

TOWN OF SHARON



2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

With Report & Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Monday, May 2, 2016

7:00 P.M.

**Sharon High School Auditorium
181 Pond Street**

Registered voters are asked to bring this report to the meeting for use in the proceedings

Registered voters planning to attend Town Meeting needing an ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreter are asked to call the Selectmen's Office at 781-784-1500 x1208 one week in advance of the meeting

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Sharon High School Gymnasium

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**TOWN OF SHARON
2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

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OPEN WARRANT MEETING

Informal discussion of warrant articles

Monday, April 25, 2016

8:00pm

Town Hearing Room, Sharon Community Center, 219 Massapoag Avenue

WARRANT INTRODUCTION

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to make recommendations to the voters of Sharon on all matters that come before Town Meeting. The primary task at the Annual Town Meeting is for voters to adopt a budget for the next fiscal year. In addition, Town Meeting makes decisions on strategic issues of the Town such as major capital improvements and zoning. Other matters of Town business that require Town Meeting authorization are brought before the voters to debate and vote.

On May 2, 2016, Annual Town Meeting will convene to decide a variety of issues. Of the 24 articles in this Warrant, the majority deal with fiscal matters, including the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Town budget, which totals \$78,817,048, a 1.27% spending increase over FY 2016. Because it is very important to the Annual Town Meeting process for the voters to have as much relevant information as possible, we will first recap a few points from the budget history and planning process before highlighting some of the other warrant articles.

Budget Background

The budget of the Town of Sharon is generally separated into two components. The first component is the “operational budget” consisting primarily of salaries (about 75%) and smaller of expenses such as supplies, fuel, occupancy costs, etc. The operational budget is divided into three “Sectors”: (1) the School Department; (2) the Selectmen (Police, Fire, DPW, Water and most of the other “town” operational functions); and (3) the Finance Committee (mainly the Town’s “administrative functions” such as the Town Clerk, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Planning Board, and Board of Appeals). The Water Department has a separate operational budget; as an enterprise fund it is funded exclusively by water rates and not from property taxes. The School Department represents about 80% of the town budget and employs about 80% of the Town’s employees. The Selectmen and Finance Committee Sectors represent about 20% of the town budget and Town’s employees. The second component of the budget is comprised of “fixed and uncontrollable” costs. These costs are made up primarily of the Town’s debt (principle and interest), health care insurance (for both current and retired employees), retirement for the non-teaching personnel, and the other employee-related costs such as FICA and unemployment.

FY 2016 Budget

The FY 2016 budget for the Town of Sharon is \$77,827,929, as approved at last year’s Town Meeting. The FY 2016 budget breakdown is as follows: School Department - \$39,991,553; Selectmen Sector - \$13,110,678; Finance Committee Sector - \$522,518; and “fixed and uncontrollable” - \$24,203,180. The FY 2016 fixed and uncontrollable budget approved last year includes a 21% increase in long term debt principal (approximately \$1,300,000 increase) and a 26% increase in long term debt interest (approximately \$500,000 increase) both of which were significantly related to the financing of the Public Safety Building approved at the May 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

Town Planning Process

In 2015, the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Capital Outlay Committee engaged in the start of a collective town planning process facilitated by the Town Administrator and Finance Director. On September 10, 2015, these four bodies held a joint open meeting to review the financial status and significant long term planning needs of the town. The Finance Committee hopes that this collaborative process will continue with a similar review before the close of the fiscal year (June 30, 2016) and another this coming September and believes that this joint long-term financial planning is essential to managing the Town.

FY 2017 Budget

As directed by Town By-Law, it is the responsibility of the Priorities Committee to develop revenue estimates and allocate those estimated revenues among the three sectors. The Priorities Committee is composed of two representatives each from the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee and is supported by the Town Administrator and Finance Director. Based on estimated available revenues from all sources and assuming not more than a 2.5% increase in property taxes, the Priorities Committee voted to limit spending increases to 3.18% for FY 2017 department budgets. The Finance Committee reviewed the budget requests as part of its process of making the recommendations in this warrant.

The proposed total FY 2017 budget for the Town of Sharon is \$78,817,048. If approved, the Town would increase spending by \$989,119 or an increase of 1.27%. The overall increase is only 1.27% because the fixed and uncontrollable budget decreased due to the retirement of existing debt. The FY 2017 Town operating budget request is \$55,326,056 (total budget less “fixed and uncontrollable”): Selectmen Sector Budget of \$13,523,403, School Committee Budget of \$41,263,961 and the Finance Committee Budget \$538,692. The FY 2017 proposed budget includes \$19,748,415 for the “fixed and uncontrollable” budget items and \$5,406,288 for the Water Department.

A summary of the FY 16 and FY 17 budgets is below:

Sector:	FY 2016	FY 2017	% Change
Finance Committee	\$522,518	\$538,692	3.10%
Selectmen	\$13,110,678	\$13,523,403	3.15%
School Department	\$39,991,553	\$41,263,961	3.18%
Fixed and Uncontrollable	\$20,697,070	\$19,748,415	-4.58%
TOTAL	\$77,827,929	\$78,817,048	1.27%

The proposed FY2017 budget includes savings from maturing debt and the refinancing of 2005, 2006 and 2007 bonds that will yield savings of more than \$790,000 over the ten years that begin with this budget. It caps operational growth at 3.18%, preserves modest reserves, and begins to provide capacity for future debt to meet the space needs for Town offices and modernization of the high school toward the end of this decade. The budget recognizes the need to mitigate the temporary surge in taxes last year (5% increase) as we began construction of the much-needed public safety facility, with a much smaller increase for FY2017.

Improvement in the management of the debt and the lowering of interest costs is a very positive achievement. However, salaries and related benefits (including “fixed and uncontrollable” such as medical insurance, retirement/pension plan obligations and related employment costs) make up a high percentage of the Town’s budget. Increases in salaries directly relate to increases in the fixed and uncontrollable budget. Salary increases continue to drive budget increases. There are no other significant budget areas to reduce to offset salary increases and associated costs. If salaries and related benefits outpace the growth in assessed property values, the Town will be forced to increase the property tax burden unless new sustainable revenue sources are created. Maintaining the balance between providing the services and resources the citizens of Sharon want and managing a tax rate which is among the highest in the State is process that requires constant careful scrutiny.

Information Sources for Concerned Residents

The Finance Committee believes that it is very important to provide open access to information concerning the Town’s financial affairs and how every resident’s tax dollars are spent. There are a number of sources for this important information. This warrant is a good example. A significant amount of information is also available in the Annual Town Report, historically distributed to every resident in Sharon. The Annual Report, also available on the town website, at Town Hall and in the Town Library, includes a summary of activities by each department, complete financial information, including the salaries for all of the Town employees. Future distribution of the Annual Report is the subject of Article 19 of this Warrant.

In an effort to expand access to the Town’s financial information and provide more transparency to citizens of Sharon, the Finance Committee, Town Administrator and Finance Director are working with a company known as VisGov to provide “citizen-friendly” access to the Town budget. The result will create a website with online visualization tools that allow residents to examine the Town budget. You will be able to access the Sharon VisGov website at sharon.visgov.com. The Finance Committee will provide information on the Town’s website as soon as the site is ready. We urge everyone to use this valuable tool to track the expenditure of their tax dollars.

Annual Town Meeting Articles

Most of the Warrant Articles to be considered at Town Meeting relate to the FY 2017 Budget. Article 4 concerns the salaries of certain Town employees. Article 5 concerns the significant portion of the FY 2017 Budget and the compensation of elected officials. Article 6 funds requested capital purchases that are made annually outside of the department budgets. Article 7 relates to projects to be funded with money from the Community Preservation Act reserves managed by the Community Preservation Committee. Articles 9-11 relate to some of the items in the fixed and uncontrollable that fund certain employee-related costs (Article 9 – Norfolk County Retirement; Article 10 - Unemployment Fund; Article 11- Other Post-Employment Benefits). The remaining articles in this warrant deal with an assortment of topics, annual Town business that requires Town Meeting approval (Articles 1-2, 12-17).

A detailed write up of each article and recommendation is presented below. The Finance Committee voted timely recommendations for all articles for which it was provided with sufficient information. On those articles for which information was unavailable or lacking at the time the warrant was printed, the Committee will make its recommendations at Town Meeting.

Opportunities to ask questions or give opinions are always available at Finance Committee meetings and at the Open Warrant Meeting on April 25th. Please take time to understand the issues and attend the Annual Town Meeting on May 2nd to make your voice heard.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

William Brack, Chair; Patricia-Lee Achorn, Ira Miller, Vice-Chairs; Aaron Agulnek, Arnold Cohen, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Alexander Korin, Laura Nelson, Edward Philips, Steven Ross, and Hanna Switekowski

**TOWN OF SHARON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Norfolk, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Sharon in the County of Norfolk, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Sharon High School Auditorium, 181 Pond Street, Sharon, Massachusetts on **Monday, May 2, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.**, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: Appoint Finance Committee Members

Sponsored by: Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee

To see if the Town will chose three or more members of the Finance Committee for three-year terms, and to fill any vacancies on said Committee; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article would endorse nominees to fill some or all of the expiring terms and vacancies on the Finance Committee. Article 2 of the Town of Sharon By-Laws states that it is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee to present to the voters its nominees for approval or other appropriate action.

Created by Sharon By-Law, the Finance Committee is composed of up to 12 members, each elected for a three-year term. Appointed by the Town Moderator, the Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee recommends to Town Meeting the names of residents who in its opinion would best fill the vacant positions.

The Finance Committee appreciates the work of the Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee

Article 6 of the Town of Sharon By-Laws states that it is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee to present to the voters for approval or other appropriate action its nominees to fill some or all of the expiring terms and vacancies on the Finance Committee.

In May 2016, four members of the Finance Committee are ending their terms and either the current members whose terms are expiring will be reappointed and/or the vacant seats will be

filled by new members to bring the committee to the capacity of 12 members. The Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee interviewed the current incumbents who expressed a desire to remain on the committee, and interviewed potential new members who expressed a desire to serve the Town of Sharon. Three current members expressed a desire to be reappointed are being nominated for three year terms and one new member will fill the vacancy for a term of three years.

The Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee has nominated the following Town of Sharon residents to serve on the Finance Committee that will be voted in Article 1 at the Town Meeting on May 2, 2016. A brief biography is being provided by each nominee to allow the town residents to be familiar with the members of the duly approved nomination.

