

TOWN OF SHARON



2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

With Report & Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Monday, May 6, 2024

7:00 PM

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 Town Clerk's Office at 781-784-1500 x1201 at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Polls open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Sharon High School Gymnasium, 181 Pond Street

OPEN WARRANT MEETING

Ask questions and learn more about the warrant articles to help inform one's vote

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 90 South Main Street

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. This year, there are 23 Articles on the Warrant including some very significant governance and zoning proposals which have the potential to affect our community for many years to come. If you are registered to vote in Sharon, please come, participate, and vote your preferences. If you are a non-registered resident, you are welcome to attend, but under present law you may not vote.

In furtherance of the twin goals of providing a forum for informative debate on each article but utilizing techniques that enhance the efficiency of conducting the town's business, we will be repeating some of the initiatives that have worked well in recent years. First, once again, the Warrant includes drafts of all intended motions as well as background information so voters are better informed ahead of time. I strongly urge voters to become familiar with this information so we can have a robust debate and an efficient vote.

Second, our Pre-Town Meeting management forum will be held on Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00pm in Town Hall. Please note that the meeting will be in-person without the availability of Zoom participation. This important meeting is to organize the anticipated discussion of the articles and plan for any extended presentations. Accordingly, if anyone plans to present a film, power point presentation or other media at Town Meeting, it must be submitted to me prior to this forum so we can be properly prepared.

Third, as in prior years, we will be utilizing a consent agenda for the disposition of routine and non-controversial articles. This popular procedure is designed to expedite the disposition of those articles without debate. Similar to the approach with the budget, if any voter wishes to have any particular article considered separately, please announce "hold" when the article is read, and it will be addressed separately.

The configuration of the High School auditorium presents some challenges that compel some seating changes from years past. Town officials who used to face the audience will instead be seated in designated areas in the first two rows near Microphone "1". This has been designed to enable access to the microphone without undue delay.

There will be a total of (five) 5 microphones in the auditorium. Microphone "1" will be at the front of the stage and reserved for presentations and town officials who may need to respond to a question. Microphones "2" and "3" will be in the front of the aisles. These will be for advocacy in favor of what is being considered or opposed, respectively, and will be marked accordingly. Microphones "4" and "5" will be in the rear of the auditorium. These microphones are designated for questions rather than arguments. Of course, if anyone has a mobility challenge that makes it difficult to get to a designated microphone, you may use whichever is closest. Finally, there will be a microphone and a direct video feed in the family area near the cafeteria so that those who bring children can participate in the discussion and vote. We do not anticipate the need to open the balcony, but if we do, the microphone configurations will be adjusted accordingly.

I urge everyone to get involved, familiarize yourselves with the issues that face our town and let others hear your voice. Given the alternatives around the world, we are privileged to have the opportunity for direct democracy, so let us embrace it. If anyone has any questions or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to me by email at townmoderator@townofsharon.org and to attend the Pre-Town Meeting forum at 7:00 PM on May 1st.

Once again, I would like to thank the voters of Sharon for the privilege of serving as Town Moderator. Be well and stay safe!

Andrew D. Nebenzahl
Town Moderator

WARRANT INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Town By-Law, 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 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 6, 2024, the 2024 Annual Town Meeting will convene to decide a variety of issues. Of the 23 articles in this Warrant, the minority deal with fiscal matters, including the Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2025 Town budget of \$108,561,619, a 5.22% increase in spending over FY 2024. Because it is important to the Annual Town Meeting process for voters to have as much relevant information as possible, this introduction will present a recap of the budget history, the financial planning process, the FY 2025 budget and highlight the other warrant articles.

Budget Background

The budget of the Town of Sharon can be separated into two primary components. The first component is the operating budget, consisting primarily of salaries and smaller expenses such as supplies, fuel, utilities, and other necessary costs. The operating budget makes up roughly 66% of the total budget and is divided into three sectors: (1) School Department; (2) Select Board (Police, Fire, DPW and other general government departments); and (3) Finance Committee (primarily Town Clerk and Library). The School Department represents about 75% of the operating budget, with the Select Board and Finance Committee sectors representing the remaining 25%. The second component of the budget is comprised of costs labeled as “non-discretionary”, representing roughly 34% of the total budget. These expenses are primarily the Town’s debt service (principal and interest), health and other insurances, the Norfolk County Retirement fund contribution, Medicare & Social Security, other post-employment benefit (OPEB) fund contributions, and use of cash to fund capital and other one-time expenditures.

As an enterprise fund, the Water Department budget is funded exclusively by water rates and will be voted as a separate motion under Article 10.

Strategic Planning Process

Since September 2015, the Finance Committee, Select Board, School Committee, and Capital Outlay Committee have engaged in a town-wide planning process facilitated by the Town Administrator and Finance Director. Joint open meetings are convened annually to review the financial status and discuss significant needs of the town. Strategic long-term financial planning remains a priority for the Finance Committee and is essential to managing the Town’s fiscal matters. Recently, a joint meeting of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Planning Board was conducted. One topic of conversation included the importance of proactive communication by all Town boards and committees with each other to stay apprised of projects and associated concerns related to Town planning and finances.

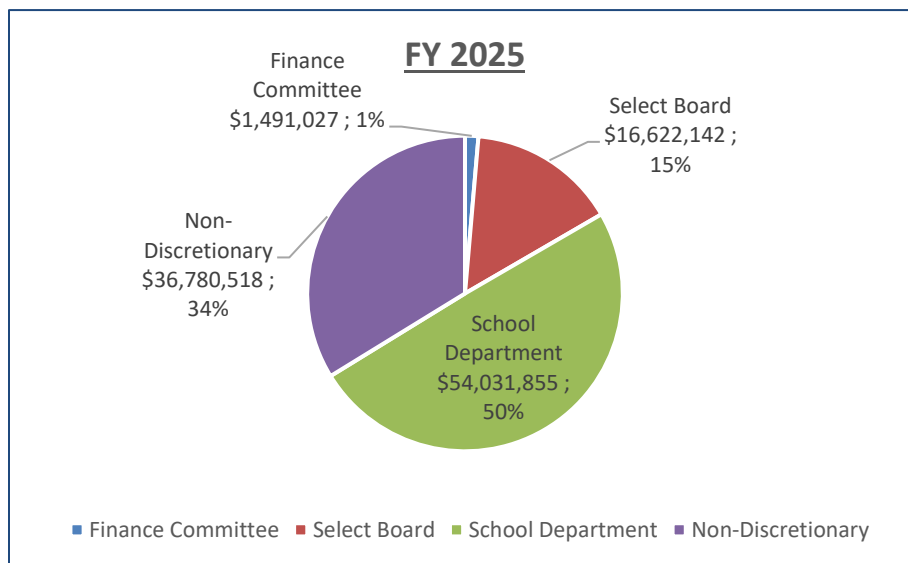
FY 2025 Budget

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 operating sectors. The Priorities Committee is composed of two representatives each from the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee and is supported by the Town Administrator and Finance Director. On February 12, 2024, Finance Director Krishan Gupta presented to the Priorities Committee a recommended allocation of

3.1227% increase over FY 2024, reflective of, at the time, the best estimates for local revenue, state aid, fixed costs, and property taxes inclusive of new growth and the Proposition 2 ½ increase. The Priorities Committee voted 6-0-0 to set the allocation to reflect the changes in revenue and non-discretionary expenses. In past years, after the Priorities Committee’s allocation vote, the Commonwealth’s legislature has made changes to their next fiscal year budget that occasionally resulted in some increase in state aid. This allowed the Priorities Committee to revise its estimate for state aid for the Town and allocate each sector an increase to their budget. At the writing of this introduction, there is no expectation for any significant additional state aid. To date in FY 2024, the Commonwealth has experienced a decrease in forecasted FY 2024 revenues, resulting in estimates that are more conservative for FY 2025 and “belt-tightening” at the state level. This impact is being felt not only by Sharon, but also in the majority of communities across the Commonwealth.

The proposed FY 2025 budget for the Town of Sharon is \$108,925,542, a 5.52% increase over FY 2024. If approved, the Town operating budgets would increase by 3.22% in aggregate to \$72,145,024 (total budget less “non-discretionary”), comprised of the School Department budget of \$54,031,855, the Select Board sector budget of \$16,622,142, and the Finance Committee sector budget of \$1,491,027. The proposed FY 2024 budget also includes \$36,780,518 for the fixed/uncontrollable category. A comparison of the FY 2024 and FY 2025 budgets is provided below:

SECTOR	FY 24	FY25	% Change
Finance Committee	\$1,441,000	\$1,491,027	3.47%
Select Board	\$16,059,752	\$16,622,142	3.50%
School Department	\$52,395,688	\$54,031,855	3.12%
Non-Discretionary	\$33,347,142	\$36,780,518	10.36%
TOTAL	\$103,243,582	\$108,925,542	5.52%



A more detailed breakdown and discussion of the budget can be found under Article 10. A line item in the budget is the Reserve Fund. This money is raised each year to pay for extraordinary and unforeseen unbudgeted expenses. Under state statute, use of this money must be approved by a vote of the Finance Committee. For informational purposes and to help illustrate how the Reserve Fund has been used in the past, a table of historical Reserve Fund transfer activity is included as Appendix A at the end of this warrant.

Because salaries, employee benefits and debt service represent the vast majority of the budget, there are difficult options to offset contractual salary increases and associated costs. Maintaining the balance between providing the services and resources the citizens of Sharon expect and desire while managing the growth in property taxes is a constant challenge. Without sustainable revenue sources and attention to how all dollars are spent, these increases will outpace the growth in assessed property values and the Town will be forced to further increase the property tax burden.

On May 21, 2024, the Town will issue long-term general obligation bonds to finance the capital items approved in January of 2023 and a short-term bond to fund the MSBA High School project closeout phase. We hope to secure a lower interest rate that is reflective of our re-affirmed AA bond rating and the strong financial position of the Town. This strong financial position affords Sharon the ability to continue to maintain its services and move ahead with important capital projects.

Annual Town Meeting Articles

Many of the Warrant Articles to be considered at Town Meeting relate to the FY 2025 Budget. Article 3 sets the salaries of certain Town employees. Article 4 relates to property tax exemptions. Article 5 reauthorizes revolving funds' spending limits. Article 8 sets the compensation of elected officials. Article 9 funds requested capital purchases that are made annually outside the department budgets and. Article 11 relates to funding projects through Community Preservation Act revenues and reserves managed by the Community Preservation Committee.

With a few exceptions, the remaining Articles fall into two categories – proposed adjustments to by-laws related to how the Town is governed and changes to zoning by-laws proposed by the Planning Board. Governance issues to be considered include: an amendment of By-Laws to establish an electric vehicle charging station revolving fund (Article 6); codifying the role and authority of the Town Moderator (Article 12); amending the Personnel By-Law to reflect changes in law and the modernization of practices (Article 13); the establishment of provisions to provide for the recall of elected officials (Article 14) and the removal of appointed members of committees (Article 15); and the extension of an artificial turf moratorium (Article 21). Zoning issues to be considered include an amendment to comply with the MBTA Communities Act Multi-Family Zoning District Law (Article 19) and making modifications to Business District A (Article 20).

A detailed write-up of each article is presented in this warrant with corresponding recommendations. The Finance Committee votes timely recommendations for all articles when sufficient information is provided. New or additional information that becomes available for articles after the printing of this Warrant, will be made available at Town Meeting. Depending on the relevance of that information, the Finance Committee may amend its recommendations prior to Town Meeting.

Opportunities to ask questions or give opinions are always available at Finance Committee meetings and at the Open Warrant Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 1st. Please take time to read the recommendations and understand the issues. Attend the Annual Town Meeting on May 6th and make your voice heard.

In Memoriam

The Town of Sharon and the members of the Finance Committee note with sadness the untimely passing of Charles (Chuck) Goodman on March 27, 2024. We recognize him for his many years of service and contributions to the Town. Chuck served the Town since 2001 in the following roles: Finance Committee 2001-2024 (Chair 2005-2006), Finance Committee Nominating Committee 2008-2019 and 2021-2022, Audit Committee 2008-2024, Conservation Commission Sub-Committee 2006-2010, Priorities Committee 2009-2021, and as a member of the Treasurer/Collector Screening Committee in 2014. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. May his memory be a blessing.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ann Keitner, Chair; Daniel Lewenberg, and Ira Miller, Vice-Chairs; Anja Bernier, Brian Collins, Charles Goodman (December 4, 1935 – March 27, 2024), Keith Morris, Chris Pimentel, Jada Wang, and Olga Volfson.

**TOWN OF SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrant articles on a Consent Agenda are exceptions to the general process of Town Meeting. The Moderator, in consultation with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel, has identified for Town Meeting consideration those articles that he believes will generate no controversy and can be properly voted without debate. These articles are placed on the Consent Agenda to allow the individual motions under these articles to be consolidated and acted upon as one unit and to be passed without debate.

At the call of the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will read out the number of the articles, one by one. If one or more voters object to any particular article being included in the Consent Agenda, they say “hold” in a loud voice when the number is called. If only one voter requests to “hold” an article for discussion, the Moderator will then call for a second. If a second is offered, the article then will be removed from the Consent Agenda and restored to its original place in the Warrant to be debated and to be voted on in the usual manner. After the calling of the individual items in the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will ask for a motion that the voters pass all items remaining as a unit on one vote. Use of the Consent Agenda process makes the Town Meeting more efficient by speeding up the handling of non-controversial items.

The Consent Agenda will be considered as the first order of business at the beginning of the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024. Please review the list of articles and motions proposed for each article that comprises the Consent Agenda that follows the proposed motion:

MOTION: That the Town take Articles 1 – 6, 16 & 17 out of order and they be “Passed by Consent” in accordance with the motions shown on the Consent Agenda as printed on pages vi-vii in the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting.

Article 1 – Act on Reports: *Please refer to page 1 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the reports of the various officials, boards and committees be received for filing.

Article 2 – Sharon Friends School Fund Records and Appointments: *Please refer to page 1 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town Clerk cast one ballot for the Trustees of the Dorchester and Surplus Revenue School Fund as follows: Bettye Outlaw, Patricia MacDougall and Elizabeth Siemiatkaska; That the Town Clerk cast one ballot for the Trustees of the Edmund H. Talbot Fund as follows: Shirley Schofield, Marie Cuneo and Paul Bergeron; To accept the report of the donors of the funds.

Article 3 – Approve Changes to Compensation Plan in Personnel By-Law: *Please refer to page 2 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town amend the Personnel By-Law of the Town of Sharon exactly as printed on pages 2 through 4 of the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, except deletion of the words “or act in any way relative thereto.”

Article 4 – Property Tax Exemptions: *Please refer to page 5 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town 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 1/2, 17D, 17E, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C and 41D of M.G.L. Chapter 59, § 5 in an amount equal to 100 percent to be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Article 5 – Revolving Fund Authorizations: *Please refer to page 5 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town authorize FY 2025 expenditure limits for the revolving funds printed on page 6 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, §53E½, to be expended in accordance with Chapter 24, Article III of the Town’s General By-Laws.

Article 6 – Amend the General By-Laws to Establish an Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revolving Fund: *Please refer to page 6 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town authorize a revolving fund known as the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revolving Fund exactly as printed on page 6 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 16 – Accept MGL c. 64G, sec. 3D (a) and (b) to Validate Community Impact Fee in Short-Term Rental Zoning By-Law: *Please refer to page 35 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town accept the provisions of Chapter 64G, §3D(a) of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion: That the Town accept the provisions of Chapter 64G, §3D(b) of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Article 17 – Accept Lily Lane and Juniper Road as Public Ways: *Please refer to page 36 of this Annual Town Meeting Warrant for article language.*

Motion: That the Town accept the roads known as Lily Lane and an extension to Juniper Road (being that portion of Juniper Road commencing where the public way currently ends and running north thereof until its terminus) as public ways, and any appurtenant easements thereto, as laid out and generally shown on a plan of land entitled “Definitive Subdivision Plan for Diamond Residences”, dated November 1, 2017, prepared by Strongpoint Engineering Solutions, LLC and recorded with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 667, Pages 1-6, and on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to acquire by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in said Lily Lane and said extension to Juniper Road for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sharon and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

-- End --

**TOWN OF SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**

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 in the Auditorium at Sharon High School, 181 Pond Street, Sharon, Massachusetts on **Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.**, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: Act on Reports

Sponsored by: Select Board

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize actions to be taken on reports.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

Article 2: Sharon Friends School Fund Records and Appointments

Sponsored by: Select Board

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:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize acceptance of the records and appointments of the Sharon Friends School Fund.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

Article 3: Approve Changes to Compensation Plan in Personnel By-Law

Sponsored by: Personnel Board

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel By-Law of the Town of Sharon as follows, or act in any way 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 formerly known as Circulation Supervisor, be now known as Head of Circulation Services, and be compensated as an LMP-3 within the Library Group, effective January 19, 2023.
- 2) That the position formerly known as Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health, be now known as Assistant Public Health Administrator, and be compensated as an OC-1 within the Office Occupational Group, effective February 15, 2023.
- 3) That the Communications Specialist be classified as an E-6 within the Executive Group, effective May 30, 2023.
- 4) To approve the Employee Benefits Administrator job description, which will be compensated as an OC-2A within the Office Occupational Group, effective June 5, 2023.
- 5) To approve the Library Page’s job description, which will be compensated as an LOC-4A within the Library Group, effective June 8, 2023.
- 6) To approve the Technical Services Assistant job description.
- 7) That the Deputy Superintendent of Public Works be classified as an E-3 within the Executive Category, effective June 8, 2023.

B. By striking out all classification schedules and pay schedules in Appendix A and substituting new classification schedules and new pay schedules, effective as of July 1, 2024, except as other dates are specified.

APPENDIX A

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.

