

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 26, 2019

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman William A. Heitin, Selectman Emily E. Smith-Lee, and Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Medal of Valor Commendation Honoree Officer Richard Derry by Chief John Ford

Chief Ford presented Officer Richard Derry, an 18 year veteran of the Department, with the Medal of Valor for demonstration of courage during a home invasion which occurred on November 15, 2018. The Medal of Valor is the highest award bestowed on an officer of the Sharon Police Department.

On the evening of November 15, Officer Derry was dispatched to a 911 call report of an intruder in the home, attacking the residents located on Billings Street. Upon arrival, Officer Derry encountered a frantic woman standing outside of the home. The woman was bleeding from wounds on her head, screaming that her children were inside the home with the intruder. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own safety, Officer Derry rushed into the home and confronted the armed suspect in a second floor bedroom. Officer Derry was able to persuade the suspect to comply with his demands and subsequently make an arrest without a violent altercation.

Upon clearing the home, Officer Derry found the resident's school-aged children hiding in the bedroom closet. Officer Derry's actions on that November evening no doubt saved further injury, possibly even fatalities. His tactical control of the incident and subsequent restraint deserves to be recognized as exemplary.

Rabbi Ron Fish commended Officer Derry and expressed how profoundly grateful he and his family are to him and the Sharon Police Department.

New Full-Time Police Officer Recommendations - Deputy Chief Brewer

Deputy Chief Brewer introduced both John Avelar and Maximillian Simon. Both he and Chief Ford recommend Mr. Avelar and Mr. Simon be hired as full time police officers for the Town of Sharon.

Mr. Simon scored very well on the police entrance exam and scored high during the interview process. He is currently a Sharon Special Police Officer and a part-time police dispatcher. Mr. Simon has passed a complete background check and has displayed willingness to learn new skills. He is a graduate of Sharon High School and has proven himself reliable and level-headed. Max as the qualities to become a strong asset to the Sharon Police Department.

Mr. Avelar scored very well on the police entrance exam and was ranked very high during the interview process. An extensive background investigation was completed and showed John to be a hard-working, mature individual with high standards of integrity and honesty. John currently works as a part-time police dispatcher for the Town of Sharon and is enrolled in MPTC Reserve Police Academy training to become a Special Police Officer. John is involved in his community as a Boy Scout leader, youth hockey coach and community volunteer. He has 20 years' experience in industrial engineering and is known as a proven team leader. John is a graduate of Stoughton High School and has attended 1 year of Business Law at Bridgewater State University. John has already proven himself a reliable, trustworthy employee and will be a strong asset to the Sharon Police Department team.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation that Mr. Avelar and Mr. Simon be hired as provisional, full-time police officers for the Sharon Police Department.
(Smith-Lee - Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

The Board took a five minute recess at 7:18 pm and reconvened at 7:23 pm.

Board and Committee Candidate Interviews

The Board met with Mr. Shakil Sattar, a candidate for the Sharon Cultural Council. Mr. Sattar explained that he has resided in Sharon for the past four years with his wife and five year old son. He was born in Argentina and has lived in Africa, Asia and Europe. Mr. Sattar has attended a meeting and met with Judy Waxman, the Cultural Council Chairperson. He has some ideas for promoting and organizing events that spotlight Sharon's diverse population.

Ms. Erin Robbins Statter also introduced herself to the Board as a candidate for the Sharon Cultural Council. She explained that she has lived in Sharon for nearly three years. She is employed as Communication Director at a non-profit overnight Jewish camp and has some background in Arts Administration. She is interested in the Cultural Council also because of the Town's unique cultural diversity. Ms. Statter has spoken with Judy Waxman not long ago and thought the program was interesting.

Chairman Heitin explained the Board's policy not to take a position with respect to appointment on the evening that candidate interviews are held but will do so at the following scheduled meeting. He thanked both candidates for taking the time to introduce themselves.