Incumbents

Pat Achorn: I have lived in Sharon nearly thirty years and have owned a home here for twenty-five years. I am currently a member of the Town of Sharon Finance Committee, serving my first three-year term. During the current fiscal year, I have served as one of the vice chairs of the Finance Committee. Professional experience includes over thirty years of business administration experience, including six years directing finance and administration in an academic medical center and management of research institutes; with a reputation for critical thinking, financial control, strategic planning, facilities development, project management. Demonstrated ability to rationalize operations, grow new business, and manage across functional areas; recognized for the ability to develop effective multidisciplinary working relationships.

Bill Brack: My wife, Jessica Ladd and I moved to Sharon in 1995. We have two children, one a recent graduate from Sharon High School in 2015 who is now in college and one a sophomore at Sharon High School. I am a graduate of Boston University and Boston College Law School and am the Director of Human Resources and Development for a North American company. I was a soccer coach with the Sharon Soccer Association for 14 years. I am a member of the First Congregational Church of Sharon. I began serving on the Sharon Finance Committee in 2010 and I am the current Chairman of the Committee.

Gordon Gladstone: I have been a Sharon resident since 1966. My wife and I have raised two children here and I have one grandchild living here. By education and license I am a CPA and an attorney, although I no longer practice. I did practice as a CPA in public accounting for seventeen years and for twenty three years I was a CFO of a group of companies which included two general contractors. I was a member of the Then Warrant Committee in the late 1960's and early 1970's and was chairperson for one year. I have been on the Finance Committee the past nine years. I have been a member of the Sharon Standing Building Committee since 2001 and have been the chairperson for approximately twelve years. I believe that my experience both professionally and in Town government provides me with the tools necessary to function effectively on the Finance Committee.

New Member

Jason Gates: My wife and I recently moved to Sharon, and like many others, we chose this community because of the schools, beautiful parks and peaceful neighborhoods. We have a child on the way and look forward to showing her everything the community has to offer. I grew up in Chester, MA and graduated from Westfield State University in 2001 with a BA in Economics and Mathematics. During this time, I also started my own business, of which I am still a partner in to this day, as we celebrate our 20th year in business. As Chief Operating Officer of a digital marketing firm in Boston, I am largely responsible for the operational and financial wellbeing of the company and feel that these skills and experiences will add value to the committee.

We the undersigned respectively submit the aforementioned information to the Town of Sharon residents.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Rose, Chair: Mitchell Blaustein, Charles Goodman, Deena Segal, Cheryl Weinstein

Article 2: Act on Reports

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To act upon the reports as printed and to hear any other reports and to act thereon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This is an annual pro-forma article in support of actions to be taken on reports.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 3: Rescind Civil Service for Future Members of the Police Department

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special Home Rule legislation entitled “An Act Providing That Future Members of the Police Force of the Town of Sharon Shall Be Exempt From the Provisions of the Civil Service Law” which Act is on file with the Town Clerk and substantially in the form thereof, provided, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special Home Rule legislation entitled “An Act Providing That Future Members of the Police Force of the Town of Sharon Shall Be Exempt From the Provisions of the Civil Service Law.”

Earlier this year, the Town of Sharon reached agreement on a new contract with the Sharon Police Association MASSCOP Local 166. Language included in the new contract requires that all hires to the Police Department moving forward be exempt from the provisions of the Massachusetts Civil Service Law (M.G.L. Chapter 31), which requires an act of the Legislature. Under the terms of the agreement, the civil service system would be replaced by a similar set of regulations governing issues such as hiring, promotions, and the process for adjudicating any disciplinary actions specific to the Sharon Police Department. Approval of this article will direct the Town to request said legislation from our elected representatives at the state level. Since this exemption request was reached as part of successful contract negotiations and both sides support it, we in turn support this proposal.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 4: Personnel By-Law

Sponsored by: Personnel Board

To see of the Town will vote to amend the Personnel By-Law of the Town of Sharon as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

A. By adopting as amendments to said By-Law, the following interim and/or emergency changes, additions or deletions made by the Personnel Board in its authority under Section 2.6 of the By-Law:

- 1) That the position of Assistant Treasurer/Collector be classified as an OC-1 within the Office Occupational Category, effective July 1, 2015.
- 2) That the position of Facilities Supervisor be classified as an MP-1 within the Management Professional Category, effective June 11, 2015.
- 3) That the position of Financial Assistant-Treasurer/Collector be classified as an OC-4a within the Office Occupational Category, effective July 1, 2015.
- 4) That Beverly Anderson be hired in the position of Health Administrator at a Step 9 starting salary in the MP-1 category, effective January 5, 2015.
- 5) That the position of Payroll Benefits Administrator be classified as an OC-3a within the Office Occupational Category, effective July 1, 2015.

- 6) That the annual salary for the Chief of Police listed in the Executive Category of the FY2016 Addendum to the Personnel By-Law be changed from \$163,130 to \$170,000, effective July 4, 2015.
- 7) The annual salary for the Town Administrator listed in the Executive Category of the FY2016 Addendum to the Personnel By-Law be changed from \$165,240 to \$167,670 effective July 1, 2015.
- 8) That the position of Waterfront Director be established with a seasonal salary between \$8,800 and \$10,120 payable in equal installments during the season, and that it be recorded as part of the “Miscellaneous’ category in Article 4.
- 9) That the salary for the Library Director be adjusted from \$79,050 to \$79,825 effective July 1, 2015.

B. By striking out all classification schedules and pay schedules in Appendix A and Appendix B and substituting new classification schedules and new pay schedules Appendix A and Appendix B as of July 1, 2016, except as other dates are specified.

APPENDIX A

The following positions contained within classification schedule section 1.100 – 1.300 with associated pay schedule section 2.100-2.300 are not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

EXECUTIVE CATEGORY
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

SECTION 1.100
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE/ANNUALLY

SECTION 2.100
BASE PAY

<u>Group</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
E-0	Town Administrator	156,000	173,540	187,200
E-1	Police Chief	146,250	175,100	175,500
E-2	Fire Chief	117,000	136,920	140,400
	Superintendent of Public Works	117,000	128,775	140,400
E-3	Director of Information Technology	91,650	101,540	111,150
	Finance Director	91,650	101,850	111,150
	Town Engineer	91,650	104,670	111,150

E-4	Recreation Director	68,250	75,075	89,700
	Council on Aging Executive Director	68,250	70,212	89,700
	Treasurer/Collector	68,250	TBD	89,700
	Administrative Assessor	68,250	86,875	89,700
	Assistant to the Town Administrator	68,250	84,050	89,700
	Library Director	68,250	82,619	89,700

SECTION 1.200
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

SECTION 2.200
PAY SCHEDULE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen (hourly)
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>	<u>Step 7</u>	<u>Step 8</u>	<u>Step 9</u>	<u>Step 10</u>
24.86	25.36	25.86	26.38	26.91	27.45	27.99	28.55	29.12	29.70

MISCELLANEOUS
Effective July 1, 2016

Veterans' Agent (yearly)	19,575			
Sealer of Weights & Measures	4,280			
Animal Control Officer				
Assistant Animal Control/Senior Fill-In Officer	2,500 annually			
Fill-In (Weekend/Sick/Holiday/Vacation Coverage)	47.07/day			
Fill-In (Night Pager Coverage)	13.45/night			
Fill-In (After Hour Coverage)	13.45/call			
Animal Inspector (yearly)	4,037			
Custodian/Maintenance (hourly)	8.34	8.62	8.85	9.13
DPW Temp/Summer Labor (hourly)	10.42	11.42	12.50	
Per Diem Public Health Nurse	24.00/hour			
Adult Center Receptionist/Aide	16.68/hour			
Recreational Basketball League Coordinator	8,300 yearly			
Waterfront Director	8,800-10,120 yearly			

Standing Building Committee Secretary (hourly) steps

<u>Min</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
20.75	21.15	21.57	22.00	22.46	22.88	23.37	23.83	24.30	24.80	25.30

Project Manager for the Standing Building Committee (hourly) steps

<u>Min</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
24.41	24.99	25.52	26.11	26.68	27.28	27.90	28.53	29.18	29.83	30.50

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT - PART-TIME

Effective May 1, 2016 (hourly)

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>
Waterfront Supervisor	14.81	15.07	15.33
Assistant Waterfront Supervisor	12.24	12.50	12.77
Lifeguard	10.68	10.94	11.21
Attendant/Maintenance	9.02	9.27	9.53
Sailing Supervisor	14.81	15.07	15.33
Assistant Sailing Supervisor	12.24	12.50	12.77
Sailing Instructor	10.18	10.44	10.71
Camp Counselor	9.71	10.00	10.30
Assistant Camp Supervisor	11.30	11.55	11.80
Camp Supervisor	13.20	13.49	13.79

APPENDIX B

The following positions contained within classification schedule sections entitled 1.400 – 1.800 with associated pay schedule sections 2.400 – 2.800 are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY
(Formerly Administrative, Technical and Professional Category)

SECTION 1.400
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

MP-00	Assistant Town Engineer	MP-2	Animal Control Officer* Assistant Recreation Director*
MP-0	Building Inspector Water Systems Supervisor		Business Manager Info Services/Assistant Library Director* Assistant Operations Supervisor
MP-1	Operation Supervisor Public Health Nurse* Forestry & Grounds Supervisor Health Agent for Engineering Conservation Agent		Assistant Supervisor-Water Water Construction Supervisor Water Pump Station Operator
		MP-3	Recreation Athletic Supervisor

Health Administrator*
 GIS Coordinator
 Facilities Supervisor

Case Manager/Coordinator of Volunteer Services*
 Technical Support Specialist*

MP-4 Part-Time Public Health Nurse

*The following positions work other than a 40-hour work week:

Information Services/Assistant Library Director – 37.5 hours
 Public Health Nurse – 30 hours
 Animal Control Officer – 25 hours
 Assistant Recreation Director – 37.5 hours
 Case Manager/Coordinator of Volunteer Services – 28 hours
 Health Administrator – 37.5 hours
 Technical Support Specialist – 20 hours
 Part-time Public Health Nurse – 3 hours (up to 10 hours for vacation coverage)