EXECUTIVE CATEGORY
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

SECTION 1.100 CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE	SECTION 2.100 BASE PAY SCHEDULE/ANNUALLY		
Position	Minimum	Actual	Maximum
Administrative Assessor	\$85,487	\$105,865	\$118,007
Assistant Town Administrator	\$99,737	\$117,260	\$137,636
Council on Aging Executive Director	\$77,438	\$82,658	\$106,644
Director of Information Technology	\$96,983	\$135,658	\$136,064
Finance Director	\$104,957	\$148,760	\$152,293
Fire Chief	\$127,268	\$156,457	\$180,719
Library Director	\$88,937	\$114,951	\$120,066
Police Chief	\$117,867	\$170,135	\$175,610
Recreation Director	\$77,097	\$104,317	\$106,644

Superintendent of Public Works	\$116,164	\$166,356	\$167,868
Town Administrator	\$166,106	\$231,800	\$236,577
Town Engineer	\$95,389	\$137,823	\$138,312
Treasurer/Collector	\$89,282	\$98,088	\$124,726

SECTION 1.200
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

SECTION 2.200
PAY SCHEDULE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Select Board (hourly)
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

<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>
32.87	33.53	34.19	34.88	35.58	36.30	37.01	37.76	38.52	39.29

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Select Board (annually)
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
\$65,472	\$66,110	\$88,386

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS, DPW
Department of Public Works (annually)
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
\$95,469	\$113,832	\$128,884

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR/NURSE
Health Department (annually)
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
\$75,512	\$88,534	\$93,670

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF
Police Department (weekly)
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
\$3,046 weekly

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEFS
Fire Department (weekly)
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
\$2,401 weekly

MISCELLANEOUS
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Veterans' Agent	22,850	annually
Sealer of Weights & Measures	5,945	annually
Assistant Animal Control/Senior Fill-In Officer	13,525	annually
Animal Control Fill-In (Weekend/Sick/Holiday/Vacation Coverage)	54.07	per assignment
Animal Inspector	4,715	annually
Plumbing/Gas Inspector	500.00	per week
Wiring Inspector	710.00	per week
Adult Center Receptionist/Aide	19.55	per hour
Recreational Basketball League Coordinator	8,300.00	per season
Referee Coordinator	1,000	per season

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & RECREATION PART-TIME/SEASONAL
Effective January 1, 2024 (hourly)

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Seasonal			
Waterfront Director	23.00	23.25	23.50
Waterfront Supervisor	19.25	19.50	19.75
Lifeguard	18.00	18.25	18.50
Lifeguard & WSI	18.50	18.75	19.00
Gate Attendant	15.25	15.50	15.75
Program Director	26.50	26.75	27.00
Program Supervisor	22.00	22.25	22.50
Program Counselor	16.25	16.50	16.75
PT Hourly Positions (Fall/Winter/Spring)			
Program Instructor	35.00	36.00	37.00
Program Director	26.50	26.75	27.00
Program Supervisor	22.00	22.25	22.50
Program Counselor	16.25	16.50	16.75
DPW Temporary/Summer Labor	15.00	15.60	16.20
Per Game			
Certified Referee	40.00	41.00	42.00
Unpatched Referee	20.00	20.50	21.00

The pay tables for the collective bargaining agreements can be found in Appendix B on page 62.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would amend the Town's Personnel By-Law and implement the listed increases in salaries and wages for executive and non-union employees.

The Select Board voted an increase of up to 2.5% for non-union employees based upon issues such as workload, changes in state minimum wage, comparable pay for experience and job classification. For the Executive Category employees (thirteen professionals), the Select Board proposes salary increases and request concurrence of the Personnel Board. Merit pay authorized by the Select Board ranges from 0.5% to

1%. The salary increases (inclusive of merit and salary range adjustments) vary between 3% and 3.5%, based on the results of the annual performance reviews and the amount of merit pay earned.

The Personnel Board has increased the minimum and maximum of the salary ranges by 2.5%. The last comprehensive salary survey was conducted in the fall of 2020 for FY 2022. The Personnel Board found the results to be consistent with our current position and adopted a plan to increase the minimum and maximum ranges to adjust for the labor market. The plan for the next survey is for the fall of 2024 to adjust FY2026 salary ranges.

The actual salaries in the table reflect the merit increases. A listing of the wages earned and paid to all Town employees, inclusive of overtime and stipends, can be found in the annual Town Report.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

Article 4: 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 1/2, 17D, 17E, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 37, 37A, 41, 41B, 41C and 41D of M.G.L. Chapter 59, § 5 in an amount equal to 100 percent to be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize the Board of Assessor to grant estate exemptions in FY 2025 for specific categories of veterans and their survivors, individuals with disabilities, individuals who are legally blind and qualified elders.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

Article 5: Revolving Fund Authorizations

Sponsored by: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to authorize FY 2025 expenditure limits for the revolving funds listed below for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½, to be expended in accordance with Article III of the Town's General By-Laws:

Revolving Fund	Expenditure Limit
Cable TV Licensing and Re-licensing Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Library Public-Use Supplies Replacement Fund	\$ 7,000.00
Library Materials Replacement Fund	\$ 3,500.00
Street Opening Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Solid Waste and Recycling Fund	\$ 3,000,000.00
Community Center Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 100,000.00
High School Parking Lot Fund	\$ 65,000.00
Railroad Parking Fund	\$ 550,000.00
Recreation Programs Revolving Fund	\$ 400,000.00
Waterfront Recreation Programs Revolving Fund	\$ 200,000.00
Conservation Commission Advertising Revolving Fund	\$ 4,000.00
Board of Health Fund for Monitoring Compliance with Septic Variance	\$ 20,000.00
Health Department Revolving Fund	\$ 100,000.00
Council on Aging Program Revolving Fund	\$ 50,000.00

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize stated expenditure limits for each of the listed revolving funds for FY 2025.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

Article 6: Amend the General Bylaws to Establish an Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revolving Fund

Sponsored by: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund known as the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revolving Fund in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, §53E ½ and to be expended in accordance with Article III of the Town’s General By-Laws.

The purpose of this fund is to provide and pay for costs associated with operating and maintaining the electrical vehicle charging stations. Receipts to be deposited into the fund shall be monies collected from users of the electric vehicle charging stations. The Superintendent of Public Works, with the approval of the Select Board, shall be authorized to expend from this fund. Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2025 shall not exceed \$100,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize the creation of a revolving fund to be known as the “Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Revolving Fund” in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, §53E ½, to be expended in accordance with Article III of the Town’s General By-Laws. A revolving fund receives its income from selling goods and services to users or participants in a program and expends monies to cover the costs of such goods or the expenses of providing the particular program or

service. The intent is for such activities to break even financially, and the revolving fund is a mechanism that allows for fluctuations in levels of activity. Revolving funds exist under specific statutory authority and operate without appropriation by Town Meeting.

The purpose of this fund is to provide and pay for costs associated with operating publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations installed by the Town of Sharon. These costs include, but are not limited to, all operating costs accrued to the Town for delivered power and energy, infrastructure and equipment maintenance, and repair. Receipts to be deposited into the fund shall be monies collected from users of the electric vehicle charging stations. The Superintendent of Public Works, with the approval of the Select Board, shall be authorized to expend from this fund. Expenditures in FY 2025 shall not exceed \$100,000.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

Article 7: Appoint Finance Committee Members and Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee Members

Sponsored by: Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee

To see if the Town will choose members of the Finance Committee for two-year and three-year terms, and to fill any vacancies on said Committee; and to approve the Moderator's appointments of five members of the Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee for one-year terms; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this Article would endorse those persons nominated by the Finance Committee Nominating Committee to fill 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 voters for approval or other appropriate action its nominees to the Finance Committee

Created by Sharon By-Law, the Finance Committee is composed of 11 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 Finance Committee's recommendation to approve is in recognition of the Nominating Committee process and not an endorsement of a particular individual nominated for the Finance Committee.

Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee

In May 2024, four members of the Finance Committee are completing their terms. Additionally, one member with two years left on their term and one member with one year left on their term has resigned. The Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee interviewed the current incumbents who expressed a desire to remain on the committee and any registered voters who expressed a desire to join the Finance Committee in serving the Town of Sharon.

The Finance and Nominating Committees were saddened by the unexpected passing of its long-time member, Charles Goodman, who served continuously on the Finance Committee since 2001. His service included: chair, member and chair of the priorities committee, and a liaison to the Library Trustees. He was also a member of the Town Audit Committee. Chuck was a dedicated member of the committee and truly will be missed.

The Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee has nominated the following residents to serve on the Finance Committee. A brief biography is provided by each nominee to allow the town residents to be familiar with the members' duly approved nominations.

Incumbents:

Ira Miller

A Sharon resident since 1979, I earned both a B.A. and Masters in Educational Media from UMass Amherst and Certification from programs in both Television Production and Financial Planning at Boston University. I have held teaching and management positions in the fields of education, health care, technology and media at venues including the University of Massachusetts, Smith College, the Shriver Center for Developmental Disabilities, Wang Laboratories and, most recently, WGBH.

A member of the Finance Committee for 21 years, I have served multiple terms as Chair, Vice Chair, member of the Priorities Committee, and liaison to the Select Board, Police Dept., Fire Dept. and Library. I have been elected to the Governing Board of the Massachusetts Association of Town Finance Committees for the last 12 years and served three terms as President. Representing ATFC, I served on the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Association Board of Directors for five years, was appointed to the Massachusetts Local Government Advisory Commission for 4 terms, and recently started my 4th year on the MMA Fiscal Policy Committee. I was Vice Chair of the Sharon Cable Television Advisory Board and the first Chair of the Board of Directors of Sharon Community Television. I am a current Board member of both Sharon TV and the Friends of Sharon Council on Aging.

Chris Pimentel

I moved to Sharon with my wife Karen in 2005. Our son was born in 2006 and our daughter in 2010, both of whom are students in the Sharon school system. I have served on the Sharon Water Management Advisory Committee since 2013, much of that time spent as Vice Chair, and I have served as Vice Chair of the Energy Advisory Committee since 2021.

I started my professional career as a Project Manager in California, where I was first introduced to P&L's, managing water resource management projects for Metropolitan Water District and its member agencies. In my third year of law school, while working in the Technology Licensing Office at the MGH Research Institute, I was a finalist in the MIT \$100K Entrepreneurship Competition. This experience took me in a unique direction where, as a junior partner, I also served as in-house counsel for two different startup companies. These positions required regular budget review.

In 2006, I had an established legal practice, focusing primarily on consumer software licensing, but had started transitioning toward energy related ventures by this time. Since then, I have built a broad set of capabilities across a wide range of financed energy services and laid a firm industry knowledge base, having served as a member of the Mass ESC, as President of the NE Association of Energy Engineers and having earned my CEM. My career, since 2009, has focused primarily on Energy Savings Performance Contracting, the vast majority of which has been implemented under government contracts. These are large, budget neutral energy infrastructure projects designed under specific procurement legislation, where guaranteed energy savings must exceed debt service costs over the course of a 20-year term.

Currently, I serve as the New England Sr. Account Strategist for Siemens Smart Infrastructure, selling energy infrastructure projects under different finance model options, bridging energy management, project finance, sustainability, and asset management.

Jada Wang

A Sharon resident since 2007, I have been contributing to various community initiatives. Professionally, I am a CPA with an MBA in Finance, and currently in finance management for an industry leader (~\$70 billion in annual revenue). My prior experience includes auditing for a public accounting firm, and global consolidations and SEC reporting, mainly for a major player in the medical device industry. My diversified experience includes financial planning and analysis, forecasting and budgeting, and accounting and financial reporting. It is an honor for me to serve on the Finance Committee and work with my wonderful neighbors to build our community together.

New Members:

Don Brichta

For most of his professional career, Donald Brichta was asked to explain complicated political and governmental matters in terms that lay people could understand, first as a journalist and then as a communications consultant. As a journalist, Mr. Brichta developed extensive knowledge of Massachusetts state and local government, and reported on the complexities of municipal budgets, tax policy and zoning laws within the state's byzantine government structure.

As a partner and co-owner of communications consulting businesses, Mr. Brichta provided his expertise in media relations, government relations, public relations, crisis communications, political consulting, graphic design and marketing to businesses and government agencies. He was a generalist, working in many sectors including healthcare, finance, higher education and medical technology. He has a strong dislike for acronyms and jargon and a strong passion for government honesty, accountability and transparency.

Since moving to Sharon in 1983, he has closely followed Sharon government and its many boards, committees and departments. Following retirement three years ago, he has used his journalistic experience to write about Sharon issues on Facebook, where he has developed a reputation for accurate, non-biased reporting. For 25 years, he has been a certified basketball official, refereeing at high schools, small colleges and youth leagues throughout the region. The most important role and title he holds is husband and father.

Jonathan Greenberg

My family and I moved to Sharon in 2020 from a neighboring town looking to put down roots and raise our two children in this warm and welcoming community. I love the small town feel of Sharon, its natural beauty and its diverse population. I have one child at Heights Elementary School and another who will be starting there in 2025. As a family that utilizes many of the town's wonderful resources, I feel a sense of responsibility to give back and to support the community. I have volunteered to serve on the Parent Committee at my children's preschool, I serve as a board of trustee member at our synagogue and have coached in the town's t-ball program. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Florida State University and a Masters in Biotechnology Management from Harvard University Extension School.

Professionally, I work for Boston Children's Hospital as a Clinical Research Manager, where I oversee the daily operations of multiple research programs, including maintaining annual budgets for multi-center research studies funded through federal and foundation grants. I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the other members of the finance committee and the town's residents to help further the committee's mission and to do my best to make sure that recommendations are made in a reasoned and fiscally responsible manner.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTIONS: That the Town elect to the Finance Committee the following named: Ira Miller, 6 Horizons Road – 3-year term; Christopher Pimentel, 45 Clarke Street – 3-year term; Jada Wang, 46 Magnolia Road – 3-year term; Jonathan Greenberg, 15 Fairbanks Road – 3-year term; Donald Brichta, 55 Mansfield Street – 2-year term.

That the Town affirm the following named Moderator’s appointments to the Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee: Anne Carney, 41 Pole Plain Road – 1-year term; David Fixler, 81 Bishop Road – 1-year term; William Heitin, 7 Inca Trail – 1-year term; Jacqueline Modiste, 21 Canoe River Road – 1-year term; Cheryl Weinstein, 4 Coach Lane – 1-year term.

Article 8: Compensation of Elected Officials

Sponsored by: Finance Committee

To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of elected officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as follows:

Moderator	\$50.00
Select Board chair	\$500.00
Select Board members	\$400.00
Board of Assessors chair	\$2,400.00
Board of Assessors members	\$2,200.00
Town Clerk	\$89,900.00

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would set the compensation of elected officers for FY 2025 as described above. All amounts are unchanged from the prior year, except for the Town Clerk. The Finance Committee views these compensation amounts to be appropriate.

The proposed salary for the Town Clerk for FY 2025 reflects an increase of 3.5%. That figure is consistent with the Executive Category employee increases, inclusive of merit and salary range adjustments.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTION: That the Town fix the compensation of elected officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, as follows: Moderator - \$50.00; Select Board chair - \$500.00; Select Board members - \$400.00; Board of Assessors chair - \$2,400.00; Board of Assessors members - \$2,200.00; Town Clerk - \$89,900.00.

Article 9: Capital Outlay*Sponsored by: Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to consider the following items A through L, which will be voted as a block, or singly, or in any combination, but however voted will be treated as a separate article and to raise and appropriate a sum of money for each of the capital outlay purposes herein mentioned, and to determine whether the money shall be raised by borrowing, transferred from available sums of money, raised in the tax levy, or otherwise;

And to see if the Town will vote to rescind the appropriation and borrowing authorization of \$225,000 voted under Article 15K of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for School Department technology equipment (the "Project") and appropriate the sum of \$225,000 from Free Cash for the Project;

And to see if the Town will vote to rescind the appropriation and borrowing authorization of \$89,000 voted under Article 15M of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for School Department truck and snow removal equipment (the "Project") and appropriate the sum of \$89,000 from Free Cash for the Project;

And to see if the Town will vote to rescind the appropriation and borrowing authorization of \$40,000 voted under Article 15N of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for School Department classroom furniture (the "Project") and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from Free Cash for the Project;

Or take any other action relative thereto.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- A. Reconstruction of tennis and basketball courts at Deborah Sampson Park by the Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- B. Purchase of operations equipment by the Department of Public Works
- C. Facility renovations by the Department of Public Works
- D. Resurfacing of public ways and reconstruction of sidewalks by the Department of Public Works

WATER DEPARTMENT

- E. Relaying of water mains for the Water Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- F. Purchase of fire apparatus by the Fire Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- G. Purchase of police cruisers by the Police Department

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

- H. Purchase of technology and equipment by the School Department
- I. Purchase of music equipment by the School Department
- J. Repair, replacement, or design of HVAC equipment; development of a master plan; and renovation of facilities and grounds by the School Department
- K. Purchase of furniture by the School Department
- L. Purchase of Special Education vans by the School Department

	Item	Funding Source	Amount
RECREATION DEPARTMENT			
A	Tennis/Basketball Court Reconstruction	B	\$ 929,455.00
		UC	\$ 770,545.00
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS			
B	Operations Equipment Replacement	B	\$ 430,000.00
C	Facility Improvements/Renovations	B	\$ 169,000.00
D	Roads and Sidewalks	B	\$ 1,540,000.00
WATER DEPARTMENT			
E	Water Main Replacement	WB	\$ 900,000.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT			
F	Fire Engines (2)	B	\$ 2,100,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT			
G	Police Cruisers (3)	C	\$ 195,000.00
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT			
H	Wireless Access Points	C	\$ 25,000.00
H	1:1 Chromebooks	C	\$ 240,000.00
H	Staff Device Replacement	FC	\$ 75,000.00
H	Projectors/Monitors	B	\$ 112,000.00
H	Classroom Desktop Computers - Update	FC	\$ 50,000.00
H	iPad Replacement	C	\$ 72,500.00
I	Music Instruments	C	\$ 15,000.00
J	DW HVAC Equipment Replacement	B	\$ 50,000.00
J	SMS HVAC Replace RTU	B	\$ 20,764.00
J	DW Elementary Master Plan Space Assessment	FC	\$ 129,000.00
J	Cottage - Exterior Doors	B	\$ 88,975.00
J	Cottage - Floor Finishes, Carpet	B	\$ 165,786.00
J	Cottage - Wall Finish, Paint & Repair	FC	\$ 24,327.00
J	East, Heights Gym Ceiling Fans	B	\$ 163,935.00
J	Middle School Courtyard	B	\$ 57,200.00
K	DW Replacement Furniture - Classrooms	B	\$ 40,000.00
L	Special Education Vans	B	\$ 198,000.00
GRAND TOTAL			\$ 8,561,487.00
Town			\$ 6,134,000.00
School			\$ 1,527,487.00
Water			\$ 900,000.00
TOTAL			\$ 8,561,487.00

SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES:		
BORROW (NON-EXEMPT)	B	\$ 6,065,115.00
CASH CAPITAL	C	\$ 547,500.00
UNEXPENDED CAPITAL FUNDS	UC	\$ 770,545.00
WATER BORROW (NON-EXEMPT)	WB	\$ 900,000.00
FREE CASH	FC	\$ 278,327.00
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES		\$ 8,561,487.00

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**A – RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Recreation Department is requesting \$1,700,000 for the reconstruction of tennis and basketball courts at Deborah Sampson Park. \$929,455 to be financed by General Fund borrowing and \$770,545 from unexpended capital. Unexpended capital (“UC”) is “leftover” capital from previously approved projects that came in under budget.