Ms. Smith-Lee asked about whether voter registration was a requirement to serve on all Boards and Committees. It was explained that it is a requirement of all elected Boards and most appointed Boards and Committees.

Update on Sharon Public Library - Lee Ann Amend, Library Director

Ms. Amend explained that a Town-wide informational mailing was just completed and should be received by residents next week. This correspondence should answer most questions about the project. The floor plans were provided for this meeting but have not changed. The Standing Building Committee has decided to use a Design Build Bid process of procurement rather than Construction Manager at Risk. The Library Trustees are working on the building design with the Historical Commission so that the exterior of the building will fit in with neighborhood but will be historically sensitive. The details should be worked out at a joint meeting on March 28th.

A cost estimate was also provided in the amount of \$10.9 million for renovation of the existing building. A renovation would consist of building code and ADA compliance upgrades. The building would be 25% smaller than a new building. This amount does not include moving and storage costs or a temporary operating space for use during construction.

The Library Reuse Committee has met once and is trying to schedule another before Town Meeting in May. They have been tasked with trying to find another use for the existing library. It is the goal of the committee to have a minimum development or construction cost to bring the building up to standard for some other potential use.

The design for the new Library building is has a LEED Standard designation of Silver. This certification is costly but is paid for by the MA Board of Library Commissioners and is part of the grant. This is allocated as a bonus in the amount of \$184,392.

Mr. Levin noted that the library has just kicked off the first of three public information sessions to educate the community on the state of the current building and the plans for the future building. A tour was given and there was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. The next session will be Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Turkington explained that the Finance Committee voted to approve the article last night and recommend it to Town Meeting. The article mentions the funding amount of approximately \$18 million. The motion at town meeting will authorize the borrowing, net of the grant. At a subsequent town meeting, if a turn back comes from either the Town Hall or Public Safety Building, the article could be amended to reduce the borrowing.

Take positions on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board voted as follows.

Article #	Article	BOS Vote
1	Appoint Finance Committee Members & Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee Members	n/a
2	Act on Reports	Support 2-0
3	Sharon Friends School Fund Records & Appointments	Support 2-0
4	Personnel By-Law	Support 2-0
5	FY2020 Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials & Establishment of the Cable Public Access enterprise fund	Support 2-0
6	Capital Outlay	Support 2-0
7	Community Preservation Act Annual Funding & Projects	Support 2-0
8	Norfolk County Retirement Annual Assessment	Support 2-0
9	Unemployment Fund	Support 2-0
10	Funding Other Post-Employment Benefits (O.P.E.B.) Trust Fund	Support 2-0
11	Funding Assessor Inspection Services	Support 2-0
12	Annual Audit Appropriation	Support 2-0
13	Revolving Fund Authorizations	Support 2-0
14	Property Tax Exemptions	Support 2-0
15	Rescission of authorized unissued debt	Support 2-0
16	Accept provisions of MGL c. 40 Section 57 & Amend Chapter 189 of the General Bylaws	Support 2-0
17	Sharon Public Library Project Funding	defer vote to 4/9 meeting

Article #	Article	BOS Vote
18	Authorize Board of Selectmen to Petition the Legislature to Permit All Alcohol Package Stores in Business Districts A, B, D and the Light Industrial District	Support 2-0
19	Accept provisions of MGL Chapter 48, Section 58E (<i>firefighter residency</i>)	Support 2-0
20	Naming of Pavilion at Dr. Walter A. Griffin Playground for Ezra Schwartz	Support 2-0
21	General Bylaw Change: Add Section – Water Discharges to the Public Right-of-Way	Support 2-0
22	Amend Zoning Map - Rezone 810 South Main Street to Business District B	Support 2-0
23	Citizen Petition – Plastic Waste Reduction Bylaw Amendment	Support 2-0
24	Citizen Petition – Change Board of Selectmen to Select Board Bylaw Amendment	Support 2-0
25	Citizen Petition – Resolution for Sharon to Adopt a Goal of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Zero by 2050	no position (BOS generally does not take positions on resolutions)