SECTION 2.400

PAY SCHEDULE / HOURLY

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

	<u>Min</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>	<u>Step 7</u>	<u>Step 8</u>	<u>Step 9</u>	<u>Step 10</u>	<u>Step 11</u>	<u>Step 12</u>
MP-00	36.2602	37.0726	37.9096	38.7588	39.6326	40.5310	41.4419	42.3774	43.3251	44.2975	45.2943	46.2002
MP-0	34.3891	35.1647	35.9648	36.7648	37.6018	38.4385	39.3125	40.1866	41.0974	42.0327	42.9804	43.8401
MP-1	32.1615	32.8876	33.6261	34.3647	35.1402	35.9526	36.7526	37.5650	38.4142	39.3003	40.1866	40.9903
MP-2	29.1708	29.8598	30.4998	31.2014	31.8784	32.6046	33.3432	34.0937	34.8694	35.6448	36.4448	37.1736
MP-3	26.8128	27.3736	27.9644	28.6045	29.2445	29.9215	30.5738	31.2879	31.9767	32.6908	33.4293	34.0979
MP-4	24.3457	24.8872	25.4414	26.0072	26.5981	27.2136	27.8044	28.4198	29.0845	29.7122	30.3892	30.9970

LIBRARY CATEGORY

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

LMP-3 Head of Youth Services
 Head of Adult and Technology Services

LMP-4 Children's Librarian
 Information Services Librarian

	<u>Min</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>	<u>Step 7</u>	<u>Step 8</u>	<u>Step 9</u>	<u>Step 10</u>
LMP-3	26.76	27.40	28.00	28.62	29.25	29.92	30.60	31.30	31.98	32.70
LMP-4	24.34	24.89	25.45	26.02	26.60	27.19	27.80	28.47	29.10	29.74
L4	22.26	22.70	23.15	23.62	24.09	24.57	25.05	25.54	26.06	26.59

LOC-3a Circulation Supervisor
 Technical Services Supervisor

LOC-3b

LOC-4a Library Assistant
Technical Services Assistant
Administrative Assistant

LOC-4b

	<u>Min</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>	<u>Step 7</u>	<u>Step 8</u>	<u>Step 9</u>	<u>Step 10</u>
LOC-3A	23.10	23.57	24.02	24.52	25.00	25.50	26.01	26.54	27.07	27.60
LOC-3B	21.88	22.32	22.76	23.22	23.69	24.17	24.64	25.13	25.63	26.14
LOC-4A	20.75	21.15	21.57	22.00	22.46	22.88	23.37	23.83	24.30	24.80
LOC-4B	19.67	20.07	20.45	20.87	21.30	21.72	22.15	22.60	23.04	23.51
Library Page	10.83									

LABOR CATEGORY
SECTION 1.500
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

Grade A	Working Foreman - Operations Senior Water Systems Technician Working Foreman - Water Working Foreman - Forestry & Grounds	Grade D	Night Custodian
Grade B	Master Mechanic	Grade E	Auto Equipment Operator Recreation Custodian Maintenance/Custodian DPW
Grade C	Heavy Equipment Operator Aerial Lift Operator Water Systems Technician Working Foreman - Facilities Maintenance - Community Center		

SECTION 2.500
PAY SCHEDULE / HOURLY
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>	<u>Step 7</u>	<u>Step 8</u>	<u>Step 9</u>	<u>Step 10</u>	<u>Step 11</u>	<u>Step 12</u>
A	26.43	27.14	27.82	28.55	29.25	29.96	30.70	31.40	32.09	32.80	33.46	34.13
B	25.29	25.86	26.41	26.97	27.51	28.10	28.64	29.22	29.78	30.34	30.95	31.57
C	23.10	23.72	24.33	24.95	25.55	26.18	26.82	27.43	28.05	28.66	29.23	29.82
D	23.33	23.80	24.28	24.78	25.27	25.77	26.29	26.81	27.35	27.89	28.45	29.02
E	22.14	22.59	23.03	23.51	23.95	24.42	24.93	25.42	25.93	26.44	26.97	27.51

OFFICE OCCUPATION CATEGORY
SECTION 1.600
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

- OC-1 Assistant Accountant
Assistant Treasurer/Collector
- OC-2a Administrative Assistant - Assessor
Administrative Assistant - Executive Director of Council on Aging
Administrative Fire Secretary/Ambulance Records Supervisor
Assistant Town Clerk
Confidential Secretary to the Police Chief
Finance Assistant - Payroll/Revenue
- OC-2b Collections Supervisor
Payroll/Benefits Administrator
- OC-3a Elections/Registration Secretary
Financial Assistant - Accounting/Veterans
- OC-3b Activities Program Coordinator - Council on Aging
Secretary - Building & Engineering
Secretary - DPW Operations Division
Secretary - Water
Secretary - Recreation
Financial Assistant - Treasurer/Collector
Senior Clerk - Assessor
- OC-4a Administrative Assistant - Planning Board
Administrative Assistant - Board of Health
Secretary - Fire Department
- OC-4b Bus/Van Driver
Police Clerk
Secretary - Community Preservation Committee
Secretary - Zoning Board of Appeals
- OC-5 Secretary to a Board/Committee
Secretary - Conservation Commission
Secretary - Finance Committee
Secretary - Personnel Board

SECTION 2.600
 PAY SCHEDULE / HOURLY
 July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

	<u>Min</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>	<u>Step 7</u>	<u>Step 8</u>	<u>Step 9</u>	<u>Step 10</u>	<u>Step 11</u>
OC-1	28.54	29.11	29.69	30.28	30.90	31.51	32.14	32.78	33.44	34.11	34.79
OC-2A	25.70	26.21	26.74	27.27	27.83	28.38	28.95	29.53	30.12	30.72	31.33
OC2-B	24.58	25.07	25.57	26.09	26.61	27.14	27.68	28.23	28.80	29.38	29.97
OC-3A	23.10	23.56	24.04	24.52	25.01	25.51	26.02	26.54	27.07	27.61	28.16
OC-3B	21.88	22.32	22.77	23.22	23.68	24.15	24.64	25.13	25.63	26.14	26.67
OC-4A	20.75	21.15	21.57	22.00	22.46	22.88	23.37	23.83	24.30	24.80	25.30
OC-4B	19.68	20.07	20.47	20.88	21.30	21.73	22.15	22.60	23.05	23.51	23.98
OC-5	17.70	18.05	18.41	18.78	19.16	19.54	19.93	20.33	20.74	21.14	21.57

PUBLIC SAFETY CATEGORY
 July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

SECTION 1.700
 CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

SECTION 2.700
 PAY SCHEDULE / WEEKLY

Title: Sergeant

Code: PD-80

PD-80A	PD-80B	PD-80C	PD-80D	PD-80E
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
1,306.83	1,333.00	1,359.63	1,386.82	1,414.56

Title: Patrolman

Code: PD-60

PD-60A	PD-60B	PD-60C	PD-60D	PD-60E	PD-60F	PD-60G	PD-60H	PD-60I
Recruit	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
866.18	924.53	985.52	1,036.24	1,090.34	1,112.19	1,134.44	1,162.80	1,200.87

Dispatchers **
 (hourly)

<u>Min</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Max</u>
21.25	21.67	22.11	22.55	23	23.45	23.93	24.4	24.9	25.38

Effective Dates
 July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

** This is the rate that has been in effect, and will continue to be in effect, until such time as a new collective bargaining agreement is executed.

The amounts of pay shown in the above schedule for position code PD-60 and PD-80 do not include the extra pay for educational qualifications provided for in the statutes and regulations of the State.

Members of the Police Department while so designated by the Chief of Police shall receive additional compensation to be considered part of their base pay as follows:

MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR (SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT)	\$32.54 PER WEEK
ACCREDITATION MANAGER, COMPUTER MANAGER	\$32.54 PER WEEK
LEAPS REPRESENTATIVE	\$10.00 PER WEEK
CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER	\$32.54 PER WEEK
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT OFFICER	\$32.54 PER WEEK
PROSECUTOR	\$50.00 PER WEEK
DETECTIVE PATROL OFFICER	\$50.00 PER WEEK

Any patrolman, appointed without being required to take the written examination, shall be paid the base pay rate called for by step 1 of the pay schedule for a period of six months following his appointment, and, upon the expiration of said six-month period, shall be paid the base pay rate provided for by step 2 unless he shall have previously been employed full time as a police officer, in which case he shall be paid the base pay rate under the step he would have been paid if his prior employment had been in the Sharon Police Department, but not greater than Step 4. Notwithstanding the step increase or increases provided herein, a patrolman's probationary period shall be the probationary period provided for in 5-5 of this By-Law or in the collective bargaining agreement, whichever is applicable.

POLICE CROSSING GUARDS **

DAILY RATE

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>
PD 20 School Crossing Guard	37.41	40.76	44.82
PD 20A School Crossing Guard Supervisor			56.14

** This is the rate that has been in effect, and will continue to be in effect, until such time as a new collective bargaining agreement is executed.

SUPERIOR OFFICERS **

WEEKLY

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>	<u>Step 6</u>
Lieutenant	1,909.06	1,985.80	2,064.98	2,127.40	2,191.22	2,235.04

** This is the rate that has been in effect, and will continue to be in effect, until such time as a new collective bargaining agreement is executed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

SECTION 1.410
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

SECTION 2.410
PAY SCHEDULE / WEEKLY

		<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>
Capt/EMT	FD90			1,301.69	1,399.11
Capt/Medic	FD92			1,346.60	1,444.05
Lt/EMT	FD80			1,385.40	
Lt/Medic	FD82			1,430.33	
F/F-EMT	FD60	1,030.65	1,078.44	1,203.78	
F/F-Medic	FD62	1,075.58	1,123.37	1,248.71	

Members of the Fire Department are eligible to receive additional compensation in each fiscal year in accordance with the following educational incentive program:

For 15 course credits certified	\$ 500 annually
For 30 course credits certified	700 annually
For 45 course credits certified	950 annually
For an Associate's degree certified	1,650 annually
For a Bachelor's degree certified	2,825 annually
For a Master's degree certified	3,125 annually

CALL FIREFIGHTERS
HOURLY COMPENSATION RATE
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Hourly: \$20.00

The following positions contained within classification schedule section entitled 1.100 – 1.300 with associated pay schedule section 2.100 – 2.300 are not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Deputy Police Chief 2,986.44/week

Deputy Fire Chief 1,919.43/week

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article would amend the Town's Personnel By-Law and implement the listed increases in salaries and wages for all employees except for school employees (in the School Committee budget) and elected official compensation dealt with in Article 5 of the warrant.

