

**MINUTES**  
**SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
January 21, 2014

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:05pm with Chairman Walter “Joe” Roach, Selectman Richard A. Powell, Selectman William A. Heitin and Town Administrator Benjamin E. Puritz. Selectman Heitin arrived at 7:50pm.

**Silas Fyler – Sharon Earth Day Event Approval Request – May 3, 2014**

Mr. Fyler noted the event is in its third year. They will close High Street to set it up for bands and other vendors to have “green day” subjects. 4H will have their animals there, the Boy Scouts will be there to provide bicycle tune-ups. Chairman Roach asked if the High Street parking lot will still be open and Mr. Fyler noted that it will. He added that he will work with Police and Fire.

**MOTION:** To approve the Earth Day Event as described, contingent upon approval of Police and Fire Chiefs

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

**Appointment of Matthew Rovaldi as a Full-Time Police Officer**

Chief Bernstein noted that Matt is a long-time Sharon resident. He’s a military veteran and has been a permanent intermittent officer for about a year. He’s a fill in dispatcher as well. He’s done ride-alongs but we don’t have special police officers do shifts on their own. Selectman Powell thinks it’s great that he has worked up through the ranks and is happy to have him on the force.

**MOTION:** To make a conditional offer of employment to Matthew Rovaldi as a full-time police officer

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

**Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2014**

**MOTION:** To approve the regular and executive session minutes of January 7, 2014

(Powell - Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

**Order of Taking – Johnson Drive**

This matter has been postponed.

**Banner Request & Sign Approval – Sharon Soccer Association**

**MOTION:** To approve the banner request from the Sharon Soccer Association for February 3-7, 2014 in the second position and March 3-7, 2014 in the second position for their registration

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

### **Banner Request – Sharon Pop Warner**

**MOTION:** To approve the banner request from March 24-31, 2014 in the first position for their registration

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

### **Banner Request – Sharon Public Schools**

**MOTION:** To approve the banner request from January 22-31, 2014 in the second position for their anti-drug and anti-alcohol initiative

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

### **Sharon Lions Club – Spring White Cane Day**

**MOTION:** To grant permission to the Sharon Lions Club to hold their Spring White Cane Day fundraising event on Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 9am-1pm in Sharon Center, upon notification of the Police Chief

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

### **Town Equipment – Surplus Property**

The vehicle in question is a 2010 Toyota Prius with 69,000 miles. Chairman Roach noted that 4 or 5 departments have requested the vehicle. He suggests holding the vehicle

**MOTION:** No action be taken on declaring the vehicle surplus

(Powell – Roach) 2-0 **PASSES**

### **2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Review**

Chairman Roach wants to hold on a review of the warrant articles.

### **Supplemental Agenda – Public Safety Building Update**

Fire Chief Jim Wright, DPW Superintendent Eric Hooper and Police Chief Joe Bernstein were present to inform the Board of the preferred site, as voted by the Public Safety Feasibility Study Committee.

Chief Wright explained that the Committee came to a consensus as to the preferred site. They narrowed it down to two sites – the existing site of the DPW/Police Station and the other is the ballfields on East Foxboro Street. The DPW/Police Station site was the one selected by the Committee. They would like to move forward with a detailed cost analysis and schematic, and look more closely at the site.

Mr. Hooper noted that there are very few spaces that are suitable to locate a police or fire department. Neither location is ideal but the Police/DPW location is compatible for its use. It is going to require some changing of the existing DPW yard, but this was the best alternative. It will require a stop light and site work. This was the result of a multi-month process. He noted that the plan is to bring it to the May Town Meeting.

Chief Bernstein added that access and location were important and both sites worked well for the Police, but the ballfield location is not as safe for the Fire Department, as there is a hill near the train tracks.

One signal location will benefit Police, Fire and DPW at the preferred site. He thinks it's a positive to have all three departments together. This preferred site impacts the least amount of people. Mr. Hooper added that the new building frontage wouldn't be any bigger than the existing police station.

Chairman Roach said that he was a member of the Committee and is fairly certain he would have voted for the existing DPW/Police location, as the other locations posed a lot of challenges. He thinks it was a good choice. Mr. Hooper said that disrupting the gardens can't be compared to disrupting the DPW, which is an essential service, as the garden is a recreational use.

Selectman Powell asked about disruption of the existing site during construction. Mr. Hooper replied that the fire station would be fully operational during construction in its current location, and the cost estimate allows for staging of construction that would impact DPW and Police. Mr. Hooper said that Civil Defense would be moved to the existing fire station after construction. Mr. Powell asked about the two separate buildings for Police and Fire and Mr. Hooper replied that it would be built because of limitations on the site.

Chief Bernstein thinks that the house for sale next to the ballfields should be considered to be purchased by the Town. Selectman Powell thinks the DPW/Police site is the best choice and believes we can make it work. He asked about the cost differences between the two sites. Mr. Hooper said the difference was \$1-2 million.

Selectman Heitin arrived at 7:50pm, at the conclusion of the conversation.

The Board thanked the gentlemen for their time.

#### **Cheryl Whiting – Interview for Appointment – Recreation Advisory Committee**

Chairman Roach recused himself from this discussion.

Ms. Whiting thanked the Board for considering her application to the Recreation Advisory Committee. She is a lifelong Sharon resident. She's active in town and on many committees. She runs a daycare here in town and has three kids that have gone through the public school system. She has taken advantage of the recreational opportunities here in town.

Selectman Heitin thinks we need someone like her for the Committee. Selectman Powell believes her knowledge of the town and of the sports groups here in town. Selectman Powell noted that we will vote at the next meeting.

#### **Executive Session – 7:55pm**

**MOTION:** To enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation, bargaining regarding non-represented personnel and Fire Department collective bargaining, until the hour of 8:30pm. Discussion of any of these items in open session would be detrimental to the Town.

Roach: Aye  
Powell: Aye  
Heitin: Aye

## **Open Session – Town Administrator Search Process Update - 8:45pm**

Selectman Powell recused himself from the discussion and left the room.

Selectman Heitin noted the Screening Committee and the Board have engaged the services of the Collins Center, to develop the Town Administrator profile. As soon as the document is completed, the profile would be posted for soliciting resumes. The Committee and the Collins Center have done a good job with the profile and it does not restrict us to the types of candidates we can consider. It opens up to a broader base. The Board will submit its recommendations to the Chairman of the Committee and will post the job shortly. Chairman Roach noted that the recommendations will be made to the Committee within a week.

## **Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting**

Selectman Heitin noted that trash and delivery will be delayed one day due to the storm.

Chairman Roach said that the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee would like to have banners hung on the light posts in the downtown area. The banners will be \$300 each. They will be up for one year – December 2014 to December 2015. Sponsors will pay the fee.

**MOTION:** To allow the hanging of the banner  
(Heitin – Powell)            3-0            PASSES

## **Executive Session – 8:50pm**

**MOTION:** To enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation, bargaining regarding non-represented personnel and Fire Department collective bargaining, 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  
Powell:           Aye  
Heitin:            Aye

## **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 10:00pm

Roach:            Aye  
Powell:           Aye  
Heitin:            Aye