The tennis courts are in poor condition with large cracks. The Recreation Department recommended rebuilding them with post tension concrete because it reduces or eliminates shrinkage cracking. Post-tensioned concrete is stronger and more flexible than conventional steel-reinforced concrete because it requires fewer joints and cracks that do form are held tightly together. The use of conventional steel-reinforced concrete was evaluated and discussed as a cheaper alternative. That option would reduce project costs by about \$470,000. However, the estimated lifetime use of conventional steel-reinforced concrete is 12 – 15 years while the expected lifetime use for post tension concrete is about 25 years. After comparing the two options with annualized costs of about \$68,000 (\$1,700,000/25 years) versus \$82,000 – \$102,500 (\$1,230,000/15 and 12 years), the Finance Committee agrees with the COC that although the post tension concrete option requires a larger initial cost, the significantly higher return on investment is a sound fiscal decision and benefit to the Town.

B, C, D – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**B. Purchase of operations equipment by the Department of Public Works (DPW)**

The Department of Public Works is requesting \$430,000 towards the purchase of new vehicles and equipment, to be generated by General Fund Borrowing.

- Foreman’s Truck - Operations Division. \$110,000. This will replace the last of the aging supervisor’s trucks, present #6, a 2010 Ford F-350 with 141,500 miles that has had \$6,150 worth of repairs during the past year (not including labor). This vehicle is a front-line vehicle used by the Operations and Forestry and Grounds Divisions for all construction activities throughout Town.
- Small Dump/Plow (2) – Operations. \$220,000, to replace #10, a 2008 Ford F550 with roughly 93,000 miles that has had approximately \$19,250 of repair work done in house over the past year (not including labor) and #74, a 2006 Ford F550 with roughly 123,000 miles that has had approximately \$8,150 of repair work in house (not including labor) done over the past year plus another \$8,750 in repair done at Rodman Ford. These trucks are used as front-line vehicles by the Operations and Forestry and Grounds Division for all construction activities throughout Town and for all plowing and sanding.
- Aerator – Forestry and Grounds. \$40,000, to replace the current 2008 walk behind unit.
- Transit Van – Facilities \$60,000, to be used by Facilities Division electrical for streetlight and other electrical repairs Town-wide.

C. Facility Improvements/Renovations by the Department of Public Works

The DPW is requesting a total of \$169,000 towards facility improvements and renovations, to be generated by General Fund borrowing.

- Community Center Hearing Room Furniture - \$30,000 –12 folding tables and 50 rolling chairs, similar to what is in the Public Safety training room, for use in training and professional development programs.
- Community Center Hearing Room AV - \$13,000 – AV equipment for hearing room to setup similar to a classroom setting. Includes monitor, speakers and supporting AV equipment.

- Community Center Snow Removal Equipment - \$40,000– purchase of stand on snow machine at Community Center to replace walk behind snow blower.
- Community Center 20'x10' Storage Building - \$23,000 – Replacing shed at Community Center with units similar to DPW purchase last. Allows for indoor shed storage for snow removal equipment and other hand machinery and tools.
- Community Center Floor Scrubber - \$8,000 – Replacing floor scrubber at Community Center to replace 15-year-old equipment.
- Community Center Banquet chairs - \$10,000 – Replacing 180 banquet chairs for the Community Center. Existing chairs are worn out and 15 years old.
- Public Safety Building Garage Door Safety - \$45,000 – Installing new safety curtains for Fire Department apparatus bay. Improves safety of garage doors and accidental damage by users.

D. Resurfacing of public ways and reconstruction of sidewalks by the Department of Public Works

DPW is requesting a total of \$1,540,000 towards the resurfacing & construction of roadways and sidewalks to be generated by General Fund borrowing.

The following roadways are expected to be resurfaced:

- Walnut Street, South Main to Chestnut, 1200', \$100,000
- Ridge Road, Walnut to Valley, 500', \$55,000
- Valley Road, Edgewood to Sylvan, 625', \$70,000
- Edgewood Road, Walnut to Pleasant, 825', \$85,000
- Sylvan Road, Valley to Oakland, 425', \$50,000
- South Pleasant Street, Walnut to end (south), 1315', \$100,000
- Oakland Road, South Main to end, 1145', \$90,000
- Black Elk Road, Wolomolopoag to end, \$100,000
- Lakeview Street new sidewalk/road construction – East Foxboro to Sturges: \$155,000; Sturges to Camp Everwood (south property line): \$735,000

Chapter 90 Projects

Chapter 90 is a state program that entitles cities and towns to receive 100% reimbursements on approved projects from the state. The program is funded by the gas tax. **Because Chapter 90 funds are State funds, these projects and funds do not require Town Meeting approval. Each Chapter 90 request gets individually approved by the State Department of Transportation (DOT). The following update is provided for information purposes only.**

DPW is proposing to expend a total of \$780,000 to be received from Chapter 90 funds towards eligible infrastructure projects.

It is anticipated that the following roads and sidewalks will be repaired, reconstructed, or resurfaced with Chapter 90 proceeds:

- * Pheasant Wood Road, Beaver Brook Road to end, 2100', \$185,000;
- * Juniper Road, Cul de sac to Aspen, 1500', \$105,000;
- * Terrapin Lane sidewalk, Norwood to end, 2000', \$230,000;
- * Salamander Way sidewalk, Terrapin to end, 1200', \$140,000;
- * Knight Road sidewalk, Castle to end, 1000', \$120,000.

E – WATER DEPARTMENT

The Water Department is requesting a total of \$900,000 to be generated by borrowing. Debt service for this project is paid from the Water Enterprise Fund, the source of which are payments for water use and the capital fee.

- \$900,000 towards phase 1 of 4 to replace water mains in the Cottage Street/Woodland Street area. The DPW Water Department upgrades certain water mains around town on a yearly basis to keep up with maintenance needs.

F – FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department requests \$2,100,000, generated by General Fund borrowing, to purchase two new fire trucks that will replace a 32-year-old fire truck and a 14-year-old firetruck.

The 1992 fire truck to be replaced lacks current safety features. Its replacement is part of the routine vehicle replacement program of the Town.

The 2010 fire truck replacement is ahead of its routine replacement schedule, but it has structural damage and is incurring significant repair costs. Due to repair issues, the Sharon Fire Department has recently needed to borrow a fire truck from a neighboring town for an extended period of time. Given the poor overall condition of the truck, replacement is advisable. Because of supply chain issues and shortages, the current build time for a new fire truck is 36 to 40 months. Delaying this purchase could lead to longer delays in obtaining replacements, potentially impacting the ability to provide effective services. Additionally, costs to acquire a truck have increased 33% increase since 2021. Further delay would likely result in significantly higher costs. By appropriating the money now, the Town can lock in current pricing but will only borrow the money when the truck becomes available, which is expected to be in about three years.

The Town has the opportunity to apply for a grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to help fund the replacement of the older engine. In addition, there is the potential for reductions through grant funding and the use of environmentally friendly equipment, which may lower the final cost to replace the two engines below \$2,100,000.

G – POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is requesting \$195,000 in cash from the General Fund to be raised and appropriated for the purchase of three Police Cruisers as part of an annual replacement program. The cost per vehicle (\$65,000) includes the expense to modify the vehicles to make them suitable for police use.

H, I, J, K, L – SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The School Department is requesting \$1,527,397 with \$896,660 to be generated by General Fund borrowing, \$352,500 by cash from the General Fund, and \$278,327 from Free Cash (Free Cash can be best described as the Town's Financial Reserve Fund). Most of the requests are routine replacements/upgrades of existing equipment and facilities.

Project	Budget Source	Amount
Districtwide – Wireless Access Points	Cash	\$25,000
Districtwide – 300 Chromebooks 1:1 program	Cash	\$240,000
Districtwide – Small tech replacement for teachers	Free Cash	\$75,000
Districtwide – Projectors/monitors	General Fund Borrowing	\$112,000

Districtwide – Desktop computers – update	Free Cash	\$50,000
Districtwide – iPad replacement	Cash	\$72,500
Districtwide – Music Instruments	Cash	\$15,000
Districtwide – HVAC Equipment Replacement	General Fund Borrowing	\$50,000
SMS – HVAC Replace RTU	General Fund Borrowing	\$20,764
Districtwide – Elementary Master Plan Space Assessment	Free Cash	\$129,000
Cottage – Exterior Doors	General Fund Borrowing	\$88,975
Cottage – Floor Finishes & Carpets	General Fund Borrowing	\$165,786
Cottage – Wall Finish, Paint & Repair	Free Cash	\$24,327
East & Heights – Gym Ceiling Fans	General Fund Borrowing	\$163,935
SMS – Courtyard redesign & plantings	General Fund Borrowing	\$57,200
Districtwide –Replacement Furniture & Furnishings	General Fund Borrowing	\$40,000
Districtwide – Replacement Vans for Special Education Fleet (2)	General Fund Borrowing	\$198,000
Total		\$1,527,487

H. School Department IT/Technology – \$574,500

All of the following requests are part of the School Department’s routine replacement of its IT/Technology Equipment.

- \$25,000 from General Fund borrowing to purchase additional wireless access points in the schools, needed due to increased device usage generated by the one-to-one program. The purchase will facilitate faster and more reliable wireless access for students and staff. This is a continuation of a multi-year project approved and funded by recent Town Meetings.
- \$240,000 in cash from the General Fund to purchase 600 Chromebooks for the one-to-one program, 200 Elementary Chromebooks, and two Carts. This is the tenth year of this program that provides all students in grades 8-12 with a school-issued laptop. Chromebooks are an integral instructional element of the curriculum, much like textbooks.
- \$75,000 in free cash towards replacement of small technology equipment (laptops) for teachers.
- \$112,000 from General Fund borrowing to purchase new projectors. There are approximately 250 projectors district wide. Annual technology replacement for projectors is beginning to be cycled rather than replaced in the aggregate every few years. This year’s request will cover the replacement of approximately 40 projectors.
- \$50,000 in free cash to replace desktop computers. It is the goal of the School Department to replace 20 percent of all computer devices every year, as opposed to replacing all devices all at once every few years. This year’s requests are in line with that goal.
- \$72,500 in cash from the General Fund towards iPad replacement, of which \$45,000 at the elementary schools and \$27,500 towards special education iPads and communication equipment (all are part of the School Department’s objective to replace 20% of all computer devices each year).

I. Purchase of Musical Instruments – \$15,000

- \$15,000 in cash to purchase new musical instruments.

J. School Department Facilities & Facilities Related Equipment – \$739,987

Except for the Elementary Schools (Facilities) Master Plan, all the following projects are part of the School Department's routine maintenance of its buildings and equipment. The Elementary Schools (Facilities) Master Plan will assist the School Administration in its planning to address current and future space needs.

- \$50,000 from General Fund borrowing to replace districtwide HVAC equipment.
- \$20,764 from General Fund borrowing towards Sharon Middle School HVAC replacement.
- \$129,000 from Free Cash for district wide Elementary Master Plan Space Assessment. The Elementary Master Plan is in the final stages of completion and includes recommendations for space reconfiguration to gain much needed classroom space. The School Department is requesting funding in FY 2025 for design costs and anticipates requesting funds for construction costs in FY 2026.
- \$88,975 from General Fund borrowing to replace exterior doors at Cottage Elementary School which, due to damage and malfunctioning hardware have reached the end of their useful life.
- \$165,786 from General Fund borrowing to replace floor finishes and carpets at Cottage Elementary School.
- \$24,327 in Free Cash towards wall finish, paint and repair at Cottage Elementary School.
- \$163,935 from General Fund borrowing towards the installation of gym ceiling fans (Cottage Elementary School already has them).
- \$57,200 from General Fund borrowing towards refurbishment of the Sharon Middle School Courtyard.
- \$40,000 from General Fund borrowing towards districtwide furniture and furniture replacement. This request is part of the standard cycle of replacing old furniture.

L. School Department Vehicles/Transportation – \$198,000

- \$198,000 from General Fund borrowing towards replacement of two (2) of the fleet of 35 Special Education vehicles.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: 2/3 vote, except majority vote for 9G and 9I and the three motions appropriating from Free Cash

MOTIONS:

[9A] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,700,000 for tennis and basketball court resurfacing for the Recreation Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$929,455 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7 with the remainder, \$770,545, to be expended from previously approved but unexpended capital funds.

[9B] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$430,000 for the purchase of operations equipment for the Department of Public Works; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$430,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

[9C] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$169,000 for facility renovations for the Department of Public Works; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$169,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

[9D] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,540,000 for the resurfacing of public ways and reconstruction of sidewalks for the Department of Public Works; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$1,540,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

[9E] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$900,000 for the replacement of water mains for the Water Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$900,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

[9F] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$2,100,000 for the purchase of fire engines for the Fire Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$2,100,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

[9G] That the Town raise from taxation the sum of \$195,000 for the purchase of vehicles for the Police Department.

[9H] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$574,500 for the purchase of technology and equipment for the School Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$112,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7, with \$337,500 to be raised from taxation, with the remainder, \$125,000, to be appropriated from Undesignated Fund Balance.

[9I] That the Town raise from taxation the sum of \$15,000 for the purchase of musical instruments for the School Department.

[9J] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$699,987 for the purchase of facilities and related equipment for the School Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$546,660 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7, with the remainder, \$153,327, to be appropriated from Undesignated Fund Balance.

[9K] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for classroom furniture for the School Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$40,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

[9L] That the Town appropriate the sum of \$198,000 for SPED vans for the School Department; and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is hereby authorized to borrow \$198,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7.

That the Town rescind the appropriation and borrowing authorization of \$225,000 voted under Article 15K of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for School Department technology equipment (the "Project") and that \$225,000 be appropriated from Undesignated Fund Balance for the Project.

That the Town rescind the appropriation and borrowing authorization of \$89,000 voted under Article 15M of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for School Department truck and snow removal equipment (the "Project") and that \$89,000 be appropriated from Undesignated Fund Balance for the Project.

That the Town rescind the appropriation and borrowing authorization of \$40,000 voted under Article 15N of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for School Department classroom furniture (the "Project") and that \$40,000 be appropriated from Undesignated Fund Balance for the Project.

Article 10: Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Sponsored by: Finance Committee

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, 2024; or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article will fund FY 2025 Town operations as detailed. The Finance Committee has a statutory obligation to review operating budgets for all Town departments and present recommendations to voters, for debate and approval at Town Meeting. The Town departments are grouped into three operating sectors: Select Board, School Department and Finance Committee. Each sector must develop budgets for their respective department operations in the months leading up to Town Meeting. As in recent years, this is an omnibus budget that combines all three sectors.

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 statutory responsibility of the Finance Committee is to recommend the amount to be spent. As noted in the Warrant Introduction, on February 12, 2024, Finance Director Krishan Gupta presented to the Priorities Committee a recommended allocation of 3.1227% increase over FY 2024, reflective of, at the time, the best estimates for local revenue, state aid, fixed costs, and property taxes inclusive of new growth and the Proposition 2 ½ increase. The Priorities Committee voted 6-0-0 to set the allocation to reflect the changes in revenue and non-discretionary expenses.

As noted in the Warrant introduction, the proposed FY 2025 budget for the Town of Sharon is \$108,925,542, a 5.52% increase over FY 2024. If approved, the Town operating budgets would increase by 3.22% in aggregate to \$72,145,024 (total budget less “non-discretionary”), comprised of the School Department budget of \$54,031,855, the Select Board sector budget of \$16,622,142, and the Finance Committee sector budget of \$1,491,027. The proposed FY 2025 budget also includes \$36,780,518 for the fixed/uncontrollable category (the “non-discretionary” items). Significant drivers in the non-discretionary category are health insurance for employees and retirees rising by 7%, the Town’s contribution to Norfolk County Retirement System up by 7.61%, and debt service up 11.25%. A more detailed summary of the components of the budget and the strategic planning process have been provided in the introduction of the Warrant.

SECTOR	FY 25	% Change	FY 24
Finance Committee	\$ 1,491,027	3.47%	\$ 1,441,000
Select Board	\$ 16,622,142	3.50%	\$ 16,059,752
School Department	\$ 54,031,855	3.12%	\$ 52,395,688
Non-Discretionary	\$ 36,780,518	10.36%	\$ 33,326,715
TOTAL	\$ 108,925,542	5.52%	\$ 103,223,155
3 Sectors>	\$ 72,145,024	3.22%	\$ 69,896,440
Non-Discretionary	\$ 36,780,518	10.36%	\$ 33,326,715
TOTAL	\$ 108,925,542	5.52%	\$ 103,223,155
Debt Service	\$ 14,097,897.00	11.25%	\$ 12,672,383.00
Fixed	29,206,769	8.13%	27,009,557
Spl Art	7,573,749	19.89%	6,317,158
Total Non-Discretionary Items	36,780,518	10.36%	33,326,715
Total Budget	108,925,542		103,223,155
3 Sectors	72,145,024		69,896,440
% Share 3 sectors	66.23%		67.71%
Non-Discretionary	36,780,518		33,326,715
% Share Non-Discretionary	33.77%		32.29%

The School Department represented by the Superintendent and School Committee Chair presented their budget proposal to the Finance Committee on March 11, 2024. The proposed budget meets the Priorities Committee recommended increase of 3.1227%. It contains a 5.52% increase related to personnel-related contractual commitments, an increase of \$169,105 for Special Education, an increase of 5.8 full-time special education employees as mandated by law, and the inclusion of one (1) full-time employee for 11th and 12th grade physical education (the school system was cited for not having this required position in place). To meet the Priorities Committee’s target, twelve (12) full-time positions were eliminated, fees for middle school and high school activities were increased, the fee to attend the Early Childhood Center was increased, the budget allocation for supplies and materials was cut, and fees for full-day kindergarten students were reinstated.

On March 25, 2024, the School Department returned to the Finance Committee to request an additional appropriation of \$365,000, from free cash, needed to fund major updates of curriculum materials for middle school and high school math and core elementary literacy. During FY 2025, they expect to finish piloting materials and make selections for purchase. The estimated costs for grades 6-12 mathematics and K-5 literacy curriculum programs range from \$468,000- \$518,000. The Superintendent stated that high estimates for the middle school and high school math curriculum program are \$127,000 and \$141,000 respectively for a total of \$268,000, and initial estimates for elementary literacy programs range from \$200,000-\$280,000. The requested supplemental appropriation would be applied to the final purchase cost. That cost is dependent on the program selected, further negotiations, and final quotes. The anticipated remaining balance of \$103,000-\$153,000 would be funded using existing budgeted textbook and materials line items from FY 2025 and FY 2026 budgets, as necessary.

