

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 17, 2013

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:05pm with Chairman Walter “Joe” Roach, Selectman William A. Heitin and Town Administrator Benjamin E. Puritz.

Linda Orel – Interview for reappointment to the Conservation Commission

The Board stated that Ms. Orel is stuck on a disabled train and will get to the meeting as soon as she can.

Susan Peck – Interview for reappointment to the Board of Health

The Board stated that Ms. Peck, like Ms. Orel, is stuck on a disabled train and will get to the meeting as soon as she can.

Joel Fishman & John Carroll – Carroll Advertising

Attorney Joel Fishman noted that the Town Administrator and Mr. Carroll have worked out a further modification of the mitigation agreement, subject to the Board’s approval. The modifications are:

- Increase the number of digital billboards from two to four, in exchange for a payment to the Town of Sharon of an additional \$300,000 – the lump sum payments are increased from \$400,000 to \$700,000
- Extend the time for Carroll Advertising to file with the Town of Sharon boards from the 8th billboard face until no later than twelve months after the November 4, 2013 Town Meeting vote is legally effective;
- Extend the time for Carroll to file for the two billboard faces which need to be filed until no later than 30 days after the November 4, 2013 Town Meeting vote is legally effective. Attorney Fishman noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals expressed concern about granting a variance when it would be unnecessary in a couple of months and may not meet the strict standard for the grant of a variance. It doesn’t make sense to file an application for a static billboard within 30 days, as discussed at last week’s Selectmen’s meeting, when it likely will not be approved until the November 4 vote is legally effective.
- Request that Town Counsel draft an amendment to the mitigation agreement incorporating the modifications approved by the Board of Selectmen on December 10 and tonight.

MOTION: To approve the modified mitigation agreement as discussed this evening
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

Energy Management Services Agreement with Dagle Electrical Construction Corp.

Town Administrator Puritz noted that the Town intends to change the streetlights to LED lights. They are green and cost-effective. They last a minimum of five times longer than traditional lights. We are going to pay for this through a lease/purchase agreement. We are paying through this from the immediate savings of electricity. We are going to finance, after an \$87,000 rebate from NSTAR, \$392,133. After ten years, that obligation will be fulfilled. The lighting is better quality, more cost effective, and we have technical expertise from MAPC, who handled this procurement with several other communities. Mr. Puritz added that it is a quick installation – there will be an audit and inventory

of all of the lights (2 weeks), then comes the ordering of the equipment. By February, the equipment will be on site. Dagle Electrical Construction Corporation is the contractor and they have extensive experience with public sector clients. They expect they can switch out the lights in one month, if all goes according to schedule. They hope to be substantially done by April 1.

Chairman Roach asked about the decorative lights. Town Administrator Puritz noted that those are not part of this project, as the LED conversion product is not available for the lollypops and the decorative lights yet. The conversion kit for the decorative lights should be ready by the third or fourth quarter of 2014.

Town Administrator Puritz thanked Bill Fowler, Peter O'Cain, Eric Hooper and April Forsman for their assistance with this project.

MOTION: To authorize the Chairman to sign the Energy Management Services Agreement between the Town of Sharon and Dagle Electrical Construction Corporation out of Melrose, Massachusetts
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

Finance Director Bill Fowler – Quarterly Railroad Pass Fee Increase Discussion

Mr. Fowler noted that the Town is presently selling 18 spots at One School Street due to MBTA platform construction. Quarterly passes have been online for a little over 2 years now. The demand for parking exceeds the amount of spaces we have. There is a waiting list of 80+ each quarter. We picked up some parking at Eastern Bank. We are working on a tow policy and enforcement is getting better. We are looking into the idea of expanding parking. Daily spots are a problem, but the quarterlies are definitely a problem. Even with the increase from 50-85 to 100, the cost is \$1.66/day for the quarterly lot. He is suggesting changing the price differential between the quarterly and daily spots. Mr. Fowler added that he has spoken with 15 residents who have been shut out of the quarterly lot this quarter and the Board may hear from some of them. He suggested that the Town may have to revisit the satellite parking/shuttle option.

Finance Director Bill Fowler – Debt Service, Medicare/Social Security FY15 Budgets

The debt service budget – the total budget is \$9,088,903. He will be adjusting this budget and will be reducing the number.

Medicare & Social Security are two separate lines. The FY15 budget request is \$678,295 for Medicare and the Social Security FY15 budget figure is \$9,850.

Town Administrator Ben Puritz – Sealer of Weights & Measures FY15 Budget

The FY15 budget request is \$4,712 for the Primary budget; the Option 1 budget is \$4,793, and the Option 2/3 budget is \$4,807.

Banner Request – Sharon Adult Center Lakeside Gallery Exhibit

MOTION: To approve the banner request from January 20-27, 2014 (1st position) for the Sharon Adult Center Lakeside Gallery Exhibit, with the fee to be waived
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

Professional Service Agreement – Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management

Chairman Roach noted that we will get the paperwork to the Finance Committee but signing this agreement is important to the Town of Sharon. He wants to sign the contract tonight and will work with the Finance Committee to secure the necessary funding. Selectman Heitin summarized the process.

MOTION: To approve and sign the engagement letter with the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management in the amount of \$7,000 and support the additional funds needed from the Reserve Fund

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

Remote Participation Discussion

This is allowed under state law and Selectman Heitin believes this is to be used in extraordinary circumstances. He's supportive of this. He wants to hold until Selectman Powell is able to attend. Chairman Roach would like to study the issue even further and consider language for a policy. He too wants to wait for Selectman Powell.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

None

Board/Committee Approvals

MOTION: To appoint Len Segal to the Cable TV Oversight Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Jeffery Jacobson to the Commission on Disabilities, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016; and to appoint James Waters to the Commission on Disabilities, for a term to expire on December 31, 2015

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Marc Bluestein to the Community Preservation Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Linda Orel to the Conservation Commission, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Rita Edelston to the Council on Aging Advisory Board, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Luba Raynus and Kenneth Zoller to the Board of Health, for terms to expire on December 31, 2016

(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Gordon Hughes and Shirley Schofield to the Historical Commission, for terms to expire on December 31, 2016
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Jane Desberg and Mary Tobin the Housing Partnership, for terms to expire on December 31, 2016
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Steve Weiss to the Lake Management Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Gary Bluestein to the Recreation Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Samuel Reef as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Seth Ruskin for an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, with terms to expire on December 31, 2016
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint the following for terms to expire on December 31, 2014:

Richard Gelerman – Town Counsel
Michael Polimer – Director of Civil Defense
Diane Malcolmson – Dog Officer
Edward Welch – Fence Viewer
Charles Healy – Sealer of Weights & Measures
Edwin Little – Norfolk County Advisory Board Representative
Edward Little – Animal Inspector
Paul Bergeron – Veterans' Agent
William Fowler – Finance Director
(Heitin – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

The Board wants to thank Suzi Peck for her service to the Town of Sharon and the Board of Health and wants to send her a letter.

Executive Session – 7:47pm

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

Roach: Aye
Heitin: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:10pm

Roach: Aye

Heitin: Aye