The majority of the salaries contained in Article 4 are union contracts negotiated by the Board of Selectmen. These salaries are listed in Article 4. Also included in Article 4 is the compensation for the “Executive Category.” For this category the Board of Selectmen proposed salary increases and requested and received concurrence of the Personnel Board. The salary adjustments vary between 2% and 3.5%, based on the results of the annual performance reviews.

We must continue to scrutinize requests for salary increases voted under this article and under Article 5.

Listing of all Town employees’ salaries can be found in the annual Town Report.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 5: FY2017 Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials

Sponsored by: Finance Committee

To fix the compensation of elected officers, to provide for a Reserve Fund, and to determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, including appropriation from other available funds, to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee has a statutory obligation to present to Town Meeting, for debate and approval, budgets for all town departments. The town departments are divided into three sectors: Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee. Each sector must develop budgets for their respective departments in the months leading up to Town Meeting.

As directed by town By-Law, it is the responsibility of the Priorities Committee to develop revenue estimates and allocate those estimated revenues among the three sectors. It is the statutory responsibility of the Finance Committee to recommend to Town Meeting the amount to be spent.

This year, the Priorities Committee, based on available revenues from all sources assuming not more than a 2.5% increase in taxes permitted by Prop. 2 ½, voted to limit spending increases to an amount not to exceed 3.18% for department budgets within the three operational budget sectors. The requested amount for FY 2017’s Town operating budget appropriation is \$55,326,056 (total budget less “fixed and uncontrollable”) is allocated among the budget sectors as follows: Selectmen Budget of \$13,523,403, School Committee budget of \$41,263,961 and the Finance Committee Budget \$538,692.

Note that the proposed total FY 2017 budget for the Town of Sharon is \$78,817,048. The total requested amount for the FY 2017 town budget appropriation includes \$19,748,415 for the

“fixed and uncontrollable” budget items (items such as health and other insurances, debt service and street lighting) and \$5,406,288 for the Water Department. If approved, the Town would increase spending by \$989,119 or an increase of 1.27%. The net percentage increase reflects reductions in debt service payments.

Items such as the retirement contribution, OPEB funding, stabilization fund contribution, payments into the unemployment fund, and the cost of the annual audit are included in the total amount but are funded through separate articles.

In addition, the proposed FY2017 budget for the Water Department totals \$5,406,288. As an enterprise fund, it is funded exclusively by water rates.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED:

Selectmen Budget \$13,523,403	7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL
School Committee Budget \$41,263,961	6-1-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL
Finance Committee Budget \$538,692	7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL
Fixed & Uncontrollable \$19,748,415	7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL
Water Department Budget \$5,406,288	7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL

Account	FY17 Apppr.	% over FY16	FY16 Apppr.	% over FY15	FY15 Apppr.	% over FY14
114 Moderator	\$ 50.00	0.00%	\$ 50.00	0.00%	\$ 50	0.00%
131 Finance Committee	\$ 21,986.00	-6.77%	\$ 23,582.00	0.00%	\$ 23,582	74.46%
152 Personnel Board	\$ 3,589.00	0.00%	\$ 3,589.00	0.00%	\$ 3,589	0.00%
161 Town Clerk	\$ 154,803.00	5.95%	\$ 146,111.00	-6.63%	\$ 156,485	-3.59%
171 Conservation Commission	\$ 118,685.00	1.59%	\$ 116,830.00	4.61%	\$ 111,684	0.00%
172 Lake Management	\$ 2,500.00	0.00%	\$ 2,500.00	0.00%	\$ 2,500	0.00%
175 Planning Board	\$ 13,600.00	0.00%	\$ 13,600.00	0.00%	\$ 13,600	0.00%
176 Board of Appeals	\$ 22,430.00	0.57%	\$ 22,303.00	1.38%	\$ 22,000	0.00%
510 Board of Health - Services & Admin	\$ 201,049.00	3.66%	\$ 193,953.00	18.55%	\$ 163,604	4.69%
Total Fin. Com. Budgets	\$ 538,692.00	3.10%	\$ 522,518.00	5.11%	\$ 497,094	2.38%
122 Selectmen	\$ 376,059.00	-6.35%	\$ 401,537.00	40.84%	\$ 285,098	-4.93%
135 Accountant	\$ 249,100.00	-5.26%	\$ 262,924.00	1.87%	\$ 258,105	6.80%
141 Board of Assessors	\$ 243,490.00	4.50%	\$ 233,014.00	-0.44%	\$ 234,036	2.56%
145 Treasurer	\$ 364,568.00	-4.26%	\$ 380,805.00	-6.54%	\$ 407,438	0.26%
151 Law	\$ 133,300.00	0.00%	\$ 133,300.00	2.32%	\$ 130,275	0.00%
155 Information Technology	\$ 288,883.00	13.00%	\$ 255,647.00	1.36%	\$ 252,228	1.48%
162 Elections & Registrations	\$ 130,128.00	18.60%	\$ 109,720.00	-6.66%	\$ 117,548	15.05%
195 Town Report	\$ 13,375.00	7.65%	\$ 12,424.00	-2.17%	\$ 12,699	0.00%
210 Police	\$ 3,598,465.00	3.06%	\$ 3,491,762.00	0.00%	\$ 3,491,762	2.20%
220 Fire/Ambulance	\$ 3,205,441.00	5.03%	\$ 3,052,058.00	3.26%	\$ 2,955,812	2.40%
244 Weights & Measures	\$ 4,973.00	1.72%	\$ 4,889.00	2.00%	\$ 4,793	1.72%
249 Animal Inspector	\$ 4,162.00	1.93%	\$ 4,083.00	1.95%	\$ 4,005	1.96%
291 Civil Defense	\$ 9,772.00	0.00%	\$ 9,772.00	0.00%	\$ 9,772	0.00%
292 Animal Control Officer	\$ 77,138.00	1.63%	\$ 75,902.00	4.32%	\$ 72,759	2.12%
400 Dept. of Public Works	\$ 3,263,942.00	2.63%	\$ 3,180,308.00	9.04%	\$ 2,916,692	2.12%
541 Council on Aging	\$ 290,206.00	-1.26%	\$ 293,908.00	5.14%	\$ 279,534	4.10%
543 Veterans Agent	\$ 64,550.00	12.92%	\$ 57,164.00	4.49%	\$ 54,706	69.10%
544 Veterans Graves	\$ 4,600.00	10.84%	\$ 4,150.00	10.02%	\$ 3,772	0.00%
545 Commission on Disability	\$ 500.00	0.00%	\$ 500.00	0.00%	\$ 500	0.00%
610 Library	\$ 968,764.00	4.36%	\$ 928,282.00	2.07%	\$ 909,473	1.98%
630 Recreation	\$ 226,537.00	5.53%	\$ 214,659.00	5.00%	\$ 204,437	4.04%
691 Historical Commission	\$ 650.00	0.00%	\$ 650.00	0.00%	\$ 650	0.00%
692 Community Celebrations	\$ 4,800.00	49.07%	\$ 3,220.00	22.90%	\$ 2,620	0.00%
Total Selectmen Budgets	\$ 13,523,403.00	3.15%	\$ 13,110,678.00	3.98%	\$ 12,608,714	2.38%

Account	FY17 Appopr	% over FY16	FY16 Appopr	% over FY15	FY15 Appopr	% over FY14
310 School Department	\$ 41,263,961.00	3.18%	\$ 39,991,553.00	3.45%	\$ 38,659,352	2.36%
Total School Department	\$ 41,263,961.00	3.18%	\$ 39,991,553.00	3.45%	\$ 38,659,352	2.36%
320 Voc Tech School	\$ 274,388.00	-4.89%	\$ 288,502.00	26.21%	\$ 228,594	-18.26%
321 Voc Tuition/Norfolk Ag. Tuition	\$ 18,000.00	12.50%	\$ 16,000.00	-44.83%	\$ 29,000	0.00%
9299 SNARC	\$ 9,916.00	0.00%	\$ 9,916.00	0.00%	\$ 9,916	100.00%
132 Reserve Fund	\$ 500,000.00	0.00%	\$ 500,000.00	42.86%	\$ 350,000	0.00%
490 Street Lighting	\$ 188,052.00	0.29%	\$ 187,500.00	0.00%	\$ 187,500	0.00%
511 Board of Health - Waste Removal	\$ 119,500.00	0.00%	\$ 119,500.00	1.27%	\$ 118,000	0.00%
710 Debt: Principal	\$ 6,671,697.00	-10.11%	\$ 7,421,797.00	20.81%	\$ 6,143,297	14.15%
914 FICA: Medicare	\$ 719,535.00	2.00%	\$ 705,427.00	4.00%	\$ 678,295	2.50%
915 FICA: Social Security	\$ 10,449.00	2.00%	\$ 10,244.00	4.00%	\$ 9,850	2.50%
916 Benefits Accrual	\$ -		\$ -	-100.00%	\$ 35,000	-65.00%
920 Insurance	\$ 9,069,740.00	1.17%	\$ 8,965,076.00	-0.39%	\$ 9,000,289	1.70%
751 Debt Long term: Interest	\$ 2,167,138.00	-12.37%	\$ 2,473,108.00	26.33%	\$ 1,957,638	-8.91%
Total Fixed & Uncontrollable	\$ 19,748,415.00	-4.58%	\$ 20,697,070.00	10.40%	\$ 18,747,379.00	3.48%
Town Total	\$ 75,074,471.00	1.01%	\$ 74,321,819.00	5.40%	\$70,512,539	2.66%
450 Water Department	\$ 5,206,288.00	24.16%	\$ 4,193,077.00	51.49%	\$ 2,767,945	0.00%
Water Dept.- Reserve	\$ 200,000.00	0.00%	\$ 200,000.00		\$ -	
Total Water Department	\$ 5,406,288.00	23.06%	\$ 4,393,077.00	58.71%	\$ 2,767,945	0.00%
Total Budgets Less Fixed	\$ 55,326,056.00	3.17%	\$ 53,624,749.00	3.59%	\$ 51,765,160.48	2.37%