The Select Board sector includes all general government departments except the Library and Town Clerk. Their proposed budget includes an estimated cost of living wage increase in FY 2025 for all labor contracts with additional steps as applicable. Step increases in settled collective bargaining agreements are 2%. Four (4) agreements expiring on June 30, 2024 with police officers, firefighters, and the association representing administrative support positions across various Town departments and offices are currently in negotiation.

Other items of note within this sector include: a decrease in the legal budget by \$25,000 to reflect less use of legal services; additional training of new police officers (due to retirements and resignations), three additional police officers which cost is offset by Federal funding for three new positions (this funding will gradually decrease over the next three years and must be absorbed in future budgets); an increase in hours to full-time for the Animal Control Officer position to address the mandated animal inspections shifted from local health departments with the additional salary partially offset by a reduction in expenses of part-time employees; and an increase in the building maintenance budget to reflect the increased cost of utilities and the assumption of utility costs for the library.

On March 25, 2024, with acknowledgement that each of the Town's three sectors worked diligently on their operating budgets to meet the target allocation amount voted by the Priorities Committee, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend the FY 2025 Budget, including the sector budgets, the non-discretionary budget expenses and the additional one-time appropriation to supplement funding for School Department curriculum needs.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTIONS: That the Town raise and appropriate for the various Town offices and for defraying charges and expenses of the Town, including debt principal and debt interest for fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$108,925,542 the various sums stated "Fiscal Year 2025" as shown on pages 23 through 24 of the Warrant, except Water Department and Cable Public Access.

That the Town defray said appropriations by transferring the following amounts from various accounts as follows: \$650,000 from the Ambulance Reserve Fund, \$1,136,957 from undesignated fund balance, and \$130,537 from the Community Education Revolving Fund.

That the Town raise and appropriate \$175,000 for EMS ambulance billing and supplies from the Ambulance Reserve Account.

That the Town raise and appropriate \$350,000 for the overlay reserve account.

That the Town appropriate the sum of \$6,175,581 for the Water Department budget to be raised from user fees, the sum of \$1,000,000 for PFAS water treatment contingency and the sum of \$500,000 from Water Retained Earnings for a Reserve Fund.

That the Town appropriate the sum of \$300,000 from cable subscriber franchise fees for the Cable Public Access Enterprise Fund.

Account	FY25 Approp.	% over FY24	FY24 Approp.	% over FY23	FY23 Approp.	% over FY22	FY22 Approp.	% over FY21
114 Moderator	\$ 50.00	0.00%	\$ 50.00	0.00%	\$ 50.00	0.00%	\$ 50.00	0.00%
131 Finance Committee	\$ 7,055.00	-17.53%	\$ 8,555.00	0.00%	\$ 8,555.00	-10.47%	\$ 9,555.00	-3.04%
152 Personnel Board	\$ 2,550.00	-19.05%	\$ 3,150.00	0.00%	\$ 3,150.00	0.00%	\$ 3,150.00	0.00%
161 Town Clerk	\$ 188,704.00	8.75%	\$ 173,520.00	5.10%	\$ 165,103.00	4.92%	\$ 157,365.00	-0.36%
610 Library	\$ 1,292,668.00	2.94%	\$ 1,255,725.00	5.72%	\$ 1,187,819.00	3.21%	\$ 1,150,843.00	1.12%
Total Fin. Com. Budgets	\$ 1,491,027.00	3.47%	\$ 1,441,000.00	5.59%	\$ 1,364,677.00	3.31%	\$ 1,320,963.00	0.91%
122 Select Board	\$ 531,278.00	1.27%	\$ 524,619.00	13.03%	\$ 464,139.00	5.31%	\$ 440,735.00	5.68%
135 Accountant	\$ 303,709.00	3.40%	\$ 293,716.00	6.27%	\$ 276,391.00	0.72%	\$ 274,410.00	1.16%
141 Board of Assessors	\$ 239,189.00	3.11%	\$ 231,974.00	5.29%	\$ 220,324.00	-0.78%	\$ 222,062.00	2.19%
145 Treasurer	\$ 375,009.00	4.41%	\$ 359,167.00	7.65%	\$ 333,640.00	-0.74%	\$ 336,125.00	6.30%
151 Law	\$ 150,000.00	-14.29%	\$ 175,000.00	2.94%	\$ 170,000.00	7.59%	\$ 158,000.00	14.91%
155 Information Technology	\$ 415,700.00	1.41%	\$ 409,928.00	9.95%	\$ 372,830.00	7.41%	\$ 347,096.00	3.45%
162 Elections & Registrations	\$ 219,544.00	-3.28%	\$ 226,996.00	14.78%	\$ 197,763.00	57.08%	\$ 125,902.00	-21.97%
171 Conservation Commission	\$ 152,077.00	2.56%	\$ 148,280.00	13.72%	\$ 130,389.00	-13.36%	\$ 150,488.00	40.96%
172 Lake Management	\$ 49,480.00	9.96%	\$ 45,000.00	200.00%	\$ 15,000.00	114.29%	\$ 7,000.00	7.69%
175 Planning Board	\$ 49,714.00	-16.75%	\$ 59,714.00	30.88%	\$ 45,625.00	28.43%	\$ 35,525.00	39.18%
176 Board of Appeals	\$ 35,050.00	25.18%	\$ 28,000.00	7.69%	\$ 26,000.00	2.77%	\$ 25,300.00	11.45%
195 Town Report	\$ 18,375.00	0.00%	\$ 18,375.00	0.00%	\$ 18,375.00	0.27%	\$ 18,325.00	-0.27%
210 Police	\$ 4,191,390.00	3.51%	\$ 4,049,355.00	2.30%	\$ 3,958,257.00	3.53%	\$ 3,823,200.00	0.56%
220 Fire/Ambulance	\$ 4,494,605.00	5.70%	\$ 4,252,329.00	5.78%	\$ 4,020,137.00	4.17%	\$ 3,859,102.00	4.00%
244 Weights & Measures	\$ 6,660.00	4.50%	\$ 6,373.00	15.56%	\$ 5,515.00	2.68%	\$ 5,371.00	1.30%
249 Animal Inspector	\$ 4,885.00	1.96%	\$ 4,791.00	1.94%	\$ 4,700.00	2.96%	\$ 4,565.00	1.51%
291 Civil Defense	\$ 16,100.00	0.00%	\$ 16,100.00	0.00%	\$ 16,100.00	0.00%	\$ 16,100.00	40.00%
292 Animal Control Officer	\$ 102,776.00	14.65%	\$ 89,643.00	-1.01%	\$ 90,559.00	9.06%	\$ 83,037.00	2.31%
400 Dept. of Public Works	\$ 4,346,871.00	2.41%	\$ 4,244,633.00	3.04%	\$ 4,119,555.00	2.13%	\$ 4,033,693.00	2.40%
510 Board of Health - Services & Admin	\$ 216,526.00	12.29%	\$ 192,823.00	3.51%	\$ 186,282.00	-1.52%	\$ 189,156.00	13.10%
541 Council on Aging	\$ 291,389.00	4.53%	\$ 278,760.00	-7.33%	\$ 300,807.00	4.00%	\$ 289,239.00	2.43%
543 Veterans Agent	\$ 63,066.00	-9.12%	\$ 69,395.00	24.17%	\$ 55,885.00	-41.02%	\$ 94,748.00	0.34%
544 Veterans Graves	\$ 8,000.00	0.00%	\$ 8,000.00	35.59%	\$ 5,900.00	0.00%	\$ 5,900.00	9.26%
545 Commission on Disability	\$ 500.00	0.00%	\$ 500.00	0.00%	\$ 500.00	0.00%	\$ 500.00	0.00%
630 Recreation	\$ 330,369.00	4.35%	\$ 316,601.00	6.25%	\$ 297,965.00	7.94%	\$ 276,045.00	0.16%
691 Historical Commission	\$ 1,380.00	0.00%	\$ 1,380.00	0.00%	\$ 1,380.00	0.00%	\$ 1,380.00	0.00%
692 Community Celebrations	\$ 8,500.00	2.41%	\$ 8,300.00	13.70%	\$ 7,300.00	0.00%	\$ 7,300.00	0.00%
Total Select Board Budgets	\$ 16,622,142.00	3.50%	\$ 16,059,752.00	4.68%	\$ 15,341,318.00	3.45%	\$ 14,830,304.00	2.82%

Account	FY25 Approp.	% over FY24	FY24 Approp.	% over FY23	FY23 Approp.	% over FY22	FY22 Approp.	% over FY21
310 School Department	\$ 54,031,855.00	3.12%	\$ 52,395,688.00	5.83%	\$ 49,511,050.00	4.10%	\$ 47,559,430.00	2.87%
Total School Department	\$ 54,031,855.00	3.12%	\$ 52,395,688.00	5.83%	\$ 49,511,050.00	4.10%	\$ 47,559,430.00	2.87%
320 Voc Tech School/SER	\$ 396,403.00	15.71%	\$ 342,573.00	7.28%	\$ 319,329.00	33.35%	\$ 239,465.00	37.06%
321 Voc Tuition/Norfolk Ag. Tuition	\$ 40,563.00	88.14%	\$ 21,560.00	-27.43%	\$ 29,708.00	147.57%	\$ 12,000.00	0.00%
9299 ARC of South Norfolk	\$ 9,916.00	0.00%	\$ 9,916.00	0.00%	\$ 9,916.00	0.00%	\$ 9,916.00	0.00%
132 Reserve Fund	\$ 500,000.00	0.00%	\$ 500,000.00	0.00%	\$ 500,000.00	-37.50%	\$ 800,000.00	60.00%
490 Street Lighting	\$ 166,000.00	-26.07%	\$ 224,525.00	-3.66%	\$ 233,048.00	20.72%	\$ 193,048.00	-11.06%
Board of Health -								
511 Waste Removal	\$ 152,500.00	29.24%	\$ 118,000.00	0.00%	\$ 118,000.00	0.00%	\$ 118,000.00	6.79%
694 Marijuana Mitigation	\$ 45,000.00	0.00%	\$ 45,000.00	0.00%	\$ 45,000.00	0.00%	\$ 45,000.00	
710 Debt: Principal	\$ 9,409,570.00	17.78%	\$ 7,989,264.00	19.61%	\$ 6,679,463.00	1.57%	\$ 6,576,300.00	-1.39%
751 Debt Long term: Interest	\$ 4,688,327.00	0.11%	\$ 4,683,119.00	-3.57%	\$ 4,856,722.00	1.40%	\$ 4,789,799.00	-0.77%
914 FICA: Medicare	\$ 840,000.00	2.44%	\$ 820,000.00	5.13%	\$ 780,000.00	0.00%	\$ 780,000.00	0.00%
915 FICA: Social Security	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%	\$ 5,000.00	-50.00%	\$ 10,000.00	0.00%	\$ 10,000.00	0.00%
920 Insurance	\$ 12,953,490.00	5.74%	\$ 12,250,600.00	6.61%	\$ 11,490,620.00	3.99%	\$ 11,049,975.00	10.11%
Cash Capital								
SPL01 (Already Voted in Article #9)	\$ 547,500.00	-23.43%	\$ 715,000.00	9.66%	\$ 652,021.00	13.96%	\$ 572,152.00	120.06%
SPL02 Norfolk Retirement	\$ 5,119,292.00	7.61%	\$ 4,757,158.00	4.38%	\$ 4,557,671.00	7.33%	\$ 4,246,399.00	3.90%
SPL03 Unemployment	\$ 75,000.00	0.00%	\$ 75,000.00	0.00%	\$ 75,000.00	-75.00%	\$ 300,000.00	300.00%
SPL04 OPEB Trust	\$ 550,000.00	0.00%	\$ 550,000.00	10.00%	\$ 500,000.00	25.00%	\$ 400,000.00	14.29%
SPL05 Prop. Valuation Svcs	\$ 70,000.00	7.69%	\$ 65,000.00	8.33%	\$ 60,000.00	20.00%	\$ 50,000.00	-9.09%
SPL06 Audit services	\$ 70,000.00	0.00%	\$ 70,000.00	4.48%	\$ 67,000.00	13.56%	\$ 59,000.00	0.00%
SPL07 Local Arts Council	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%	\$ 5,000.00					
SPL08 Opioid Abatement	\$ 139,630.00	74.54%	\$ 80,000.00					
FY 25 Capital								
SPL09 (Already Voted in Article #9)	\$ 278,327.00							
FY 24 Capital								
SPL10 (Already Voted in Article #9)	\$ 354,000.00							
SPL11 School Curriculum	\$ 365,000.00							
Total Non-Discretionary Items	\$ 36,780,518.00	10.36%	\$ 33,326,715.00	7.56%	\$ 30,983,498.00	2.42%	\$ 30,251,054.00	7.15%
Town Total	\$ 108,925,542.00	5.52%	\$ 103,223,155.00	6.20%	\$ 97,200,543.00	3.45%	\$ 93,961,751.00	4.17%
Total GF Budgets	\$ 72,145,024.00	3.22%	\$ 69,896,440.00	5.56%	\$ 66,217,045.00	3.93%	\$ 63,710,697.00	2.81%
Less Non-Discretionary								
450 Water Department	\$ 6,175,581.00	1.48%	\$ 6,085,309.00	11.30%	\$ 5,467,369.00	17.93%	\$ 4,636,146.00	9.90%
Water Dept - PFAS Contingency	\$ 1,000,000.00							
Water Dept.- Reserve	\$500,000.00	42.86%	\$350,000.00	75.00%	\$200,000.00	0.00%	\$200,000.00	0.00%
Total Water Department	\$ 7,675,581.00	19.27%	\$ 6,435,309.00	13.55%	\$ 5,667,369.00	17.19%	\$ 4,836,146.00	9.46%
PEG Access (cable) Enterprise Fund	\$ 300,000.00	0.00%	\$ 300,000.00	-11.76%	\$ 340,000.00	0.00%	\$ 340,000.00	0.00%

Article 11: Community Preservation Act Annual Funding and Projects

Sponsored by: Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee and to spend or set aside sums of money for administrative costs, open space, historic resources, and community housing, or take any other action relative thereto.

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

Purpose	Recommended Amount	Funding Source
Budget – Salaries	\$5,000	FY 2025 Annual Estimated Revenues
Budget – Expenses	\$15,000	FY 2025 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 2025 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.)

DEBT SERVICE:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$350,700 for Rattlesnake Hill (Open Space) project debt service from FY 2025 Annual Estimated Revenues (225,000 Principal + \$125,700 Interest).

RESERVES:

Purpose	Recommended Amount	Funding Source
Historic Preservation – Reservation	\$87,000	FY 2025 Annual Estimated Revenues
Community Housing –Reservation	\$87,000	FY 2025 Annual Estimated Revenues

PROJECTS:

Project	Category	Amount	Funding Source	Description
Community Garden relocation and athletic field feasibility study + plan	Open Space/ Recreation	\$75,800	Fund Balance Undesignated	Project would study moving the Community Gardens to a new location and utilize the garden space for athletic facilities, including a multi-purpose playing field.
Lake Massapoag weed & bacteria hazard mitigation	Open Space/ Recreation	\$525,000	Fund Balance Undesignated	Project includes mitigation treatments to support the health and sustainability of the lake. This is a third phase with mitigation actions, which builds upon monitoring and testing funded in prior years (\$24,500 and \$80,000).

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this Article would appropriate and reserve the sum of \$1,145,500 from the Town of Sharon's Community Preservation Fund ("CPF") as shown above.

The Community Preservation Act ("CPA") requires that annually the Town reserve or appropriate 10% of its revenues for each of the prescribed categories: Open Space (including Recreation), Historic Preservation, and Affordable Housing. The balance goes into Undesignated Funds. Those funds can then be applied to any of the designated categories. Total CPA fund revenue for FY 2025 is estimated at \$870,000, including the estimated state match.

The \$774,800 for appropriation/reservations, \$350,700 for debt servicing, and the \$20,000 for administrative expenses represent the allocations described in the above chart. Any unused amount from administrative expenses is returned to the undesignated fund balance and available for future project requests.

There were extensive discussions among the members of the Community Preservation Committee ("CPC") regarding this year's requests, which they considered particularly expensive projects. Some members expressed concern and a desire that sufficient funds remain available for unforeseen valuable projects that might be submitted in future years. This concern is elevated due to the annual expense committed to the debt servicing for the Rattlesnake Hill acquisition. Other members recognize that CPA taxes have already been collected and there are other sources of funds if qualifying projects proposed in future years if there are insufficient available CPA balances. With regard to the Lake Massapoag mitigation project, some CPC members expressed concern for use of CPA funds for long-term mitigation of bacteria hazards and believe the Town should develop a funding strategy for future mitigation efforts beyond the expected 8-10 lifespan of the funded project.

Members of the Finance Committee expressed disappointment that the CPC had not provided funding to cover the difference between a lower quality asphalt base and a concrete base for rehabilitation of tennis courts, as approved and recommended by the Capital Outlay Committee. Funding by the CPC would have offset part of the larger project to rehabilitate the tennis courts. The monies provided by CPC would have allowed for a reduction of \$500,000 in borrowing, saving the Town more than \$150,000 in borrowing costs over the term of the bond.

The CPC voted in favor of approval as recorded in the chart below:

Project	Votes		
	For	Against	Abstain
Administrative Expenses - \$20,000	6	0	0
Deb Service Rattlesnake Hill Acquisition - \$350,700	6	0	0
Lake Massapoag weed and bacteria hazard mitigations - \$525,000	6	0	0
Recreation Department: Community Garden Relocation and Athletic Field Feasibility Study - \$75,800	6	0	0

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTIONS: That the Town hear and act upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee as follows: By raising and appropriating the sum of \$20,000 of the Town’s portion of the expected Fiscal Year 2025 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. Chapter 44B, § 6 and amendments thereof; authorize the Community Preservation appropriate and/or reserve from Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation Fund Estimated Revenues the following: \$350,700 for Open Space/Recreation debt service, \$87,000 for Historic Preservation – Reservation and \$87,000 for Community Housing – Reservation.

That the following amounts be appropriated from Community Preservation Fund Balances, with each item considered a separate appropriation: \$75,800 from Fund Balance Undesignated for a feasibility study to relocate community gardens and plan for athletic fields; and \$525,000 from Fund Balance Undesignated for Lake Massapoag weed and bacteria hazard mitigation.

Article 12: Amend General By-Law to codify role and authority of Moderator

Sponsored by: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to insert a new section into Chapter 49 of its By-Laws as follows:

§49-9 Moderator.