Review and approve consent calendar

- I. Vote to approve March 5, 2019 Regular and Executive Session minutes and March 14, 2019 Regular Session minutes.
- II. Vote to appoint David Brookfield to the Water Management Advisory Committee for a term expiring on December 31, 2021 and Asma Abdullah to the Sharon Commission on Disabilities for a term expiring December 31, 2019.
- III. Vote to waive Community Center room rental fee for the After-Grad event scheduled for June 2, 2019
- IV. Vote to approve the use of the High Street Municipal Parking Lot by the Historical Society for the Sixth Annual Car Display on Sunday, September 22, 2019
- V. Vote to approve out-of-state travel requests for four Firefighters to travel to Appleton, WI for equipment final inspection and for Chief Wright’s travel to Washington, D. C. with the Fire Chief’s Association of MA

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda.
(Smith-Lee – Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Finance Committee has completed its review of the warrant articles. They have approved each article by a vote of either 9-1 or 10-0 with the exception of the budget as they are awaiting the School Committee to adopt the

revised recommendation of the Priorities Committee which is slightly higher than the February 25 recommendation.

There has been a request by the Town Clerk's office for CPC funding for rolling shelving which will be voted on April 1.

All comments on the warrant should be received by the Finance Committee by April 4 and then warrant will go to the printer on April 9 for publication. There will be a draft provided at the next meeting. This will be finalized with Town Counsel prior to the warrant hearing which is on Monday, April 29.

The DPW Park Staff is assisting the Recreation Department to move the discus area to a safer location in preparation for an invitational that is being hosted in May.

There is a meeting with MA DOT next week regarding funding for completion of the Maskwonicut Street Bridge. Representative Kafka and Senators Timilty and Feeney were instrumental in helping to arrange the meeting.

Spots at the Police Academy are being secured for the two provisional police officers which were appointed earlier this evening. There will be another vacancy due to retirement next year.

Two individuals have been hired to fill vacancies in the Accounting office and the Assessor's office. Mr. Turkington will provide background information for the Board to review.

Other business

Chairman Heitin was contacted recently by the Chairman of the School Committee. They anticipate hiring a consultant tomorrow evening to work on the investigation that is publicly known today. They have requested assistance by the Selectmen. There has been some discussion with the insurance company. Labor Counsel may potentially be utilized in the process if need be and to the extent that they need assistance from the Board, Mr. Heitin will be available to help out as needed.

In order to regain community trust, there is a strong desire by the School Committee to have independent supervision for the investigator who is engaged.

Team Rival of Sharon High School

Julia Heitin, Julia Lin and Brad Corn are members of Team Rival, which is a youth-led organization at the High School. They are here tonight to provide information on their activities to raise awareness of substance abuse in Sharon.

Team Rival attended a conference put on by the Norfolk County District Attorney's office. The students were moved by a speaker, Corey, at the conference who explained about his experiences with substance abuse overdose. They have arranged to bring the young man to Sharon High School to share his impactful story. As a result of overdose, the young man has some motor and speech impairment. Other activities the students have in mind are stands at local retail outlets, school sporting events and possibly Town Meeting as suggested by Mr. Heitin, to raise awareness. They will provide substance use facts during the announcements at school and develop a Public Service Announcement.

The students have a goal of \$600 to bring Corey to the school to present and were able to recently secure \$300 from SSPARC toward their goal.

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

None.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:13 pm
(Smith-Lee - Heitin) 2-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

1. Recommendations for John Avelar and Maximilian Simon
2. Board and Committee applications
3. Library presentation materials
4. List of warrant articles
5. Draft of Annual Town Meeting warrant
6. Citizens petitions presentation materials
7. Minutes
8. Appointment certificates
9. Correspondence regarding After-Grad Event
10. Correspondence from Shirley Schofield
11. Travel Requests