Article 6: Capital Outlay

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to consider each and every numbered item set forth in the capital budget of Fiscal Year 2017 listed on pages 18 – 19 and to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money for each of the capital outlay purposes herein mentioned; and to determine whether the money shall be raised by borrowing or transfer or otherwise; or take any other action relative thereto.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS			
1a	Reconstruction of sidewalks on Brook Road	B	235,000.00
1b	Reconstruction of sidewalks on Laurel & Mitchell Roads	B	250,000.00
2a	Purchase of large dump truck	B	215,000.00
2b	Purchase of two supervisors vehicles (SUV & F-150)	B	60,000.00
2c	Purchase of garage lift & wood chipper	B	65,000.00
3	Demolition of property at 396 South Main Street	C	22,000.00
4	Town Hall accessibility compliance project & other design & renovations	B	3,000,000.00
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SCHOOL DEPARTMENT			
5a	Purchase of MacBook Airs - Sharon Middle School	C	91,000.00
		B	184,000.00
5b	Purchase of iPad & carts for SPED use	B	45,000.00
5c	Purchase of projectors district wide to replace broken units	B	15,000.00
5d	Purchase of wireless access points district wide	B	10,000.00
5e	Upgrade of phone system at Cottage Street Elementary	B	15,000.00
5f	Cycle replacement of staff laptops at elementary level	B	15,000.00
6a	Modify acoustics in three classrooms at East Elementary	B	27,600.00
6b	Modify acoustics in four classrooms at Heights Elementary	B	36,800.00
6c	Modify acoustics & replace carpeting in four rooms at Sharon High School	B	36,800.00
6d	Upgrade lighting in classrooms & corridors at Cottage Street Elementary	B	200,000.00
6e	Upgrade the HVAC control at East Elementary	B	250,000.00
7a	Purchase of furniture at Sharon Middle School	C	15,000.00
7b	Purchase of replacement classroom & cafeteria furniture district wide	B	10,000.00
8	Middle School repair/repave track	B	50,000.00
9	Replacement of four vans for the SPED fleet district wide	B	110,700.00
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FIRE DEPARTMENT			
10a	Purchase of ladder truck	B	875,000.00
		UCF	100,000.00
10b	Replacement of radio fire alarm system	B	60,000.00
10c	Fund addition of radio receiver site on Route One	B	33,000.00
10d	Purchase of ambulance cot restraint system(s)	ARF	27,000.00
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POLICE DEPARTMENT			
11a	Replacement of three police cruisers	C	100,000.00
11b	Replacement of outdated CAD/RMS system	B	210,000.00
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LIBRARY			
12	Replacement of furnace	B	75,000.00

<u>RECREATION DEPARTMENT</u>		
13	Rehabilitation of athletic fields at Sharon Middle School	B 250,000.00
<u>CIVIL DEFENSE</u>		
14	Purchase of emergency power distribution equipment	B 13,000.00

SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES:		
BORROW (NON-EXEMPT)	B	6,346,900.00
CASH CAPITAL	C	228,000.00
AMBULANCE RESERVE FUND	ARF	27,000.00
UNEXPENDED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CAPITAL FUNDS	UCF	100,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES		6,701,900.00

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of items 1a through 14 of this article will raise and appropriate the corresponding funds for the purpose stated:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1a and 1b: \$485,000 for the Department of Public Works for resurfacing of roads anticipated to be:

- \$235,000 for the construction of sidewalk on Brook Road following the installation of water main
- \$250,000 for the reconstruction of sidewalks on Laurel and Mitchell Roads

2a, 2b and 2c: \$340,000 for the Department of Public Works for the following:

- \$215,000 for the purchase of a large dump truck to replace an existing 1990 truck
- \$35,000 to replace a 1990 chipper which has been deemed unsafe to use
- \$30,000 to purchase a garage lift to raise vehicles for servicing and repair
- \$60,000 for the purchase of two Ford Escape/F150's to be used by the engineering staff and the facilities manager. The vehicles being replaced by this purchase will be reassigned to other Town departments.

3: \$22,000 for the Department of Public Works to demolish a garage at 396 South Main Street which collapsed under the weight of 2015 snow. It is anticipated that this amount will be recovered via a tax lien on the property. This item will be paid for by cash, not borrowed.

4. \$3,000,000 for the Department of Public Works to update Town Hall existing facilities to bring them into compliance with mandatory provisions of the American for Disabilities Act (ADA compliance). Of this amount, construction is estimated to be \$2,400,000, Architectural and OPM (owner's project manager required by statute) estimated to be \$300,000 and the remaining \$300,000 for architectural and OPM services to further explore, design and estimate a more extensive rehabilitation of Town Hall and renovation of the adjacent fire station. It is anticipated that the further exploration, design and estimating will be completed before any ADA

compliance construction will be done. If the Board of Selectmen (BOS), based on the further architectural designs and estimates, propose to recommend to Town meeting that it is in the best interest of the Town to further expand/rehabilitate Town Hall beyond ADA compliance, then the BOS will return to the next Town Meeting seeking the additional funds for the more expansive rehabilitation so that the entire Town Hall upgrade could be rolled into a single construction contract deemed to be less expensive than a two-step construction process.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ITEMS 1a-3.

At a later date item 4, (updates to the Town Hall) was considered. Two members urged the Board of Selectmen to engage the architect to simultaneously design and cost both the ADA compliance and the potential further expansion at a cost of \$600,000 and then come to Town Meeting in 2017 with firm costs for alternate proposals rather than seek three million at this Town Meeting.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-2-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL of item 4.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

5a: \$275,000 for the purchase of MacBook Airs for 300 ninth grade students to continue towards the goal of providing a computer to each High School student of which \$91,000 will be paid by cash and the balance of \$184,000 will be borrowed. This is the second year of the program that, over four years, will have provided a computer to each student in grades 8 through twelve. Plans for full implementation of this program include provisions for providing technical support to students who already have Apple computers thereby eliminating the need to provide a new computer to each student.

5b: \$45,000 for the purchase of iPad carts for SPED use in all five buildings. This will allow better access for all students to a mobile device, as well as dedicated access to apps that support students with specializes instructional needs.

5c: \$15,000 for the purchase of projectors district wide to replace broken units.

5d: \$10,000 for the purchase of wireless access points district wide to provide for faster and more reliable internet access for students, staff and the community.

5e: \$15,000 for an upgrade of the phone system at Cottage Street Elementary. This will complete the phone system upgrade across the district.

5f: \$15,000 for cycle replacement of staff laptops at the elementary level.

6a: \$27,600 to modify acoustics in three classrooms at East Elementary School to provide a more suitable learning environment for those students who require more sound absorption.

6b: \$36,800 to modify acoustics in four classrooms at Heights Elementary School to provide a more suitable learning environment for those students who require more sound absorption.

6c: \$36,800 to modify acoustics in four classrooms at the High School to provide a more suitable learning environment for those students who require more sound absorption.

6d: \$200,000 to upgrade lighting in classrooms and corridors at Cottage Street Elementary. Over 400 three lamp fluorescent fixtures will be replaced by one lamp LED fixtures which will

provide better light distribution and significantly lower electricity consumption. Lighting system controls also will be improved.

6e: \$250,000 to upgrade the HVAC control at East Elementary. The computerized controls for the heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) were part of the 2004 renovation and have exceeded their useful life. Network communications are also failing to keep control of the equipment. In addition to a new computer-controlled system, this improvement will also provide for the replacement of failed mechanical components within the system.

7a: \$15,000 to purchase furniture at Sharon Middle School.

7b: \$10,000 to purchase replacement classroom and cafeteria furniture district wide.

8. \$50,000 to repair/repave the track at the Middle School. Since the track is used as the place where students are to accumulate in case of an evacuation, the track is plowed of snow after a storm. It is therefore the judgment of the school administration to make minor repairs and repave the track rather than do a more expensive rehabilitation which would be ruined by snowplows.

9. \$110,700 for the replacement of four SPED vans. This represents annual replacement of vans which have accumulated sufficient mileage to deem them unsuitable for the transportation of students.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ITEMS 5b-6c AND 7a-9.

The Finance Committee is awaiting further information on items 5a, 6c and 6d. Some members of the Finance Committee are not satisfied that the School Department needs to limit the choice of computers (5a) to be purchased/allowed to be used to MacBook Airs and are awaiting further evidence to support the School Committee's decision. With respect to 6c and 6d, the School Committee did not present adequate plans and financial information to enable the Finance Committee to reach a recommendation before the warrant went to the printer.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 4-3-1 TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AT TOWN MEETING ON 5a.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 9-0-1 TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AT TOWN MEETING ON 6c AND 6d.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

10a: \$975,000 to replace the existing 1994 aerial ladder truck which no longer meets NFPA recommended standards (National Fire Protection Association). The bidding, design and building of this equipment will take approximately twelve to sixteen months. The new truck will be built to improved specifications that will allow it to extend over longer lengths. The major purpose of a ladder truck is not for the heights it can reach but for the length of its horizontal reach. The new truck will allow an increased weight of fire personnel and equipment to reach further than the current truck. \$875,000 will be borrowed and \$100,000 will come from previously approved but unexpended capital project funds.

10b: \$60,000 to replace the existing radio fire alarm system which monitors seventy-nine municipal, business and commercial properties in Sharon. This system will be installed in the new public safety building.

10c: \$33,000 to improve radio communications for fire and police in the commercial area of route one. The merchants on Route One have contributed \$25,000 towards this communication improvement. Currently, firefighters and police officers inside the existing commercial buildings have very limited ability to communicate with dispatch, and one another outside the building.

10d: \$27,000 to purchase an ambulance restraint system for an existing ambulance (it is federally mandated in all new ambulances). Such system will prevent a transported patient and stretcher from being dislodged in the event of an accident. The Fire Department has applied for a regional grant opportunity which, if successful, will provide 90% funding to put this system in two of the Fire Department's ambulances and provide two power lift stretchers. The 10% match will be much less than the requested appropriation and any balance of funds will be returned to the Ambulance Reserve Fund.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL ITEMS 10a to 10d.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

11a: \$100,000 for the purchase of the cruisers. \$40,000 remains unexpended from prior years' cruiser purchases; and \$60,000 will be appropriated.

11b: \$210,000 will replace a twenty-two year old computer aided dispatch and police records management system that is no longer capable of meeting today's requirements. Functionally the \$210,000 requested will include E911, Police CAD, False Alarm Billing, Paging, Cross Agency Data Sharing, Mobile, State NCIC, Property Bar Code, Detective / Investigative module, ADMIN, Attendance Export, Google Mapping, FFD Files, Database, Training (18) sessions, Project Management and installation. Police (4) days of training including one Detective Client with Training. Fire CAD, Fire Mobile, Fire ADMIN, Google Mapping, Training (3) sessions, and Project Management.