- A. The Town Moderator shall be nominated and elected by the voters for a term of three (3) years. If the office of the moderator becomes vacant, or if the moderator is absent, the Select Board shall appoint an Acting Moderator for a particular meeting or to serve until the next regular election of town officers.
- B. The primary duty of the Town Moderator is to preside over Town Meetings. The Town Moderator shall have all the powers and duties given to moderators under the constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth and such additional powers and duties as may be authorized by by-law or by other Town Meeting vote.
- C. The Town Moderator shall not hold any other elected or appointed office in the Town of Sharon or be employed by the Town of Sharon. Elected officeholders shall be permitted to run for election for the position of Town Moderator if the term of their elected office is scheduled to expire at the same time as the term of the then-serving Town Moderator, so long as they do not seek re-election for their then-held elected office.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, action under this Article would codify the role and powers of the Town Moderator. As part of the review and update of Town By-Laws by the Governance Study Committee (“GSC”), this new section will be added to identify the election and primary duties of the Town Moderator. Section A. would establish procedures for appointing an Acting Town Moderator in the event of a vacancy, or the absence of the Town Moderator at a particular Town Meeting. Section C. would clarify the issue of simultaneous office holding. The intent is to disallow the Town Moderator from holding any other Town office. At the time this warrant goes to print, we are awaiting the advice of Town Counsel who has contacted the Attorney General’s office on the legality and wording of this section to ensure it complies with state statutes.

Appointing authority powers of the Town Moderator for committee appointments for the Finance Committee Nominating Committee, Sharon Standing Building Committee, Community Preservation Committee and Personnel Board are not included within this new By-Law as they are part of other By-Laws or currently under review.

Pending clarification from Town Counsel, the Finance Committee recommends affirmative action. If substantive changes must be made prior to Town Meeting, the Finance Committee will consider and report them. If warranted, the committee may revise its current position on this article.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTION: That the Town insert a new section into Chapter 49 of its By-Laws exactly as printed on page 27 of the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, with the exception of the words “or take any other action relative thereto.”

Article 13: Amend Personnel By-Law to Reflect Changes in Law and Modernize Practices

Sponsored by: Personnel By-Law

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel By-Law of the Town of Sharon by striking it in its entirety and replacing it with Personnel By-Law, dated April 2, 2024, as on file with the Town Clerk and posted on the official website of the Town of Sharon.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, action under this Article would authorize the Town of Sharon to amend the Personnel By-Law updating its provisions to reflect changes in current law and best practices for the governance of all Town positions. There is an exception for elected officials and employees appointed by the School Committee, which by Massachusetts state law gives School Committees jurisdiction on human resource matters for its employees.

Since last July, the Personnel Board has been working collaboratively with the Town Administrator and the Town’s labor relations counsel to amend the By-Law, which had not been updated since the 1980’s. The objective was to reflect changes in both Federal and State laws and regulations and to modernize language to reflect human resources best practices. The Personnel Board then worked over the past three (3) months to clarify the roles, responsibilities, and relationships with the Select Board, Town Administrator, and staff.

Below is a summary of the important updates and revisions to the Personnel By-Law:

- Updates definitions, terminology, references to the Town Administrator (formerly Executive Secretary) and employment laws, as well as updating the text of the By-Law with gender neutral language;

- Eliminates outdated references to police, fire, crossing guards, civil service, and certain fringe benefit provisions now addressed by collective bargaining agreements and executive category employment agreements;
- Updates language to reflect changes in law and court decisions relative to conflicts of interest and disciplinary procedures;
- Updates list of holidays to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous People’s Day, as voted at the last Annual Town Meeting, and added Juneteenth to be consistent with the list of Federal and state holidays;
- Changes the method of appointment of the Human Resources Board from the Moderator to a three (3) member appointing authority consisting of the Moderator and the chair or designee of the Select Board and Human Resources Board, respectively, to increase transparency and accountability; and
- Clarified the executive positions that are subject to a hiring screening committee (comprised of a member of the Human Resources Board and up to four (4) additional committee members appointed by the appointing authority) to Town Administrator, Finance Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Superintendent of Public Works, Administrative Assessor, Council on Aging Director, Recreation Director, and Public Health Administrator.

The full text of the proposed revisions to the Personnel By-Law can be found at:

<https://www.townofsharon.net/town-clerk/pages/sharon-2024-annual-town-meeting>

On April 1, 2024, the Personnel Board held a public hearing, after which the Board voted to change the name of the Board to the Human Resources Board to better reflect its current role and modern nomenclature.

The Personnel Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of approval.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL

QUANTUM OF VOTE: **Majority vote**

MOTION: That the Town amend the Personnel By-Law of the Town of Sharon by striking it in its entirety and replacing it with “Personnel By-Law, dated April 2, 2024” exactly as printed on file with the Town Clerk.

Article 14: **Citizen Petition to Provide for Recall of Elected Officials**

Sponsored by: *Judith Schlossberg Crosby, 6 Condor Road, and 10 others*

To see if the Town of Sharon will vote to authorize the Select Board to submit to the General Court a special act providing for the recall of elected officials, all as set forth below; provided, however that the General Court may make clerical or editorial decisions of form only to such bill, and provided further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this article.

An Act Regarding the Recall of Elected Officers of the Town of Sharon

Holders of office may be recalled

Any holder of an elective office of the Town of Sharon may be recalled and removed from office by the qualified voters of the town as herein provided.

No fewer than twenty-five (25) registered voters of Sharon may initiate recall by filing with the town clerk an Affidavit of Intent to recall, signed under the penalties of perjury and including the place of residence of each signer with the street and number, containing the name of the officer and the office held whose recall is sought and a statement of the grounds of recall; provided however, that the vote of an elected official on a matter, other than in connection with a conflict-of-interest violation, shall not constitute valid grounds for recall; the voters themselves shall individually determine whether any other grounds listed for recall are sufficient.

Verification

Within two (2) business days of receipt of an Affidavit of Intent, the Town Clerk shall verify whether the petition contains the required number of signatures and whether the petition represents a valid ground for which to seek recall. The Town Clerk shall certify the names of voters of the town who signed the affidavit of intent to make sure the names of voters are valid.

Recall Petition

Upon certification by the Town Clerk of a sufficient number of signatures related to the Affidavit of Intent, the Town Clerk shall, within one business day, notify the primary petitioner, who shall be the voter first named on such notice of intent, that copies of blank petitions are available at the office of the Town Clerk. The blanks shall be issued by the Town Clerk with the Town Clerk's signature and official seal attached thereto.

The blanks shall be dated and addressed to the Select Board and shall contain the name of the person whose recall is sought, the office from which recall is sought and the grounds for recall as stated in the affidavit and shall demand the election of a successor to such office. The names of the first 10 signers of the affidavit of intent shall be listed above the voter signature lines and any instructions to signers. A copy of the petition with all required signers of the affidavit of intent shall be entered in a record book to be kept in the office of the Town Clerk.

Required number and filing of signatures

The recall petition shall be signed by not less than 5 per cent (5%) of the registered voters of the Town of Sharon as of the last annual town election and every signature shall include the place of residence of the signer with the street and number.

The recall petition shall be returned and filed with the Town Clerk and Board of Registrars not later than 5:00 P.M. thirty (30) calendar days following the date the clerk notifies the primary petitioner of the availability of the petition, or the next business day if the thirtieth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. The clerk shall notify the primary petitioner of the final date and hour for filing.

Within five (5) business days following the date of such filing, the Town Clerk and Board of Registrars shall certify in writing thereon the number of signatures that are names of registered voters in the town as of the date the affidavit was filed with the Town Clerk.

Recall elections

If the petition shall be found and certified by the Town Clerk to be sufficient, the Town Clerk shall submit the certified petition to the Select Board within one (1) business day from certification of sufficient signatures and the Select Board shall immediately, and in not more than 3 business days, give written notice of the receipt of the certificate to the elected officer whose recall is being sought.

If the officer sought to be recalled does not resign within three (3) business days thereafter, the Select Board shall, within five (5) additional business days, vote to order a recall election to be held not less than sixty-four (64) nor more than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the vote scheduling the election; provided, however, that if any other town election is to occur within one-hundred (100) calendar days after the date of the vote, the select board may, in its discretion, place the question of recall on the ballot at such other election. If a vacancy occurs in the office sought to be recalled after a recall election has been ordered, but not yet been conducted, the election shall nevertheless proceed as provided in this act.

Officer being recalled may be candidate

Any officer sought to be recalled may be a candidate to succeed themselves, and unless they request otherwise in writing, the Town Clerk shall place their name on the official ballot without nomination. The nomination of other candidates, the publication of the warrant for the recall election, and the conduct of the same shall be in accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections, unless otherwise provided in this By-Law.

Incumbent to continue duties until recalled

The incumbent shall continue to perform the duties of their office until the recall election. If then re-elected, they shall continue in office for the remainder of their unexpired term, subject to recall as before, except as provided in the paragraph titled "Limitation on Petitions". If not re-elected in the recall election, they shall be deemed removed upon the qualification of their successor, who shall hold office during the unexpired term. If the successor fails to qualify within seven business days after receiving notification of their election, the incumbent shall thereupon be deemed removed and the office vacant.

Form of ballots for recall

Ballots used in a recall election shall submit the following propositions in the order indicated:

For the recall of (name of officer).

Against the recall of (name of officer).

Under the proposition shall appear the word "Candidates" with directions to the voters as required by section 42 of chapter 54 of the General Laws. Beneath this, listed alphabetically, shall appear the names of the candidate(s) nominated as provided by law. If a majority of the votes cast on the recall question is in favor of the recall, the elected official shall be recalled and the ballots for the candidate shall be counted. The candidate who received the higher number of votes shall be elected

to the office. If a majority of the votes cast on the recall question is in the negative, the votes for candidates to fill the potential vacancy need not be counted.

Limitations on petitions

No recall petition shall be filed against an officer within six months after they take office or within the last six (6) months of their term, nor, in the case of an officer subjected to a recall election and not removed thereby, until at least six (6) months after that election.

Prohibition against appointment of recalled officer

No person who has been recalled from an office or who has resigned from office while recall proceedings were pending against them shall be appointed to any Town office within two (2) years after such removal by recall or resignation.

Effective date

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, action under this Article would authorize the Select Board to submit a request to the General Court for a special act that would provide for a process that any holder of an elective office in the Town of Sharon may be recalled and removed from office by the qualified voters of the Town.

In the summer of 2023, the Select Board tasked the Governance Study Committee (GSC) with finalizing the elements of a recall recommendation and present it to the Select Board by December 2023. A special act is required because state law does not provide for recall of elected officials absent a town charter containing such a provision. Citizen petitioners submitted a recall special act article in January 2024. As state law requires citizen petitions to be considered by Town Meeting, the Select Board, seeking to avoid confusion that would result from inclusion of competing articles in the Warrant, asked the GSC to meet with petitioners to see if differences between the two articles could resolved and a consensus presented to voters.

The citizen petition delineates the provisions of a special act including the following key points:

- The signatures of twenty-five (25) registered voters are needed to initiate a recall through a filing with the Town Clerk;
- Within two (2) business days of receipt, the Town Clerk shall verify petition has required signatures and represents valid ground for which to seek recall;
- Once signatures are verified, a recall petition signed by no less than 5% of registered voters of the Town as of last annual town election shall be submitted to the Town Clerk within thirty (30) calendar days;
 - Town Clerk and Board of Registrars shall certify the number of signatures within five (5) business days;
- When certified, the Town Clerk will submit the petition to Select Board within one (1) business day of certification, and will provide written notice to the elected officer whose recall is being sought;

- If the elected officer sought to be recalled does not resign within three (3) business days of notification, the Select Board, within five (5) business days, will vote to order a recall election to be held not less than sixty-four (64) days or more than ninety (90) days;
- Any elected officer sought to be recalled may be a candidate to succeed themselves, and incumbent will continue duties until recall election;
- No recall will be permitted for an elected officer within the first six months after taking office, or within the last six months of completing their term; and
- No person who has been recalled from an office or who has resigned from office while recall proceedings were pending against them shall be appointed to any Town office within two years after such removal by recall or resignation.

At the time of the printing of the Warrant, members of the GSC and lead petitioners were unable to reach consensus on certain elements of the recall process. Voters may anticipate amendments at Town Meeting to address the following key areas of disagreement:

- the number of signatures required to initiate recall
- a listing of specific grounds that would constitute the basis for recall (similar or identical to the list contained in Article 15 – removal of appointed officials)
- the number of signatures required to trigger a recall election

However, citizen petitioners anticipate agreeing to changes in procedural timelines in the administration of the recall process to be suggested by the Town Clerk. Any changes will be presented in the form of an amendment to the citizen petition at Annual Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee had an open discussion weighing the necessity of recall of elected officials and the differences between the citizen petition provisions and those espoused by members of the GSC. The Finance Committee agrees that providing for the possibility of recall of elected officials under specific circumstances should be enacted. However, the Committee is withholding a specific recommendation on the text of the special act pending circulation of potential changes to the citizen petition to be discussed with the Town Clerk.

On March 25, 2024, the Finance Committee voted unanimously (10-0-0) to indicate in the Warrant its strong support for the concept of recall embodied by the citizen petitioned article. The Finance Committee will announce its final recommendation at Town Meeting.

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

ANTICIPATED MOTION: That the Town authorize the Select Board to submit to the General Court a special act providing for the recall of elected officials; provided, however that the General Court may make clerical or editorial decisions of form only to such bill, and provided further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this article, exactly as printed on pages 29 through 32 of the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, with the exception of the words “or take any other action relative thereto.”

Article 15: Amend General By-Laws to Establish Procedure to Remove Appointed Officials

Sponsored by: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General By-Laws Part I: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 12: Boards, Commissions and Committees, by adding a new Article IX: Removal of Appointed Officials, as follows:

ARTICLE IX

Removal of Appointed Officials

§12-26 Eligibility and Potential Grounds for Removal

- A. Eligibility: Any person appointed to serve on a board, commission or committee in the Town of Sharon may be removed from office by the Select Board.
- B. Grounds: Removal may be initiated for any appointee to a board, commission, or committee in the Town of Sharon on any of the following grounds of malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, or other abuse of office:
 - 1) Conviction of a felony, or other serious crime involving moral turpitude.
 - 2) Failure to take the oath by swearing in with the Town Clerk within 30 days of notice of appointment.
 - 3) Unless having taken it prior to appointment, failure to take the Massachusetts Ethics Training Course within 30 days of notice of appointment.
 - 4) The finding of an intentional violation of the responsibilities described in the oath and ethics training course described above.
 - 5) A poor attendance record that impairs the ability of the board, commission, or committee to function.

A member's opinions or votes on any subject within the public body's jurisdiction cannot constitute grounds for removal, as members of boards, commissions and committees should be able to make decisions within their authority without fear of removal. An exception may be made if an official's vote or actions are found to be an intentional violation of the conflict of interest law as set forth in M.G.L. c. 268A or an ethics violation as described in 930 C.M.R. 1.00 – 7.00.

§12-27 Process for Removal

- A. Initiation of a removal: The removal process shall be initiated by the appointing authority, or the board, commission, or committee for whom the appointee serves if a majority of the members of the board, commission, or committee agree that there are sufficient grounds to warrant the removal of the appointed board, commission or committee member. A formal vote on removal will be taken during the board, commission, or committee meeting. The appointing authority or the board, commission or committee commission Chair shall then notify the Select Board of this request, providing the name of the member, the office held, the statement of the grounds for removal, and the results of the board, commission or committee's formal vote on the removal.
- B. Verification: The Select Board shall contact the appointed member whose removal is being considered to determine if there are any extenuating circumstances and the Select Board will:
 - 1) Contact the board, commission, or committee Chair or members with further questions or if any further clarification is needed.

- 2) Proceed with the removal if the grounds that warrant the removal are clear and no further discussion is required.
- C. Removal: An appointed member of a board, commission, or committee may be removed by a majority vote of the Select Board. Once the Select Board's vote to remove a member is final, the Select Board shall formally notify the member of the vote in writing and provide a copy of that vote to the Town Clerk. The board, commission, or committee Chair as well as the board, commission, or committee members will be notified of the vote. The Town website as well as the Town records will be updated to reflect that the member is no longer part of the board, commission, or committee.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, action under this Article would amend the By-Laws to provide a procedure for removing members of boards, committees and commissions. During discussions by the Finance Committee, it was pointed out that the Finance Committee, itself, may not be captured within the By-Law due to the nature of the appointment process (the Finance Committee members are nominated by a committee appointed by the Moderator then elected at Annual Town Meeting rather than the ballot). The Finance Committee encourages further discussion to include removal of Finance Committee members in either recall or removal processes, appropriate, should either Article 14 and 15 be approved by this Annual Town Meeting.

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

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 10-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: **Majority vote**

MOTION: That the Town amend its General By-Laws Part I: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 12: Boards, Commissions and Committees, by adding a new Article IX: Removal of Appointed Officials, exactly as printed on pages 34 through 35 of the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, with the exception of the words "or take any other action relative thereto."

Article 16: **Accept MGL c. 64G, sec. 3D (a) and (b) to Validate Community Impact Fee in Short-Term Rental Zoning By-Law**

Sponsored by: *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 64G, §3D(a) of the Massachusetts General Laws, which reads as follows:

- (a) A city or town that accepts section 3A may, by a separate vote and in the same manner of acceptance as set forth in said section 3A, impose a community impact fee of not more than 3 per cent of the total amount of rent upon each transfer of occupancy of a professionally managed unit that is located within that city or town;

And to set the rate of said community impact fee at 3 percent.

And, further, if the Town has voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 64G, §3D(a), to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 64G, §3D(b), which reads as follows:

(b) A city or town that votes to impose a community impact fee under subsection (a) may, by a separate additional vote and in the same manner of acceptance as set forth in section 3A, also impose the community impact fee upon each transfer of occupancy of a short-term rental unit that is located within a two-family or three-family dwelling that includes the operator's primary residence.

And to set the rate of said community impact fee at 3 percent.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, voters approved an article to amend the Zoning By-Laws to add a new section relating to registration and regulations of short-term rental units. Subsequent Attorney General review found the Town had not formally accepted two sub-sections of state law required to implement community impact fees. An affirmative vote under this Article would: a) authorize the Town to impose a community impact surcharge on professionally managed short-term rental units under provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, §3D(a) and (b) impose a community impact fee of 3% on the amount of total rent collected by short-term rental units operating in two or three family houses under provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 64G, §3D(b).

