used for roadway and sidewalk improvements.

\$92,490.00	(33008311-581100-HS)	HS Roof Project
\$4,862.00	(32005541-621103)	ATM5/10#18I COA Van
\$2,648.00	(32006630-621313)	ATM5/12#13H Bldg Rep Recreation

The Board indicated their support for Article 7.

Town Administrator Employment Agreement Amendment

The Board will hold on this agenda item.

Gary Bluestein – Recreation Advisory Committee Interview

Mr. Bluestein noted that he's been on the Recreation Advisory Committee for fifteen years. Selectman Powell asked what the biggest change has been that he's seen. Mr. Bluestein noted that there have been four different directors and a new community center. He said that they hope to have the Community Center open for the weekends soon. He's very happy with the direction of the department. He noted that everyone has their own expertise on the Committee and people have different ideas of how to do things and that's exciting. He also noted that the lake and Memorial Beach have dramatically changed over the years and is a jewel of the town. One of the big issues these days is the fanwort and Asian clams and how and when they got there is a bit of a sticking point and that a group is looking for ways to keep them in check. Mr. Bluestein noted that the Halloween Parade was very successful and had anywhere from 600-800 attendees.

Chairman Roach asked for an update on the building. Mr. Bluestein explained how some of the space is going to be changed to make the space more usable and that the Recreation Director is looking at ways to better utilize the space. He added that the game room is underutilized and that the Committee is also looking at ways to better use the space at the Community Center.

The Board thanked Mr. Bluestein for his time.

Seth Ruskin – Zoning Board of Appeals Interview

Chairman Roach asked Mr. Ruskin why he wants to be appointed for another three years. Mr. Ruskin noted that there has been a lot of turnover on the Board – half of the Board is gone and they lost a lot of knowledge. He noted that most of the big projects are either done or in limbo and that a lot of projects that come before the Board come from homeowners. He is looking forward to serving another term. Selectman Powell noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals might want to discuss the idea of remote participation.

The Board thanked Mr. Ruskin for his time.

Luba Raynus – Interview – candidate for Board of Health or Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Raynus told the Board that she is looking to get involved on any board or committee and that she doesn't have a preference. Chairman Roach said that she just joined the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee. Chairman Roach asked Ms. Raynus to provide some background and she told the Board that she's lived in Sharon for thirteen years, has two children in the town's school system and is an attorney by trade. Chairman Roach told Ms. Raynus that the Board of Health will have an opening. She noted that she has attended a Board of Health meeting as an observer in support of a friend, but added that she has experience going before the Health Board in Medford.

Selectman Powell asked how she would handle her role as a member of the Board, and she thinks stifling growth isn't good and we are trying to make this town better and help people get to their goals.

The Board thanked Ms. Raynus for coming in.

Samuel Reef – Zoning Board of Appeals Interview

Chairman Roach asked Mr. Reef why he wants to serve another term. He replied that he hasn't served a full term but has gotten his feet wet over the past year and the Board as a whole is adding good insight. He hasn't yet had a chance to vote but has sat in on many cases.

Chairman Roach asked Mr. Reef to talk to his Board about remote participation. Mr. Reef said that remote participation may be a good developmental step for all boards and committees. Selectman Powell noted that even as an alternate, you get a lot of experience and Mr. Reef said that he would love to serve another term.

The Board thanked Mr. Reef for coming in.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

None

Executive Session

MOTION: To enter into executive session to discuss Police Superior Officers Collective Bargaining, a real property transfer, and pending litigation, and at the evening, to adjourn for the evening. Discussion of any of these items in open session would be detrimental to the Town.

Roach: Aye

Powell: Aye

Heitin: Aye

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:35pm.