The IMC system will save time and effort in both the report writing and dispatch process. It will function as the fire dispatch and records management software and give us direct interoperability with the Sharon Fire Department, and over 250 Massachusetts police departments (including Easton, Canton, Foxboro, Walpole and Stoughton). This is not possible under the current Police CAD system.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ITEMS 11a-11b.

LIBRARY

12: \$75,000 to replace a fifty year old furnace which clearly has outlived its useful life. The furnace has continually failed during very cold temperatures despite significant repair costs incurred. The state inspector has recommended replacement.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ITEM 12.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

13: \$250,000 for the complete rehabilitation of the existing football field and baseball diamond at the Middle School including an irrigation connection to the existing water source. This request comes after more than two years of planning with a committee established by the Board of Selectmen made up of representatives from the various youth organizations and residents at large. The committee completed, reviewed and issued a twenty five page report. This is the first request of a four year plan which will include privately raised donations to defray the cost of field construction and rehabilitation to occur in the following three years. Cost includes installation of an irrigation system in both locations. It is anticipated that private donations totaling \$225,000 will be received during the last three years of the program to offset costs, but as of yet, no written pledges have been received.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ITEM 13

CIVIL DEFENSE

14: \$13,000 to purchase converter boxes and cables which will allow Civil Defense to hook up an existing 100 kilowatt generator to any building in town should it experience a power failure.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ITEM 14

The Capital Outlay Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend approval all capital items, with the exception of the following:

- Item 4 – vote: 7-1 in favor
- Item 5a – vote: 6-2 in favor
- Item 6d – vote: 5-3 in favor
- Item 10a – vote: 7-0 in favor
- Item 13 – vote: 7-0 in favor

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 to recommend approval of all capital items, with the exception of items 5a and 6d, where the vote was 2-1-0.

Article 7: Community Preservation Act Annual Funding & Projects

Sponsored by: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee as follows: That the following amounts be appropriated or reserved from Fiscal Year 2017 Community Preservation Fund Revenues, unless otherwise specified, for

Fiscal Year 2017 Community Preservation purposes with each item considered a separate appropriation:

That the Town raise and appropriate the funds as shown in the breakdown below:

Appropriations:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Budget – Salaries	\$4,000.00	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Budget – Expenses	\$16,000.00	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues

Reserves:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Open Space	\$56,350	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Historic Resources	\$56,350	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Community Housing	\$56,350	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Fund Balance Reserve for CPA	\$374,450	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues

(Community Preservation Committee Annual Funding – To raise and appropriate up to 5% of the Town’s portion of the expected Fiscal Year 2017 Community Preservation Fund Revenues, to permit the Community Preservation Committee to expend funds as it deems necessary for its administrative and operating expenses, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch.44B, Sec 6 and amendments thereof.)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
Recreation	Ames Street Playground	\$222,000	Undesignated General Fund Balance
(To appropriate, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for the repair and replacement of existing playground equipment and surface; restructure playground to continue use of existing structures, for recreation purposes under the Community Preservation Act, and to appropriate from Undesignated General Fund Balance the sum of \$222,000 to the Sharon Recreation Department for such purposes.			

<i>Category</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
Recreation	Athletic Fields	\$506,000	Undesignated General Fund Balance
(To appropriate, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for the construction of a new multiuse field at Gavin’s Pond site to meet the growing demand of athletics in Sharon, for recreation purposes under the Community Preservation Act, and to appropriate from Undesignated General Fund Balance the sum of \$506,000 to the Board of Selectmen for such purposes.			

<i>Category</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
Historic	North Main Street Retaining Wall Repair Project	\$136,000	Historic Undesignated Fund Balance

(To appropriate, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for repairs to the historic retaining walls at 5 Brook Road at North Main Street, 83 North Main Street and 79 North Main Street, for historic purposes under the Community Preservation Act and to appropriate from Historic Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of \$136,000 to the Sharon Department of Public Works for such purposes.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
Historic	Restoration of Veteran Monuments	\$9,000	Historic Undesignated Fund Balance

(To appropriate, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for the restoration and preservation of six town-owned veterans monuments located at Town Hall and Rock Ridge Cemetery, for historic purposes under the Community Preservation Act and to appropriate from Historic Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of \$9,000 to the Sharon Department of Veterans' Services for such purposes.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will appropriate and reserve the sum of \$543,500 from the Town's Community Preservation Fund (CPF) as described below.

The Community Preservation Act requires that annually the fund reserve 10% of its revenues for each of Open Space (excluding recreational), Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing with the balance to be used by the CPA in any of the areas described.

The total of reserves of \$543,500 is as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Open Space	\$56,350	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Historic Resources	\$56,350	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Community Housing	\$56,350	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues
Fund Balance Reserve for CPA	\$374,450	FY2017 Annual Estimated Revenues

Administration - \$20,000

The \$20,000 annual appropriation for administrative expenses includes \$4,000 for salaries and \$16,000 for expenses; any unused administrative expense is returned to the fund.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

The Community Preservation Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 8-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Additionally the CPC recommends that the Town fund the following projects from accumulated and current Reserves:

Recreation – Ames Street Playground – \$222,000

Approval of this appropriation will provide funds for improvements to the Ames Street Playground, for the repair and replacement of playground equipment; and to restructure the playground, to continue existing structures and additions to bring into compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

The Community Preservation Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 8-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Recreation – Athletic Fields – \$506,000

Approval of this appropriation will provide funds for the construction of a new multiuse field at the existing Gavin’s Pond Road athletic field site to meet the growing town demand for athletic fields for youth sports in the Town. Reconfiguring the current field layout would create a new field without encroaching on the required setback for Gavin’s Pond. An additional field would help to maintain the natural grass surfaces of Town fields by allowing fields to recover.

The Board of Selectmen voted 2-1-0 in favor of approval.

The Community Preservation Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 8-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Historic – North Main Street Retaining Wall Repair – \$136,000

Approval of this appropriation will allow for the repair of deteriorating historic walls located near 5 Brook Road at North Main Street at 83 and 70 North Main Street. The historic wall is on town property and the DPW has responsibility for the maintenance.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

The Community Preservation Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 8-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Historic – Restoration of Veteran Monuments – \$9,000

Approval of this appropriation will allow for the restoration, repair and maintenance of six historic town-owned veterans monument: World War I, World War II and Liberty Tree Plaques

located at the Town Hall; Deborah Sampson Statue at the Town Library; and monuments at Rock Ridge Cemetery. No work to preserve these monuments has been undertaken for a great many years.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

The Community Preservation Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 8-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 8: Design Services Funds for Heights Elementary Roof Replacement Project

Sponsored by: School Committee

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Sharon Standing Building Committee for a feasibility study and schematic design for the replacement of the Heights Elementary School Roof, located at 454 South Main Street, Sharon, MA 02067, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will authorize the re-appropriation of \$89,010.20 in unexpended funds from completed capital projects to engage an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and architect to create a feasibility study for the replacement of the roof at Heights Elementary School so that the Massachusetts School Building Administration (MSBA) to make a determination as to whether the MSBA will allow the Height's roof project into the MSBA accelerated repair program.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 9: Norfolk County Retirement Annual Assessment

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be added to the special fund established to pay the Norfolk County Retirement Board for the Annual Assessment costs chargeable to the Town, and determine whether the money shall be provided by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will allow the Town to pay its assessment costs pertaining to the Norfolk County Retirement. The monies are used to fund pension liabilities of past and current Town employees. The expected appropriation for FY17 is \$3,360,227, an 11% increase over last year's obligation of \$3,023,493.

Since the Town has no choice but to fund its obligations to Norfolk County Retirement, the Finance Committee voted in favor of approval. Members of the Finance Committee expressed their concern over the ever increasing town obligation for public sector pensions.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 10: Unemployment Fund

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be added to the special fund established to reimburse the Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training for the actual costs of benefits paid to former Town employees and chargeable to the Town, and determine whether to meet said appropriation by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will allow the town to appropriate \$75,000 to the Unemployment Fund used to reimburse the Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training for the actual costs of benefits paid to former town employees.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 11: Funding Other Post-Employment Benefits (O.P.E.B.) Trust Fund

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (O.P.E.B.) Trust Fund established to fund the presently unfunded liability of future health insurance costs for current town retirees and employees, and to determine whether to meet said appropriation by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by gift, or by a combination thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article would appropriate \$150,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (“O.P.E.B. Trust Fund”) (G.L. c. 32B, § 20) to be used to fund the unfunded liability of future health insurance costs for current Town employees and retirees.

The \$150,000 would go into a trust fund that could be invested in appropriate investment vehicles provided under state law and thus would earn interest, lowering the ultimate cost. The trust fund provides the Town with a favorable position with the bond rating authorities, as it demonstrates that the Town is planning for known future contingencies.

The current fund balance is \$151,926. To be fully funded the account should have a balance of \$28 million. These funds are invested and can be managed to optimize earnings.

Some members of the Finance Committee would prefer to pay for post-employment benefits as incurred rather than setting aside funds in anticipation of a future expense.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 6-1-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 12: Funding Stabilization Fund

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to be added to the Stabilization Fund for the purposes for which the Town may be authorized to borrow under M.G.L. Chapter 44, sections 7 and 8, or any other lawful purpose; to determine whether the money shall be provided by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by gift, or by a combination thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will appropriate a sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Stabilization Fund. The current balance of the stabilization account is \$579,897. Bond rating agencies recommend that stabilization accounts be funded at an amount between 5 and 10 percent of the Town annual operating budget. Five percent of the FY 2017 budget is \$3,948,917.

This appropriation to the Stabilization Fund is part of a continuing effort to prevent future bond rating agency downgrades that would increase the town’s borrowing costs. A well-funded stabilization account also allows the Town to brace against future economic uncertainties. The goal is to increase the Stabilization Fund annually in a measured way does not unduly burden property taxes, yet satisfy the requirements of the rating agencies.