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

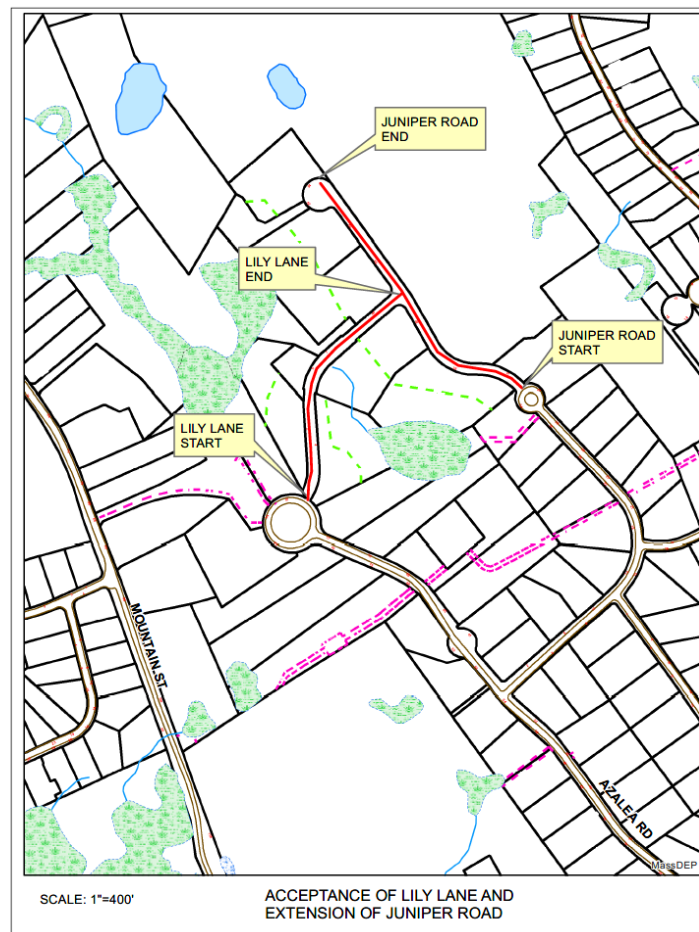
THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED 8-0-0 IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: **Majority vote**

Article 17: **Accept Lily Lane and Juniper Road as Public Ways**

Sponsored by: *Select Board*

To see if the Town of Sharon will vote to accept the roads known as Lily Lane and an extension to Juniper Road (being that portion of Juniper Road commencing where the public way currently ends and running north thereof until its terminus) as public ways, and any appurtenant easements thereto, as laid out and generally shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan for Diamond Residences", dated November 1, 2017, prepared by Strongpoint Engineering Solutions, LLC and recorded with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 667, Pages 1-6, and on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to acquire by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in said Lily Lane and said extension to Juniper Road for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sharon and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.



FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of this Article would change the status of the newly completed roadways known as Lily Lane and an extension of Juniper Road from private to public ways. Both roadways were constructed as part of the new Diamond Residences subdivision. The Planning Board originally approved the subdivision plans with the intention of accepting the roads as public ways and these roads meet all the Planning Board's specifications for acceptance as public ways. Their construction was paid for by the developer and the Town has ensured that the developer maintain a performance bond to cover replacement of any vegetation installed as part of the project for the next six months.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: 2/3 vote

Article 18: Authorize Select Board to Enter into Lease Agreements for Provision of Septic and Parking on Town Property on High Street

Sponsored by: Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement or lease amendment with the Sharon Historical Society for the purpose of installing a septic system and all associated appurtenances, and related purposes and for the purpose of parking, all relating to the re-use of the current library, with respect to a portion of land leased by the Society consisting of approximately 4,000 s.f. more or less, and located off of High Street and in the vicinity of the First Congregational Church of Sharon, United Church of Christ, and to authorize the Select Board to use for said purposes other land owned by the Town in this area and if determined by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town, to site said septic system in whole or in part under the portion of High Street parking lot owned by the Town. The terms and conditions of said lease or amendment to be in the best interests of the Town as determined by the Select Board, or take any other action related thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This land is the parcel which the Library Reuse Committee proposes to be used to site a new septic system adequate in capacity to accommodate the future use(s) of the existing library building. The process to accomplish this requires a vote by the Select Board that the parcel is no longer needed for its current purpose, followed by a Town meeting vote authorizing the use of the parcel for such purpose. The land is currently vacant and was acquired by the Town as part of a land swap with the First Congregational Church to create more parking directly behind the Church.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTION: That the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement or lease amendment with the Sharon Historical Society for the purpose of installing a septic system and all associated appurtenances, and related purposes and for the purpose of parking, all relating to the re-use of the current library, with respect to a portion of land leased by the Society consisting of approximately 4,000 s.f. more or less, and located off of High Street and in the vicinity of the First Congregational Church of Sharon, United Church of Christ, and to authorize the Select Board to use for said purposes other land owned by the Town in this area and if determined by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town, to site said septic system in whole or in part under the portion of High Street parking lot owned by the Town. The terms and conditions of said lease or amendment to be in the best interests of the Town as determined by the Select Board.

Article 19: Amend Zoning By-Law to Comply with MBTA Multi-Family Zoning District Law

Sponsored by: Planning Board

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 2.3 Overlay and Special Districts by deleting the words “Mixed-Use Overlay District and MUOD” and replacing them with “MBTA Communities Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Overlay District” and “MCMMOD”, Section 9.3 of the Zoning By-laws of the Town of Sharon, by deleting the existing Mixed Use Overlay District Section (MUOD) 9.3 in its entirety and replacing it with MBTA Communities Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Overlay District (MCMMOD) Section 9.3, revise Town of Sharon Zoning Map by deleting existing MUOD layer and replacing it with new MCMMOD Zoning District layer that includes two sub-districts, Table 1: Table of Use Regulations; A. Residential Uses by adding “*” in GR and BA column heading and adding a footnote saying “For filings under the MCMMOD follow the requirements of Section 9.3”, D. Commercial Uses Regulations by adding “*” in GR and BA column heading and adding a footnote saying “For filings under the MCMMOD follow the requirements of Section 9.3” and Table 2 Table of Dimensional Regulations by adding “(7)” in the “ZONE” column for General Residence and Business A and adding a footnote saying “(7) For MCMMOD guidelines, see Section 9.3 of Zoning By-Laws”, so that it reads as follows: (***Bold, Italicized and underlined*** denotes new language for insertion; bracketed, strikethrough and italicized denotes deleted language):

2.3 OVERLAY AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS.

The following overlay and special districts are set forth in Section 9.0 of this Bylaw:

Flood Plain Overlay District	FPOD
Water Resource Protection District	WRPD
(Mixed-Use Overlay District	MUOD)
<u>MBTA Communities Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Overlay District</u>	<u>MCMMOD</u>
Smart Growth Overlay District	SGOD
Recreation and Residential Overlay District	RROD
Planned Development District	PDD

9.3 MBTA COMMUNITIES MULTI-FAMILY AND MIXED-USE OVERLAY DISTRICT (MCMMOD).

9.3.1 Purpose. The purpose of this Section is:

1. To promote multi-family and mixed-use development in accordance with Section 3A of M.G.L. c. 40A.
2. To permit the use of new development standards which will promote the required changes in the Town Center.

9.3.2 Establishment and Applicability. The MCMMOD is an overlay district having a land area of approximately 67 acres in size that is superimposed over the underlying zoning district(s). The MCMMOD is hereby designated as including parts of the Business A and General Residence Districts.

1. **Applicability of MCMMOD.** An applicant may develop mixed use or multi-family housing

- located within the MCMMOD in accordance with the provisions of Section 9.3.
2. **Underlying Zoning.** The MCMMOD shall not restrict owners' rights relative to the underlying zoning district. However, if an owner elects to use the MCMMOD for development purposes, all development shall conform to the regulations outlined in this Section, as well as all other relevant provisions of the municipal and state bylaws.
 3. **Subdistricts.** The MCMMOD contains the following sub-districts, all shown on the MCMMOD Boundary Map: Parts of the General Residence subdistrict and parts of Business A subdistrict.

9.3.3 Definitions.

1. Affordable unit, MCMMOD. A multi-family housing unit that is subject to a use restriction recorded in its chain of title limiting the sale price or rent or limiting occupancy to an individual or household of a specified income, or both.
2. Affordable housing. Housing that contains Affordable Units as defined by this Section 11.0.
3. Applicant. A person, business, or organization that applies for a building permit, Site Plan Review, or Special Permit.
4. Area Median Income (AMI). The median family income for the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy metropolitan statistical region that includes the Town of Sharon, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
5. As of right. Development that may proceed under the Zoning in place at the time of application without needing a special permit, variance, zoning amendment, waiver, or other discretionary zoning approval.
6. Compliance Guidelines. Compliance Guidelines for Multi-Family Zoning Districts Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act as further revised or amended from time to time.
7. EOHLIC. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's successor agency.
8. Development standards. Developments shall follow the performance standards for multi-family or nonresidential uses in Section 6.5 of the Zoning Bylaws.
9. MBTA. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.
10. Multi-family housing. A building with three or more residential dwelling units or two or more buildings on the same lot with more than one residential dwelling unit in each building.
11. Multi-family zoning district. A zoning district, either a base district or an overlay district, in which multi-family housing is allowed as of right.
12. Residential dwelling unit. A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.
13. Section 3A. Section 3A of the Zoning Act.
14. Site plan review authority. The Site Plan Review Authority shall be the Planning Board for the MCMMOD.
15. Sub-district. An area within the MCMMOD that is geographically smaller than the MCMMOD district and differentiated from the rest of the district by use, dimensional standards, or development standards.
16. Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). A list of qualified Affordable Housing Units maintained by DHCD used to measure a community's stock of low-or moderate-income housing for M.G.L. Chapter 40B, the Comprehensive Permit Law.
17. Transit station. An MBTA subway station, commuter rail station, or ferry terminal.

9.3.4 Permitted Uses. Multi-family housing is allowed as of right in the MCMMOD. Mixed-use development is allowed as of right in the MCMMOD Business District A only. Refer to Table 1: Table of Use Regulations for retail and business uses currently permitted in the underlying zones and residential apartments of the appropriate density shall be permitted in the MCMMOD.

9.3.5 Minimum Lot Dimensions. MCMMOD filing in Business District A shall follow the dimensional requirements of the underlying zoning. MCMMOD filing in General Residence District shall follow the dimensional requirements of the underlying zoning, except the lot area, lot width, and the lot frontage requirements shall follow the Business District A dimensional requirements. If located between two underlying zones, the more restrictive dimensional requirements shall govern.

1. **Table of Dimensional Standards.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Zoning, the dimensional requirements applicable in the MCMMOD shall be the same as the underlying district.
2. **Multi-Building Lots.** In the MCMMOD, lots may have more than one principal building.
3. **Exceptions Height.** The limitation on the height of buildings shall not apply to chimneys, ventilators, towers, silos, spires, or other ornamental features of buildings, which are in no way used for living and commercial purposes and do not constitute more than 25% of the ground floor of the building. Limit the overall building height including accessories to 50' in Business District A and 40' in General Residence District.
4. **Exceptions: Renewable Energy Installations.** The Planning Board may waive the height and setbacks in Section 9.3.5 Minimum Lot Dimensions to accommodate the installation of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, living, and other eco-roofs, energy storage, and air-source heat pump equipment. Such installations shall not create a significant detriment to abutters in terms of noise or shadow. They must be appropriately integrated into the architecture of the building and the layout of the site. The installations shall not provide additional habitable space within the development.

9.3.6 Density. The minimum density for MCMMOD developments shall be 15 units per acre, provided the development has access to or creates a shared system and treatment works as defined by 310 CMR 15.00. Minimum density can be waived subject to Title 5 compliance requirements. The maximum number of units shall be limited by the more restrictive of the following factors: the number of full-sized parking spaces which could be provided, full compliance with the Board of Health and zoning wastewater management regulations, or Conservation Commission Wetlands Regulations.

9.3.7 Wastewater. A plan for wastewater treatment from a proposed development in the MCMMOD must be approved by the Board of Health in accordance with all applicable regulations.

9.3.8 Off-Street Parking Regulations. A minimum of one space for a studio or one bedroom unit and two spaces for 2 or more bedroom residential units shall be provided, in addition to the parking required for retail and business uses pursuant to Section 6.1. With the approval of the Planning Board, up to 25% of the total number of residential parking spaces for a development located within a 1/2 mile of the train station may be used to meet the required parking for retail and business uses. Up to 50% of the total number of residential parking spaces for a development located more than 1/2 mile from the train station may be used to meet the required parking for retail and business uses, where it can be demonstrated that the hours of operation for retail and business uses at the development will be during daytime hours only.

1. To provide for better site design, up to 25% of the total number of parking spaces may, at the discretion of the Planning Board, be allocated for compact cars with dimensions of eight feet by 18 feet. Such spaces shall be designated for compact cars only. Compact spaces cannot be applied in calculating the density of residential units. Still, they may be used to meet minimum open space requirements and provide for site design and stormwater drainage.
2. Off-site parking may not be counted toward the requirements for residential units but may be counted toward nonresidential parking requirements. Street parking, as with other publicly

owned parking spaces within 400 feet of the site, may be counted toward the nonresidential parking requirements.

3. Multi-level parking may be allowed to be at most two levels if determined by the Planning Board to be appropriate. Such parking may be shared with others off-site, provided it is within 400 feet of the site, and the Planning Board is provided with acceptable written proof.

4. Bicycle Storage. For a multi-family development of 25 units or more, or a mixed-use development of 25,000 square feet or more, covered bicycle parking spaces shall be integrated into the structure of the building(s). In multi-family developments, one bicycle parking space per dwelling unit shall be provided. Mixed-use (Non-residential)/Commercial developments shall provide one bicycle storage space for every five parking spaces.

5. Development should be EV ready as per the regulations of Stretch Energy Code plus format of International Energy Conservation Code.

9.3.9. Performance Standards for Multifamily or Nonresidential Uses. Developments shall follow the performance standards for multi-family or nonresidential uses in Section 6.5 of the Zoning Bylaws.

9.3.10. Affordable Housing. This requirement applies to all residential and mixed-use developments with ten (10) or more dwelling units, whether new construction, substantial rehabilitation, expansion, reconstruction, or residential conversion. No project may be divided or phased to avoid the requirements of this section. 10% of housing units in a development in the MCMMOD must be affordable to households earning 80% or less of AMI and be eligible for inclusion on the EOHLC Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). The affordability of such units shall be assured in perpetuity by an affordable housing restriction. A fractional unit shall be rounded down to the next whole number.

9.3.11 Site Plan Review. All projects developed using the MCMMOD shall be subject to the site plan review procedures as provided in Section 10.6, as well as the Town's Stormwater Discharges Generated by Construction Activity General Bylaw, Ch. 230, Stormwater Management, Art. II, Construction Activity Discharges. The Site Plan Review and Approval Authority for the MCMMOD shall be the Planning Board.

9.3.12. Post Office Square Design Guidelines. Projects undergoing Post Office Square design review shall submit to the Planning Board the basic site plan contents. They are required to provide rendering at an appropriate scale and coverage determined by the Planning Board. The elements highlighted in the Post Office Square Design Guidelines as enumerated in the site plan review, including pathways connecting to adjacent sidewalks, parking areas, sitting areas, a plan for storage areas, lighting, shade trees, and other landscaping, shall be provided for review by the Planning Board. Developers are encouraged to meet with the Planning Board to discuss their projects with respect to the Post Office Square Design Guidelines.

9.3.13 Severability. If any provision of Section 9.3 is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of Section 9.3 shall not be affected but shall remain in full force. The invalidity of any provision of this Section 9.3 shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Town of Sharon's Zoning Bylaw. Also see Section 1.6 Severability of the Sharon Zoning Bylaw.

TABLE 1: TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS

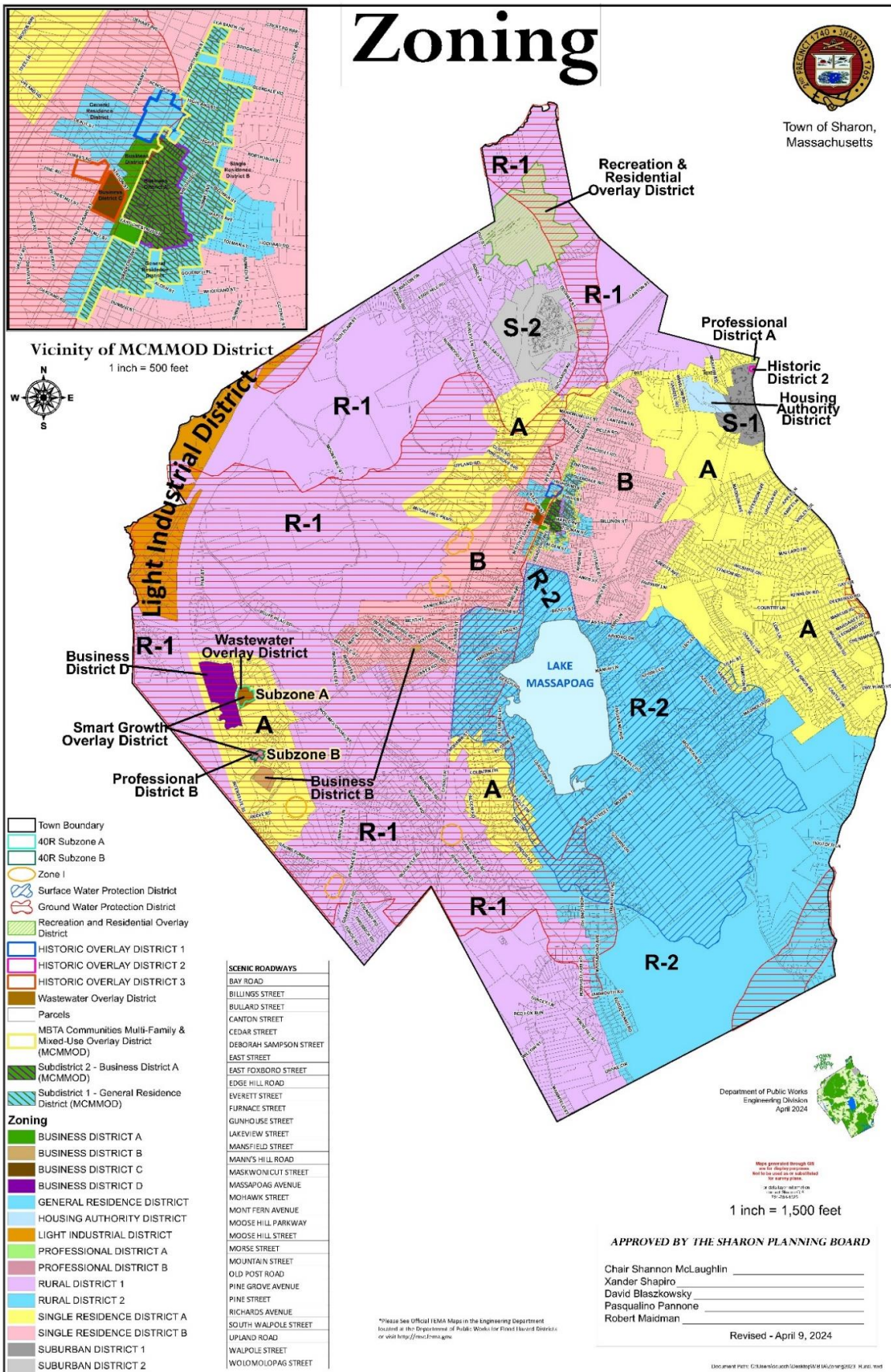
Y = Yes
 N = No
 BA = Special permit, Zoning Board of Appeals
 PB = Special Permit, Planning Board
 SB = Special Permit, Select Board

	R1	R2	Sub A	Sub B	SRA	SRB	GR*	BA*	BB	BC	BD	LI	Pro A	Pro B
A. RESIDENTIAL USES														
1. Single-family residence	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
2. Two-family residence	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
3. Dwelling units over nonresidential first floor uses (see Section 8.5)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	BA	N	N	N	N
4. Multifamily or mixed-use buildings (see Section 8.5)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	N	N	BA	N	N	N
5. Conversion to create one or more dwelling units (see Section 8.4)	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
6. Conversion of municipal building (see Section 8.4)	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	SB	N	N	N	SB	N	N	N	N
7. Open Space Residential Development (see Section 8.3)	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
8. Senior Housing Facility (see Section 8.2)	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	N	N	N	BA	Y	N	Y

**** For filings under the MCMMOD follow the requirements of Section 9.3***

	R1	R2	Su b	Sub B	SRA	SRB	GR*	BA*	BB	BC	BD	LI	Pro A	Pro B
D. COMMERCIAL USES														
1. Wellness center or health club	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
2. Club operated as a business	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	BA	N	BA	N	N	N
3. Private nonprofit club or lodge	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
4. Trade, professional, or other school operated for profit	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	N	N	N
5. Training or conference center	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	N	N	N
6. Hotel	N	BA	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
7. Retail delivery service or postal boxes	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	N	N	N
8. Mortuary, undertaking or funeral establishment	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	N	BA	Y	N	N
9. Adult use	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	BA	N	N
9. Bed and breakfast facilities	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
10. Major Nonresidential and Mixed-Use Development	N	N	N	N	N	N	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB	PB

**** For filings under the MCMMOD follow the requirements of Section 9.3***



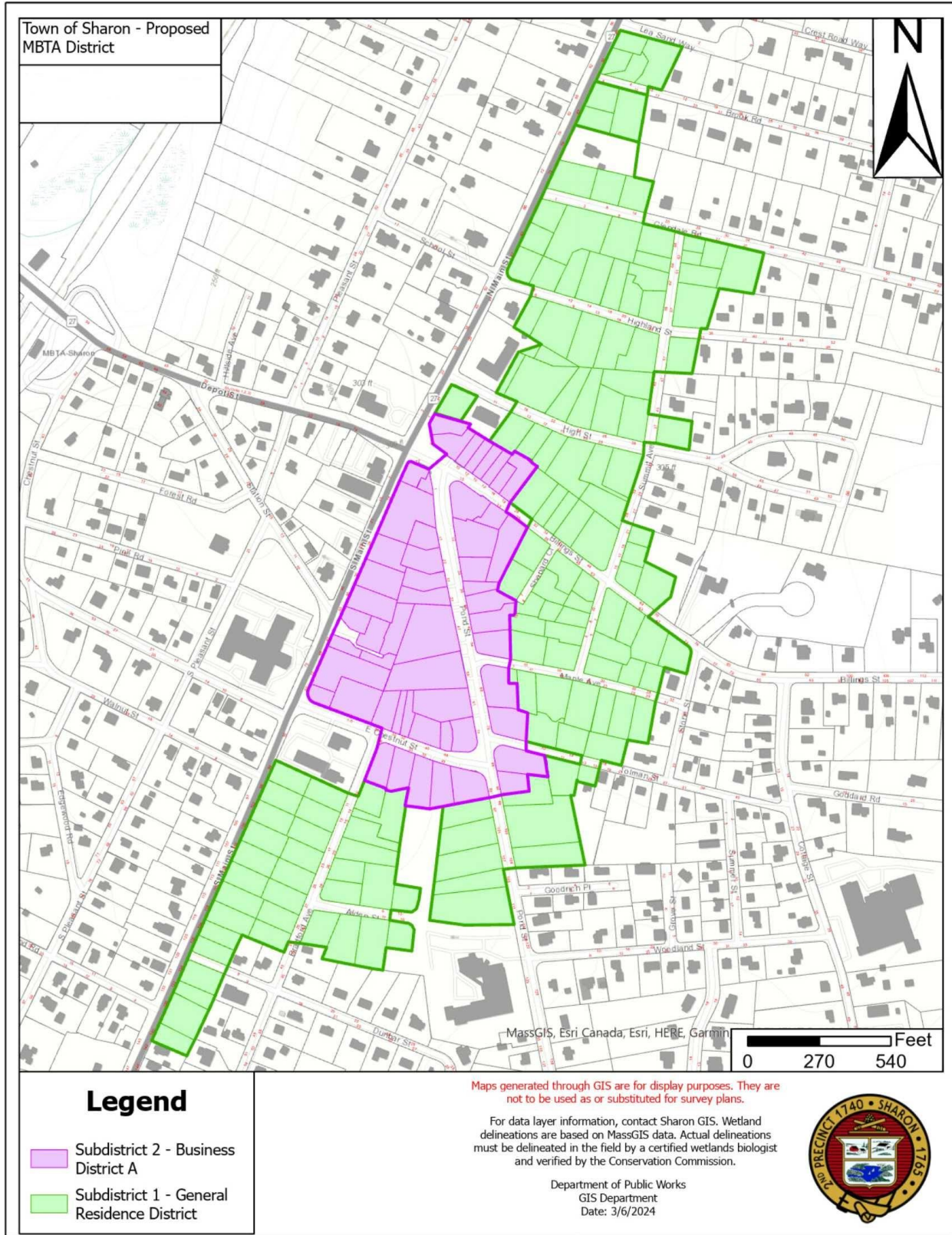


TABLE 2: TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

ZONE	LOT AREA (Sq. Ft.)	LOT WIDTH	FRONTAGE	FRONT SET-BACK (from sideline)	REAR/SIDE SET-BACK	MAXIMUM HEIGHT	MAXIMUM STORIES	PERCENT OF LOT COVERAGE	PERCENT OF NATURAL COVERAGE
Rural District 1	60,000	175'	116'-8"	50'	30' (principal building) 10' (accessory building)	35'	-	15% (2)	50%
Rural District 2	80,000	175'	116'-8"	50'	30' (principal building) 10' (accessory building)	35'	-	15% (2)	50%
Suburban District 1	40,000	125'	82'-6"	30'	20' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
Suburban District 2	60,000	175'	116'-8"	50'	30' (principal building) 10' (accessory building)	35'	-	15% (2)	50%
Single Residence District A	40,000	150'	100'	30'	15' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
Single Residence District B	20,000	100'	66'-8"	30'	15' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
General Residence (Z)	8,000 10,000 two family or two family	70' 80' two family 80' one family and two family 80' two family (4)	46'-8" single fam. 53'-4" two family 70'	30' 20' max 1&2 family 10' max all other 10'	15' residential 10' all other 20' residential 10' all other 20' residential 10' all other	35' other uses 45' 40' residential 60' commercial 40' residential 45' commercial 40' residential	3 4 commercial 3 residential 3	25% 1 and 2 family 60% all other 25% residential 20% all other 25% 1 and 2 family 35% multi family 50% all other	20% n/a 30%
Business District A	8,000	80' two family (4)	70'	10'	20' residential 10' all other	40' residential	3	25% 1 and 2 family 60% all other	20%
Business District B	10,000 two family	80' two family (4)	70'	10'	20' residential 10' all other	40' residential	3	25% 1 and 2 family 60% all other	n/a
Business District C	8,000 10,000 two family family	80' two family (4)	70'	10'	20' residential 10' all other	40' residential	3	25% 1 and 2 family 60% all other	30%
Business District D Development	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1
Lot Within Business District D but Not Within a Business District D Development	53 acres	1,000'	1,000'	10' from I-95, 50' from Old Post Rd., 100' from all other streets	100' (6)	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	55%	33%
Lot Within a Business District D Development	60,000	25'	25'	10' from I-95, 50' from Old Post Rd., 100' from all other streets	No requirements from lots within Business District D 100' from lots outside Business District D (6)	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	No Requirements	No Requirements
Lot Not Within a Business District D Development	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1

Professional District A	20,000	80' two family (4) 150' all other	100'	n/a'	20' residential 10' all other	40'	3	n/a	n/a
Professional District B	60,000	80' two family (4) 150' all other	100'	40'	20' residential 10' all other	40'	3	20%	30%
Light Industrial District	40,000	150'	100'	75'	100' residential 30' all other	100'	5	60% including parking structures	20% (landscaped or open space)
Housing Authority District	40,000 [5,000](1)	no requirement	no requirement	30' and 50'	20' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
NOTES:									
(1) Per dwelling unit (4 persons in a group arrangement = dwelling unit)									
(2) Includes paving and walks									
(3) Excluding parking decks									
(4) All other uses, see Section 4.1.3 of Zoning By-Laws									
(5) See §4.3.8 Business District D Dimensional Requirements									
(6) Setbacks from Route 1-95 are considered as front setbacks as set forth above) and N/A from lots within Business District D.									
(7) For MCMOD guidelines, see Section 9.3 of Zoning By-Laws									
Note: Lots located within Groundwater Protection District have a minimum lot size of 60,000 sf.									
Note: Lots located within Surface Water Protection District have a minimum lot size of 80,000 sf.									
Note: Lot Width is measured as set forth in Section 4.1.3.									
Note: See Section 4.1.3 for Shape Factor When Calculating Lot Area.									

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would amend the Town of Sharon's zoning By-Law to comply with Chapter 40A; Section 3A of the General Laws, known as the MBTA Communities Act (the "Act"). Governor Baker signed this law on January 14, 2021. The Act pertains to municipalities (other than Boston) that have MBTA transit stations or that border such cities and towns. Designated under the Act as a Commuter Rail Community, the Town of Sharon must enact zoning regulations that delineate at least one district near the train station in which the development of multi-family housing units that have no age restriction and are suitable for families with children is allowed as of right. "As of right" means that development may proceed according to all applicable zoning regulations without the need to obtain a special permit, variance, waiver, or other discretionary approval. The Act does not supersede existing environmental regulations (particularly "Title 5" governing septic systems and all Board of Health rules), nor does it require the development of any particular number of multi-family housing units. The Town's compliance with the Act by its December 31, 2024 deadline will require affirmative action by this Town Meeting and the subsequent approvals of both the Office of the Attorney General and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

The Town of Sharon's elected five-member Planning Board is the governmental body which is charged with helping the Town comply with the Act. Early in 2023, the Town obtained a grant which funded the engagement of J M Goldson, a consulting firm that helps municipalities with master plans and housing development policies. J M Goldson provided technical assistance as the Planning Board drafted this proposed amendment to meet the Act's requirements. The Planning Board has posted on its web site detailed information about the Town's compliance with the Act, including frequently asked questions, the map showing the proposed new zoning district, and a list of all the addresses that would be encompassed by that new MBTA zoning district. The Planning Board has scheduled an open meeting on April 9, 2024 during which it will conduct a public hearing on the MBTA zoning amendment. Following that public hearing, the Planning Board may edit the text of the proposed amendment and will vote on its recommendation to Town Meeting. Because April 9, 2024 follows the deadline for printing the Warrant, the final text of the proposed amendment may differ slightly from the version printed here in this Warrant. Any changes to the text of the proposed amendment will be posted on the Town's web site and then distributed at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee plans to vote on its recommendation regarding this article at its May 1, 2024 meeting, immediately following the Open Warrant Meeting.

In passing the MBTA Communities Act in 2021 both the Executive and Legislative branches of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts agreed that the housing shortage in the region served by the MBTA could be mitigated by reducing local zoning regulations. The Act empowers the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to issue guidelines (1) requiring a certain portion of the new zoning district to fall within a half-mile of the transit station; (2) setting the allowable minimum unit density no lower than 15 units per acre; and (3) determining a "theoretical" maximum number of multi-family housing units which potentially could be developed in the newly delineated MBTA zoning district. Environmentally sensitive land would be excluded from the new district, and the Town's environmental regulations would continue to apply to any development or redevelopment activities within it. The Town would not be compelled to construct or to fund any sewage treatment facility that would be necessary to support the development of multi-family housing units.

The guidelines under the Act, when applied with reference to Sharon's housing stock, total land area, and the presence of environmentally sensitive land within a half-mile of the train station, result in the following parameters which the Town's revision of its zoning By-Law and the delineation of the new zoning district must satisfy: (1) at the minimum density of fifteen (15) multi-family housing units per acre, the new district's area must be able to accommodate at least 987 multi-family units (a theoretical threshold that is computed simply as 15% of the Town's 2020 total of 6,581 housing, without consideration of existing development); (2) the new zoning district must encompass at least fifty (50) acres; and (3) at least 40% of

the new district must be within a half-mile of the train station. The minimum unit density of fifteen (15) units per acre would be attained only if a multi-family housing development could comply with all state and local environmental regulations.

The proposed new zoning district, which the Act requires the Town to delineate, would be called the MBTA Communities Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Overlay District (“MCMMOD”) and would replace the existing Mixed Use Overlay District in the center of Town. On the Town’s zoning map the borders of the MCMMOD would be superimposed on parts of two existing zoning districts, Business District A and General Residence District. The MCMMOD would encompass part of the town center, to the east of North Main Street and South Main Street. The proposed overlay district would consist of approximately 67 acres. Putting the MCMMOD in perspective, the Town of Sharon encompasses 24.2 square miles or 15,488 acres. Accordingly, the already densely developed MCMMOD would comprise less than one-half of one percent of the Town’s total land area. Current regulations in the Mixed Overlay District, which would be replaced by the MCMMOD, set the measure of minimum density of multi-family housing at twenty (20) units per acre. In contrast, the proposed amendment would reset the minimum density at fifteen (15) units per acre.

The proposed amendment would not enable the Planning Board to supersede the authority of the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, or Historic Commission over matters within their jurisdiction. While the amendment would allow the development of multi-family housing as of right within the MCMMOD (subject to dimensional requirements, building codes, environmental regulations, etc.), it would require all projects subject to the MCMMOD’s regulations to undergo a site plan review by the Planning Board. The site plan review process would enable the Planning Board to evaluate details of multi-family housing development plans to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations and guidelines such as environmental protections and our existing Post Office Square Design Guidelines.

While the development of multi-family housing would be allowed as of right throughout the entire MCMMOD, mixed-use development, which includes both commercial uses and multi-family housing, would be allowed as of right only in the portion of the MCMMOD overlying Business District A. Development under the proposed amendment in Business District A would have to conform to the dimensional requirements of this district except that a lot may have more than one principal building, overall building height may not exceed fifty (50) feet, and the Planning Board may waive height and setback requirements for renewable energy installations.

In the portion of the MCMMOD overlying the General Residence District, the as of right development of multi-family housing would be subject to the dimensional requirements of the General Residence District except that lot area, lot width, and frontage requirements would be the same as those in Business District A. Further exceptions in the General Residence District would include allowing a lot to have more than one principal building, setting the overall building height at forty (40) feet, and allowing the Planning Board to waive height and setback requirements for renewable energy installations.

With respect to off-street parking regulations, the proposed amendment would require one parking space for each studio or one bedroom unit and two spaces for each unit with two or more bedrooms. These requirements are in addition to existing parking requirements applicable to retail and business uses. The amendment would give the Planning Board the authority to allow specified percentages of the required residential parking spaces to be counted toward the number of parking spaces for retail and business uses. The amendment would establish requirements regarding bicycle storage and the availability of electric vehicle charging facilities. The Planning Board would be given authority, subject to specific guidelines, to determine whether two-level parking facilities would be allowed.

Although the Act does not address the affordability of multi-family housing, the Planning Board’s proposed amendment would require that residential and mixed-use developments in the MCMMOD having ten (10)

or more dwelling units reserve 10% of those units as affordable to households earning as much as 80% or less of the Area Median Income (“AMI”). In 2023, 80% of AMI of a two-person household in Norfolk County was \$98,350.

During the February 29, 2024 joint board meeting the Planning Board, Select Board, and Finance Committee, the Act was discussed and the Planning Board reaffirmed their commitment to helping the Town comply with state law. The Planning Board, in the course of conducting its regular open meetings, already had discussed the Act and had invited residents’ input. The Planning Board also hosted two public information sessions (on February 13, 2024 via Zoom and on March 12, 2024 in person at the Community Center and via Zoom) to explain the Act, to answer residents’ questions, and to listen to their concerns.

In the course of the Planning Board’s open meetings and information sessions, some residents expressed concerns about potential impacts of allowing multi-family housing to be developed as of right in the proposed new zoning district. Some residents cited the Town’s reliance on septic systems and the proximity of the proposed MCMMOD to the Ground Water Protection District. Concerns were expressed that if one property owner developed multi-family housing it may incentivize neighbors to sell (a domino effect), or that the Town’s “appearance” may be altered, or that increased enrollment may exceed the schools’ capacity. During its March 14, 2024 open meeting, the Planning Board considered residents’ questions about segmenting the MCMMOD and locating some of it (as much as 60%) in areas other than the town center. Various alternative locations that had been suggested by residents happen to fall within either the Department of Environmental Protection Zone II (wellhead protection area) or the Ground Water Protection District.

The Act and the guidelines issued to support it set forth explicit penalties for non-compliance. MBTA Communities that do not comply would be disqualified from certain grant programs. In the last five years, the Town of Sharon has been awarded more than \$1,100,000 under four of those grant programs. The MassWorks Infrastructure Program alone has provided \$1,000,000 to help fund road and traffic signal improvements for the development of Sharon Gallery. Beyond such explicit penalties, non-compliance may violate one or another Massachusetts antidiscrimination statute and/or the federal Fair Housing Act. A municipality cannot use its zoning powers for a discriminatory purpose or with a discriminatory effect on families with children, people with disabilities, and other protected groups.