Some members of the Finance Committee would prefer to pay for unanticipated expenses as they are incurred rather than setting aside funds in anticipation of a future expense.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 6-1-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 13: Revolving Fund Authorizations

Sponsored by: Various

To see if the Town will vote to consider the following items A through N, which will be voted as a block, or singly, or in any combination but however voted will be treated for accounting purposes as if each item were voted as a separate article; or take any other action relative thereto:

A. Cable TV Licensing and Re-licensing Fund

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Cable TV Licensing and Re-licensing Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, §53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to prepare for future cable licensing or re-licensing, and to defray the costs incurred by the Town in providing public internet access. Receipts to be deposited to this fund shall be solely derived from the annual proceeds received by the Town from the cable television licensee under the terms of a Renewal License granted by the Board of Selectmen. Said license requires that to the extent authorized by M.G.L. ch.166A, and permitted by Federal Communication Commission regulations, 50 cents per subscriber per year be forwarded to the Town annually.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance in the fund carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus receipts deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any case shall not exceed Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars.

Any unused balance, subject to subsequent Town Meeting authorization, shall carry forward for the benefit of Sharon cable subscribers to cover any costs incurred at the time of license issuance or renewal.

The Board of Selectmen shall have the authority to expend from this fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

B. Library Public-Use Supplies Replacement Fund

Sponsor: Library Board of Trustees

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Library Public-Use Supplies Replacement Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to acquire supplies associated with the use of public-use computer printers and faxes such as, but not limited to, paper and ink cartridges. Receipts to be deposited in this fund shall be monies collected as a user fee paid by the users of computer printers and/or the recipients of faxes. Such monies represent the replacement cost of the supplies. The Library

Director, with the approval of the Library Board of Trustees, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance in the fund carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed seven thousand (\$7,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

C. Street Opening Fund

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund, first established for Fiscal Year 1992, known as the Street Opening Fund as provided by M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to defray the cost of making permanent repairs to openings in Town streets by utility companies, contractors, and/or the Town Water Division.

Receipts to be deposited in this fund shall be monies paid by utility companies, contractors and/or the Town Water Division in accordance with the requirements of the Town of Sharon Street Opening Manual. The Superintendent of Public Works, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance in the fund carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

D. Recycling Fund

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund, first established for Fiscal Year 1991, known as the Recycling Fund as provided by M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to support the recycling program of the Town of Sharon and to purchase and install shade trees and shrubs to be planted in the public ways of the Town and otherwise as provided for in M.G.L. ch. 87, § 7. Receipts to be deposited to this fund shall be monies derived from the sale of recycled materials including, but not limited to, newspaper, glass, metals and plastics, the sale of leaf bags, and disposal fees for certain special wastes generated by the citizens of Sharon including, but not limited to, batteries, tires, and used motor oil and white goods, and an amount equal to the number of tons of material recycled times the Tipping Fee at the SEMASS facility to be transferred from the Tipping Fee Escrow Fund. The Superintendent of Public Works, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance in the fund carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017, and in any event

shall not exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

E. Conservation Commission Advertising Revolving Fund

Sponsor: Conservation Commission

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Conservation Commission Advertising Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund shall be to defray the cost of advertising for hearings and meetings before the Sharon Conservation Commission. Receipts to be deposited in this fund shall be monies paid by persons requesting hearings before the Sharon Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance in the fund carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Four Thousand (\$4,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

F. Library Materials Replacement Fund

Sponsor: Library Board of Trustees

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund, first established for Fiscal Year 1993, known as the Library Materials Replacement Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to acquire equivalent Public Library materials to replace items lost by those who borrow such materials. Receipts to be deposited in this fund shall be monies paid by the borrowers of the lost materials. Such monies represent the replacement cost of the material. The Library Director, with the approval of the Library Board of Trustees, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance in the fund carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus receipts deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any case shall not exceed Three Thousand Five Hundred (\$3,500.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

G. Recreation Programs Revolving Fund

Sponsor: Recreation Department

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Recreation Programs Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to support the fee-based recreation department programs. Receipts to be deposited into this fund shall be monies collected from users of the recreation department programs and facilities. The Recreation Director, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

H. Parking Lot Fund

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Parking Lot Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to provide and pay for the maintenance, repair, improvement, monitoring, and operation, including payment for public liability coverage, for municipal parking lots within the Town that are subject to the control of the Board of Selectmen, including, but not limited to, the parking lot located on Pond Street which was accepted at Special Town Meeting on June 21, 1978, by gift of the Sharon Civic Foundation, and/or to purchase or lease additional parking lots, and in general for any traffic control or traffic safety purposes. Receipts to be deposited to this fund shall be solely derived from the receipt of parking fees and charges. The Superintendent of Public Works, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to administer and expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Sixty-five Thousand (\$65,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

I. Board of Health Fund for Monitoring Compliance with Septic Variance

Sponsor: Board of Health

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Board of Health Fund for Monitoring Compliance with Septic Variances in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, §53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to support the Board of Health's efforts to protect public health through the successful management and oversight of all required reporting and testing requirements placed on onsite wastewater disposal installations that have been and will be approved for installation requiring mandated variances.

Receipts to be deposited into this fund shall be monies collected from fees generated from application fees for all new onsite wastewater disposal installations, which require variance from the requirements of Title V or Article 7 and annual fees, assessed to owners of new and existing onsite wastewater disposal installations that require reporting, annual, or more frequent pumping, testing, or other actions by the owner, as required by their variance from Title V or Article 7. The Board of Health shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

J. Health Department Revolving Fund

Sponsor: Board of Health

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Health Department Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to support health promotion clinics for Sharon residents including, but not limited to, influenza and pneumococcal vaccination clinics. Receipts to be deposited into this fund shall be monies collected through reimbursements for immunizations. The Board of Health shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

K. Waterfront Recreation Programs Revolving Fund

Sponsor: Recreation Department

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Waterfront Recreation Program Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to utilize all program monies associated with Massapoag Lake to be utilized for expenses incurred related to programs occurring on the lake as well as the beaches. The Recreation Director, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

L. Community Center Building Maintenance Fund

Sponsor: Department of Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Community Center Building Maintenance Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Laws ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to provide and pay for the maintenance, repair, improvement, monitoring, and operation of the Community Center. Receipts to be deposited into the fund shall be monies collected from users and lessees of the Community Center. The Superintendent of Public Works, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

M. Council on Aging Program Revolving Fund

Sponsor: Council on Aging

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Council on Aging Program Revolving Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Laws ch. 44, § 53E½.

The purpose of this fund is to support fee based Council on Aging programs. Receipts to be deposited into the fund shall be monies collected from programming at the Council on Aging. The Council on Aging Director, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

N. Water Department Fund for Water Service Replacement

Sponsor: Department of Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize a revolving fund known as the Water Department Fund for Water Service Replacement in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44 § 53E½. The purpose of this fund is to support the Water Department's efforts to reduce unaccounted for water losses through the replacement of leaking water services.

Receipts to be deposited into this fund shall be monies collected from fees generated from application fees for all new service connections. The Water Department shall be authorized to expend from this fund.

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 shall not exceed the balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2016 plus monies deposited into the fund during Fiscal Year 2017 and in any event shall not exceed Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This is a pro forma article reauthorize revolving funds; approval of the article authorizes each of the different revolving funds for Fiscal Year 2017. Details regarding the purpose and financial status of each fund are listed in the warrant.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 14: Property Tax Exemptions

Sponsored by: Department of Veterans' Services

To see if the Town will vote to accept Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, and Chapter 380 of the Acts of 2000, which authorizes

additional real estate exemptions to be granted to persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Clauses 17, 17C, 17C 2, 17D, 17E, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C and 41D of M.G.L. ch. 59, § 5 in an amount equal to 100 percent, or such lesser amount as voted, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will authorize the Board of Assessors to grant additional real estate exemptions for specific categories of veterans and their survivors, individuals with disabilities, individuals who are legally blind and qualified elders.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 15: Sharon Friends School Fund Records & Appointments

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To hear the records of the donors of the Dorchester and Surplus Revenue School Fund and Trustees of the Edmund H. Talbot Fund and to choose trustees of the Funds and other officers not on the official ballot; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This is an annual pro-forma article to accept the records and appointments of the Sharon Friends School Fund.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 16: Annual Audit Appropriation

Sponsored by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of paying for the cost of services to perform an annual audit of fixed assets and audit of accounts of the Town of Sharon for Fiscal Year 2016 in accordance with M.G.L. ch. 44, §40, and to determine whether to meet said appropriation by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by a combination thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will authorize the town to pay the costs associated with the annual audit of accounts. The budgeted amount is \$57,300 for FY 2017.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 17: Tax Title Payment Agreements

Sponsored by: Finance Director

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws, Article 3A, Municipal Finance Department, by adding a new Section 12, as follows:

The Treasurer shall have the authority to enter into written installment payment agreements with persons entitled to redeem parcels in tax title on such terms and conditions as the Treasurer may determine in the Treasurer's reasonable discretion and in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 62A. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in tax title in the Town of Sharon. All installment payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

- a. The installment payment agreement shall have a maximum term of five (5) years;
- b. The installment payment agreement may include a waiver of up to 50% of the interest that has accrued in the tax title account, but only if the taxpayer complies with the terms of the agreement (no taxes or collection costs may be waived); and
- c. The installment payment agreement must state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which must be at least 25% of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article would amend Article 3A of the Town's General By-Laws by adding a new Section 12. The new section will give authority to the Town Treasurer to enter into written agreements with property owners whose real property is in tax title due to their failure to pay real estate taxes. The agreements would provide that delinquent taxes could be paid over a maximum period of five years. The Treasurer would have discretion to waive interest payments by a maximum of 50% from the statutory 14% interest rate, provided the taxpayer complies with the agreement. At least 25% of the unpaid balance must be paid by the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement.

The proposed by-law amendment is authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 62A. The purpose of the proposed by-law is to provide an alternative to the Town bringing an action to foreclose on the tax title in the Land Court; and to provide the Treasurer with more flexibility in collecting past due taxes from Town property owners.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 9-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 18: Home Rule Legislation – 36R Norfolk Place Property Tax Abatement

Sponsored by: Conservation Commission

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special Home Rule legislation entitled “An Act to Exempt the Town of Sharon from Certain Provisions of Chapter 58, Section 8,” which Act is on file with the Town Clerk and substantially in the form thereof, provided, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, authorizing the Town to issue an abatement for a portion of the fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 real estate taxes assessed on a parcel of land located at 36R Norfolk Place in the total amount of \$6,262.31.

Or to take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The owners of the parcel of land in Sharon known as 36R Norfolk Place recently discovered that their property had been incorrectly assessed for real estate taxes and have requested abatement from the Sharon Board of Assessors to rectify the situation.

Under Chapter 58 of the Massachusetts General Laws, local Boards of Assessors are only allowed to issue real estate tax abatements retroactively for a period of up to three years. If passed, this article will authorize the Town to request an act of the Massachusetts Legislature to allow the Assessors to grant an abatement for portions of Fiscal Years 2012, 2013, & 2014, a total of \$6,262.31. The town will only be able to grant said abatement if the bill is passed into law.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 19: General By-Law Amendment: Change Town Report Distribution Method

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to amend The Town of Sharon General By-Laws, Article 6, Reports and Records, Section 3, by changing the words “cause to be distributed” to “print and make available” and to change “among” to “to” so the new Section 3 would read as follows:

SECTION 3. The Board of Selectmen shall, annually, print and make available, not less than five days before the annual meeting, to the taxpayers of the town, the reports of the officers of the various departments and boards of the town, and reports upon such matters as directed by the town in these by-laws. They shall have the custody and distribution of the same.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will change the by-law in regard to printing and distribution of the Town of Sharon Annual Report. The current by-law is as follows:

SECTION 3. The Board of Selectmen shall, annually, cause to be distributed, not less than five days before the annual meeting, among the taxpayers of the town, the reports of the officers of the various departments and boards of the town, and reports upon such matters as directed by the town in these by-laws. They shall have the custody and distribution of the same.

Under the current by-law, the report has been printed and distributed to all taxpayers at their residences. The cost to print and distribute the report this year is estimated at \$12,424. Historically, the distribution of the reports is done by the local Sharon Boy Scouts Troop 95.

Proponents of this article contend that the annual report is read by only a small number of residents. They propose that a more cost effective method and technologically current method of disseminating this information is to publish an online version of the report. In fact, currently, the annual reports from 2009 are on the town website. They could also be linked to the town Facebook page. For those who desire a printed version, a small number of copies could be made available at Town Hall, the Library, and at Town Meeting. Depending on the number of printed copies, estimated savings range from \$8,000-10,000. A survey of surrounding communities shows that a combination of these distribution methods is common.

Opponents of the article argue that the cost savings would be minimal and that the current method of distribution encourages taxpayers to avail themselves of the valuable information. Further, they say it continues to provide an opportunity for town youth to take part in a civic service by distributing the document. Many of the Committee also felt that until a definitive alternate distribution plan is offered, this proposal should be delayed.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 5-4-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 20: Transfer One School Street Property from School Committee to Board of Selectmen

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 15A of the General Laws, to transfer the care, custody and control of the building located at 1 School Street, Parcel ID 101047000, from the Sharon School Committee, which has declared such site surplus and unnecessary for the educational purposes of the Sharon Public Schools, to the care, custody and control of the Board of Selectmen and under the management of the Town Administrator, or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will transfer the care, custody and control of the building located at 1 School Street from the Sharon School Committee to the Board of Selectmen.

In 2013, the Sharon Public Schools moved their administrative offices from One School Street to their current location at the Sharon Middle School. No longer having use for the building, the School Committee turned over its control to the Board of Selectmen, who have been maintaining it since. Though both the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen voted to relinquish control and assume control (respectively) over the parcel and building, a vote of town meeting is required to make the transfer official.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 21: Approval of Library Project – Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant Process

Sponsored by: Board of Library Trustees

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Library Trustees of the Sharon Public Library to approve the public library project as defined by the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant, or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Passage of this article will allow the library to proceed with its application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to participate in the Public Library Construction Program. This article continues a process begun at the May 2014 Town Meeting and does not require any expenditure of funds. It is merely a procedural article.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 22: Authorization to apply/accept & expend Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant Funds

Sponsored by: Board of Library Trustees

To see if the Town will vote to grant the Trustees of Sharon Public Library the authority to apply for, accept, and expend any state grants which may be available for an approved public library project, for the current and future needs of the Sharon Public Library, or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Passage of this article is authorization by Town Meeting to permit the library to submit a Public Library Construction grant application to the MBLC to be reviewed, considered and to be placed on the waiting list for potential funding from the state. Should the Board of Library Trustees receive a grant, at that time, the library will come back to Town Meeting for approval of matching funds. It is expected that this process could take several years. At this time, there is no expenditure of town funds required.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 23: General By-Law Amendment – Alternate for Priorities Committee

Sponsored by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-Laws of the Town of Sharon, Article 3, Financial Affairs, Paragraph 1 of Section 7, by adding the words “and may designate an alternate to serve should a member be unable to attend any meeting.”, so the new paragraph 1 would read as follows:

Paragraph 1. There is hereby established within the Town of Sharon a committee to be known as the Priorities Committee to be made up of six (6) members detailed as follows: The Chairperson and Clerk of the Board of Selectmen; the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the School Committee; and the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Each respective Board or Committee may designate a member other than the member indicated herein to serve on the within Committee and may designate an alternate to serve should a member be unable to attend any meeting. The above members shall serve by virtue of their original board or committee memberships and their

membership on the Priorities Committee shall terminate should a member's original board or committee membership terminates for any reason. Each respective Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Priorities Committee for a term of one year, beginning with the Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, then the Chairperson of the School Committee and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article will enable alternate members to serve on the Priorities Committee. Under current town by-laws, there is no authority for alternate member appointments to the committee. Passage of this article will permit the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee and the Finance Committee to each designate an alternate to serve should one of their members be unable to attend a meeting. This action will help avoid unnecessary delays in Priorities Committee deliberations and facilitate timely voting of Priorities Committee matters.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0-0 in favor of approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 7-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

Article 24: Citizen's Petition

Sponsored by: Birgitta McAlevey & other petitioners

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a high-pressure pipeline carrying natural gas, currently called the Q1 loop of the Access Northeast Pipeline, proposed by Spectra Energy Corporation, would run through Sharon, Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, the cost of said pipeline will require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff, making ratepayers bear the financial burden for the endeavors of a private corporation;

WHEREAS, the resolution passed by Sharon Town Meeting on May 5, 2014 recognized that greenhouse gas emissions generated by fossil fuels have already set climate change in motion, and that arresting these changes will require actions at every level of society, including federal, state, local and individual; instead of increasing our dependency on fossil fuels like natural gas, we are better served by strengthening the Commonwealth's commitments to increased energy efficiency and renewable energy;

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's Office of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts determined that increased gas capacity is not needed to meet the state's electric reliability needs and would be more expensive and less environmentally responsible than other available options;

WHEREAS, in addition to the inherent risks of high pressure gas pipelines — possible ruptures, fires, explosions, and impacts to sensitive areas along the pipeline route — fracked gas carries

additional risks and environmental burdens for communities near fracking sites and all along the transmission routes;

WHEREAS, the pipeline construction presents added risks and damage to the health and environment of those living near the construction corridor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Sharon through its Town Meeting asks that our elected and appointed town representatives:

1. honor the May 5th, 2014 Town Meeting Article 23 that encourages measures to conserve vital water and energy resources, and minimize carbon emissions as it applies to the Q1 loop pipeline by opposing construction of the proposed natural gas main through our town.
2. deny survey authorization, and rescind any previously granted survey authorization granted after 2014, to survey Town-owned property for the purpose of installing a pipeline, file such notices with Spectra Energy and with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. ask the Department of Public Utilities to reject any proposed contracts for capacity on the Access Northeast pipeline filed by electric utilities, contracts which effectively function as a gas pipeline tariff on Massachusetts electric ratepayers, by filing a copy of this resolution with the vote thereon as a public comment in DPU dockets 15-181 and 16-05.
4. ask all of Sharon's state legislators (Senator Joyce, Senator Timilty, and Representative Kafka) to support the legislative effort to clarify and/or amend G.L. c. 164, § 94A so that it does not authorize electric utilities to make contracts for natural gas pipeline capacity.
5. file this resolution on the current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pre-filing docket (with the prefix "PF") for the Access Northeast project within thirty days of this Town Meeting.
6. move to intervene on the formal Federal Energy Regulatory Commission docket (with the prefix "CP") for the Access Northeast project, during the three-week window of opportunity when it is opened.
7. request that our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials oppose the taking of conservation protected lands for pipeline infrastructure including, but not limited to, those lands protected by Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, to hold state permitting for this project to the highest standards, to enact legislation and take such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well being and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this article would ask the Town of Sharon to: 1) deny authorization, and rescind previous authorization, to survey Town-owned property for pipeline installation; 2) request the Department of Public Utilities to reject any proposed contracts with a pipeline tariff on electric rate payers; 3) ask Sharon's state legislators to support efforts that would prohibit electric utilities from contracting for natural gas pipeline capacity; 4) apply for Intervenor status on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's review for the Access Northeast project; 4) request

State and Federal legislators and Executive branch to oppose taking conservation protected lands for pipeline infrastructure.

Citizens sponsoring this petition are concerned about several aspects of the Access Northeast Pipeline proposed by Spectra Energy Corporation. They feel that the contract currently under review by the Commonwealth's Department of Public Utilities would add a tariff to utility bills to pay for the pipeline. They have concerns about impact of fossil fuels on climate change and feel strongly that the increased capacity is not needed. The petitioners cite the risks to our community of high pressure gas pipelines.

If passed, it asks that Sharon town officials intervene in the existing review, legislative and approval processes to express the concerns listed as those of the entire town. However, it does not and cannot compel any such action.

The Finance Committee voted to not recommend the adoption of this article. While the resolutions convey sentiment, they do not compel action. The Committee believes that Town Meeting is not the appropriate forum for petitions that do not impact local town government. Two committee members abstained due to conflict of interest.

The Board of Selectmen voted 2-1-0 against approval.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 6-0-3 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

And furthermore, in the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Sharon who are qualified to vote in Elections to vote at:

Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
Sharon High School Gymnasium, 181 Pond Street, Sharon, MA

on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 7:00am to 8:00pm for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the candidates for the following offices:

1	Member Board of Selectmen	3 year term
1	Member Board of Assessors	3 year term
1	Member Board of Assessors	1 year term to fill unexpired term
2	Members School Committee	3 year term
1	Member Planning Board	5 year term
2	Members Trustee of Public Library	3 year term
1	Member Housing Authority	5 year term

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting. And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the same in accordance with the Town by-laws.

Given under our hands this 5th day of April, A.D., 2016

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN OF SHARON

William A. Heitin, Chair

Walter B. Roach, Jr., Clerk

John J. McGrath

A True Copy: Tilden M. Kaufman, Constable
Sharon, Massachusetts
Dated: April 5, 2016

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