Twelve (12) municipalities with stations on the MBTA’s rapid transit lines had an earlier deadline (December 31, 2023) for adopting the zoning changes required by the MBTA Communities Act. All twelve of those municipalities did so ahead of that deadline; however, on February 14, 2024, the Town of Milton residents voted to rescind the MBTA zoning amendment which its Town Meeting had approved. The Attorney General filed a lawsuit on February 27, 2024, requesting that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court compel the Town of Milton to comply with the Act. The Court will hear the case in October of 2024.

At its March 25, 2024 meeting, the Finance Committee discussed this proposed zoning amendment. Because the Planning Board will meet on April 9, 2024 to finalize the text of the amendment and to vote on its report to Town Meeting, the Finance Committee will defer its own formal vote whether to recommend approval of this article until May 1, 2024. Members of the Finance Committee expressed strong support for the Planning Board’s efforts to ensure the Town’s compliance with state law. The Finance Committee noted that non-compliance would potentially disqualify the Town from receiving particular grants specified in the statute and its current guidelines. Members also are mindful of Governor Healey’s steadfast commitment to implementing the MBTA Communities Act as well as the possibility that the Legislature would expand the penalties for non-compliance, possibly to impact aid disbursed under vital state programs. The Finance Committee is concerned that non-compliance could diminish state aid under one or another of three key programs from which the Town in FY 2025 is estimated to receive the following: \$1,700,000 of unrestricted aid, \$10,600,000 for education per Chapter 70, and \$780,000 of highway funds per Chapter

90. The Finance Committee expects that even a small reduction of the state's support via those programs would be detrimental to the Town's capacity to support the schools and to provide police, fire, and other municipal services.

Accordingly, on March 25, 2024, the Finance Committee voted unanimously (10-0-0) to indicate in the Warrant its strong support for taking action under this article to comply with state law, namely the MBTA Communities Act. The Finance Committee will vote its final recommendation after the Open Warrant Hearing on May 1st. Similarly, the Select Board voted 3-0 to indicate its support for taking action under this article to comply with state law and will announce its final recommendation at Town Meeting.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: **Majority vote**

MOTION: *Motion to be provided at Town Meeting.*

Article 20: **Amend Zoning By-Law - Modifications to Business District A**

Sponsored by: *Planning Board*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 4.3.2 Size Limits in Business District A, Section 4.3.3 Use of Front Setback in BA District, Section 8.5.1 BA District, Section 8.5.2 BA District Requirements, Section 8.5.3 BA District Landscaping, and Table 2: Table of Dimensional Regulations in the Zoning By-laws of the Town of Sharon, so that it reads as follows; (**Bold, Italicized and underlined** denotes new language for insertion; bracketed, strikethrough and italicized denotes deleted language):

4.3 SPECIAL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS.

4.3.2 Size Limits in Business Districts.

1. (~~*In the BA District, the total of all buildings on a lot shall not exceed 5,000 square feet of gross floor area.*~~) For the purposes of this Section, all contiguous separate lots or buildings in Business District A, if under single ownership, shall be considered as one lot or building.

4.3.3 Use of Front Setback in BA District. In the Business District A, any required front setback may only be used for landscaping, public seating, circulation, signage and drives, consistent with the Post Office Square Design Guidelines. The Planning Board, during site plan review, ***and/or*** the Zoning Board of Appeals, during special permit review, may increase the front yard setback if this is necessary to provide public area for pedestrian circulation and seating. (~~*and to ensure that criteria for site design as identified in the Design Guidelines for the Town Center Business District are achieved.*~~)

8.5 MULTIFAMILY/MIXED USE REGULATIONS IN THE BA, BB, AND BC DISTRICTS.

8.5.1 BA District. Site plan approval shall be required pursuant to Section 10.6. The Planning Board shall be the authority for site plan review and the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be the special permit granting authority for all developments in BA District, unless otherwise noted in this By-Law. In addition to the reviews provided in said sections, the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals shall also consider suitability and safety of ways for residents to their apartments, parking areas and usable open space; and the compatibility of the proposed nonresidential uses with residential uses with respect

to safety from fire or other hazards and to protection from noise, litter or other nuisance. **In order to facilitate a smooth review process for the applicant, the Zoning Board and Planning Board shall hold at least one joint meeting. Additional joint meetings may be held upon agreement by the two boards.**

8.5.2 BA District Requirements. Multiple-residence buildings containing three or more dwelling units, and mixed-use buildings with or without residential uses, which require a special ~~(permit)~~ **permit** in the Table of Use Regulations, including services related thereto, shall be designed in accordance with the following:

1. There shall be **no** ~~(a)~~ minimum lot area, **lot width and frontage** requirement. ~~(of 2,200 square feet per dwelling unit.)~~

8.5.3 BA District; Landscaping. On a lot, ~~(which is used for residence as well as business uses,)~~ the landscaping requirements of Section 6.1.10 shall apply to side and rear lot lines, except where driveways or parking areas are shared with an adjoining lot. A strip of lawn or natural vegetation at least 20 feet wide may be substituted in place of the screening otherwise required.

TABLE 2: TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

ZONE	LOT AREA (Sq. Ft.)	LOT WIDTH	FRONTAGE	FRONT SET-BACK (from sideline)	REAR/SIDE SET-BACK	MAXIMUM HEIGHT	MAXIMUM STORIES	PERCENT OF LOT COVERAGE	PERCENT OF NATURAL COVERAGE
Rural District 1	60,000	175'	116'-8"	50'	30' (principal building) 10' (accessory building)	35'	-	15% (2)	50%
Rural District 2	80,000	175'	116'-8"	50'	30' (principal building) 10' (accessory building)	35'	-	15% (2)	50%
Suburban District 1	40,000	125'	82'-6"	30'	20' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
Suburban District 2	60,000	175'	116'-8"	50'	30' (principal building) 10' (accessory building)	35'	-	15% (2)	50%
Single Residence District A	40,000	150'	100'	30'	15' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
Single Residence District B	20,000	100'	66'-8"	30'	15' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
General Residence	8,000 10,000 two family	70' 80' two family	46'-8" single fam. 53'-4" two family	30'	15' residential 10' all other	35'	-	40%	no requirement
Business District A	10,000 for single or two family, <u>no min for all other uses</u>	80' one family and two family, <u>no min for all other uses</u>	70' <u>no min for all other uses</u>	20' max 1&2 family 10' max all other	20' residential 10' all other	other uses 45' 40' residential	3	25% 1 and 2 family 60% all other	20%
Business District B	8,000 10,000 two family	80' two family (4)	70'	10'	20' residential 10' all other	60' commercial 40' residential	4 commercial 3 residential	25% residential 20% all other	n/a
Business District C	8,000 10,000 two family	80' two family (4)	70'	20' max 1&2 family 10' max all other	20' residential 10' all other	45' commercial 40' residential	3	25% 1 and 2 family 35% multi family 50% all other	30%
Business District D									
Business District D Development	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1
Lot Within Business District D but Not Within a Business District D Development	53 acres	1,000'	1,000'	10' from I-95, 50' from Old Post Rd., 100' from all other streets	100' (6)	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	55%	33%
Lot Within a Business District D Development	60,000	25'	25'	10' from I-95, 50' from Old Post Rd., 100' from all other streets	No requirements from lots within Business District D 100' from lots outside Business District D (6)	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	No Requirements	No Requirements
Lot Not Within a Business District D Development	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.4	See Section 4.3.8.1	See Section 4.3.8.1

Professional District A	20,000	80' two family (4) 150' all other	100'	n/a'	20' residential 10' all other	40'	3	n/a	n/a
Professional District B	60,000	80' two family (4) 150' all other	100'	40'	20' residential 10' all other	40'	3	20%	30%
Light Industrial District	40,000	150'	100'	75'	100' residential 30' all other	100'	5	60% including 75% including parking structures	20% (landscaped or open space)
Housing Authority District	40,000 [5,000](1)	no requirement	no requirement	30' and 50'	20' residential 10' all other	35'	-	25%	no requirement
NOTES:									
(1) Per dwelling unit (4 persons in a group arrangement = dwelling unit)									
(2) Includes paving and walks									
(3) Excluding parking decks									
(4) All other uses, see Section 4.1.3 of Zoning By-Laws									
(5) See §4.3.8 Business District D Dimensional Requirements									
(6) Setbacks from Route 1-95 are considered as front setbacks as set forth above) and N/A from lots within Business District D.									
Note: Lots located within Groundwater Protection District have a minimum lot size of 60,000 sf.									
Note: Lots located within Surface Water Protection District have a minimum lot size of 80,000 sf.									
Note: Lot Width is measured as set forth in Section 4.1.3.									
Note: See Section 4.1.3 for Shape Factor When Calculating Lot Area.									

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would amend the Town of Sharon's zoning By-Law with respect to certain regulations in Business District A which is located in the town center (Post Office Square).

The proposed amendment would make certain changes to Business District A zoning regulations, including:

- Deletion of a requirement that the total square feet of gross floor area of all buildings on a lot within Business District A not exceed 5,000 square feet;
- Establishment of the requirement that the Planning Board, as the Site Plan Review Authority, and the Zoning Board of Appeals, as the Special Permit Granting Authority, hold at least one joint meeting to facilitate a smooth review process for an applicant;
- Clarification that the Planning Board and/or the Zoning Board of Appeals may increase the front yard setback requirement if necessary to provide for pedestrian circulation and seating;
- Deletion of a requirement that there be 2,200 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit; and
- Clarification in the Table of Dimensional Regulations of certain dimensional requirements for various uses in Business District A and the applicability of landscaping requirements in the district.

The proposed changes to certain dimensional regulations as well as the provision facilitating an applicant's review process are intended to encourage compatible commercial and residential uses in the town center.

The deletions of the limit of 5,000 square feet of gross floor area of buildings on a lot and the requirement that there be 2,200 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit would be necessary to help ensure compliance with the MBTA Communities Act (the Act).

Business District A would be encompassed in the new Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Overlay District ("MCMMOD") which the proposed amendment under Article 19 of the Warrant would establish in compliance with the MBTA Communities Act (the "Act"). Dimensional restrictions such as these in an underlying zoning district would conflict with the requirements of the Act.

The Planning Board has scheduled an open meeting on April 9, 2024 during which a public hearing on this proposed zoning amendment will be held. At the close of that public hearing, the Planning Board will vote on its recommendation regarding this article. Because April 9, 2024 follows the deadline for printing this Warrant, the text of the proposed amendment may be modified prior to Town Meeting on May 6, 2024. Any changes to the text of the proposed amendment would be posted on the Town's web site and distributed at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee plans to vote on its recommendation regarding this article at its May 1st meeting, immediately following the Open Warrant Meeting.

At its March 25, 2024 meeting the Finance Committee discussed this proposed zoning amendment. Noting that approval of this proposed amendment would be a necessary step in the Town's compliance with the MBTA Communities Act, members of the Finance Committee expressed support for the Planning Board's efforts in proposing this amendment. The Finance Committee expressed concern that failing to comply with the Act could incur penalties that would diminish state aid under one or another vital program. In FY 2025 the Town anticipates receiving the following: \$1,700,000 of unrestricted aid, \$10,600,000 for education per Chapter 70, and \$780,000 of highway funds per Chapter 90. The Finance Committee expects that any reduction of the state's support via those programs would be detrimental to the Town's capacity to support the schools and to provide police, fire, and other municipal services.

Accordingly, on March 25, 2024 the Finance Committee voted unanimously (10-0-0) to indicate in the Warrant its strong support for taking action under this article at the May 6, 2024 Town Meeting to comply with state law, namely the MBTA Communities Act. The Finance Committee will announce its final

recommendation at Town Meeting. Similarly, the Select Board voted on March 26, 2024 to support for taking action under this article and will announce its final recommendation at Town Meeting.

QUANTUM OF VOTE: **2/3 vote**

MOTION: *Motion to be provided at Town Meeting.*

Article 21: **Citizen Petition - Amend General By-Law to Provide for an Artificial Turf Field Moratorium**

Sponsored by: *Debbie Tatro, 10 Sturges Road, and 13 others*

To see if the Town of Sharon will vote to extend for five years an amendment to its General By-Laws under Division 1: By-Laws, Part I: Administrative Legislation, Public Property, Article III § 61-5 Artificial turf field moratorium in the Town of Sharon, as follows:

§262-15 Artificial Turf Field Moratorium in the Town of Sharon

A. Purpose. The purpose of extending this By-Laws is to protect Lake Massapoag, and the town's wetlands, rivers, streams, ponds, groundwater, drinking water, soil, fish and wildlife, as well as human health. Petroleum-based artificial turf has known environmental and health hazards. Artificial turf contains toxic chemicals, including flame retardants, phthalates, and PFAS. PFAS are a particular health threat, as they are highly persistent "forever chemicals" that never fully degrade, accumulate in our bodies, and adversely impact human health even at low levels of exposure. Phthalates are endocrine disruptors, and may be responsible for declining sperm rates in men (on track to be zero by about 2045). Plastic grass blades break off artificial turf and are blown by the wind to surrounding areas where they break down into microplastic and nanoplastic which do not fully degrade, and also accumulate in our environment and in our bodies, including neurons, where nanoplastics may increase the risk of Parkinson's disease. Artificial turf could contaminate surface water, ground water, soil and further pollute drinking water in the Town of Sharon by leaching PFAS, phthalates and other chemicals and dispersing micro- and nanoplastics.

B. Definitions

ARTIFICIAL TURF shall mean any grass turf carpet composed of petroleum-based plastic, whether or not the plastic turf contains PFAS and/or PFAS processing aids.

PFAS shall mean a class of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances.

C. Regulated Conduct

The Town of Sharon shall not install artificial turf on any land, of any size, owned by the town, for a period of five years from the effective date of the moratorium extension.

D. Exemptions.

Synthetic turf grass carpets made of plant-based bioplastic which is entirely recyclable, biodegradable or compostable, and is certified to be free of intentionally added PFAS.

E. Effective Dates

This By-Laws shall take effect after approval of the By-Laws by the Massachusetts Attorney General and posting by the Town of Sharon.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this citizen's petition would extend the expired moratorium on installation of artificial (synthetic) turf fields on town-owned land for an additional five (5) years.

At the October 12, 2020 Annual Town Meeting ("ATM"), the voters approved a citizen's petition to impose a Town-wide moratorium on any installation of artificial turf fields for a period of three (3) years. Upon approval of the Attorney General, that moratorium carried from March 31, 2021, until March 30, 2024, and while there is no known intention to install artificial turf by the Town or any of its departments at this time, the proponents of the original article wish to extend the moratorium. The position of proponents is (1) petroleum-based artificial turf contains chemicals that are harmful to public health and do not break down over time; (2) the plastic creates local pollution as well as end-of-use pollution; and (3) grass fields cost less money, saving taxpayer dollars.

As outlined in the 2020 ATM Warrant, the original vote amended Town By-Law by adding a new Section 61-5, imposing a three (3) year moratorium on the installation in any Town location of artificial turf fields containing petroleum-based plastic, whether or not the turf contains PFAS, which is a class of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances. The By-Law amendment was particularly relevant in anticipation of new athletic fields at the high school in connection with the construction of the new high school complex.

At that time, this was a controversial topic with supporters on both sides of the issue, some who wanted the additional hours of use provided by a turf field, and those against artificial turf due to concerns around PFAS, plastic pollution, disposal, sustainability, and location. Concerns around player safety came from both sides of the discussion. Since 2020, the Town has taken steps to improve maintenance and care of its existing fields and is pursuing plans to create additional field space by moving the community garden from its current Deborah Sampson location and adding field space there. Additional concerns around PFAS have become a significant local issue. The Town must bring in PFAS treatment equipment to meet new, more stringent PFAS standards to ensure safe drinking water for the future.

The Conservation Commission voted 3-2-0 in favor of approval.

The Board of Health voted 4-0-1 in favor of approval.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

ANTICIPATED MOTION: That the Town extend for five years an amendment to its General By-Laws under Division 1: By-Laws, Part I: Administrative Legislation, Public Property, Article III § 61-5 Artificial turf field moratorium in the Town of Sharon, exactly as printed on page 56 of the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, with the exception of the words "or take any other action relative thereto."

Article 22: Amend General By-Law to add Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code*Sponsored by: Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to enact Section 125-25 of the Town of Sharon General By-Laws, entitled “Specialized Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of January 1, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize the Town of Sharon to commit to adoption of the Massachusetts Stretch Code and Specialized Stretch Code (the “Stretch Code”), regulating the design and construction of buildings for ready conversion to “All-Electric” operation pursuant to Stretch Code 225 CMR 22 Appendix RC and 225 CMR 23 Appendix CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or to take any other action relative thereto. The entirety of the existing Stretch Code 225 CMR 22 and 23, with the exception of Appendices RC and CC, was previously adopted by the Town in 2018, including future editions, amendments or modifications, for the broadly effective use of building energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, providing municipalities the means to adopt an above-code energy option that complies with the Green Communities Program. Statutory changes have since mandated that the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources create an additional tier of opt-in specialized energy code. The resulting “Specialized Stretch Code” being considered applies exclusively to new construction. Adoption means new buildings will be designed and built to code requirements that enable easy, inexpensive conversion to “All-Electric” buildings, as defined by Stretch Code 225 CMR 23, Chapter 2, Sec C202. Buildings constructed after January 1, 2025 would be ready to most economically and reasonably comply with future initiatives enacted to further the Town’s and the Commonwealth’s climate goals, promote sustainable living in Sharon, and satisfy Green Communities Climate Leader Community status requirements, thereby qualifying the Town for more attractive grant awards and higher Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) school construction matching funds for future building projects.

225 CMR 22: Massachusetts Commercial Stretch Energy Code and Municipal Opt-In Specialized Code 2023: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/225-cmr-2200-residential-specialized-stretch-energy-code/download>

225 CMR 23: Massachusetts Commercial Stretch Energy Code and Municipal Opt-In Specialized Code 2023: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/commercial-and-other-stretch-energy-code-and-specialized-opt-in-code-language/download>

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: Majority vote

MOTION: That the Town enact Section 125-25 of the Town of Sharon General By-Laws, entitled “Specialized Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of January 1, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk.

Article 23: Petition General Court to Allow Posting of Legal Notices on Websites*Sponsored by: Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the Massachusetts General Court to enact legislation in substantially the form below, and further to authorize the Select Board to approve amendments to said legislation before its enactment by the General Court that are within the scope of the general objectives of this motion; or take any action relative thereto.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SHARON TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 11 of chapter 40A of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Sharon may provide alternative means of publishing legal notices for public hearings that are required by law.

SECTION 2. The Town may authorize all notices of public hearings to be published: (i) in a local newspaper, either in electronic or paper format; or (ii) on the bulletin board outside of the town clerk's office; and (iii) on the town's website. For the purposes of this act, the term "website" shall mean the official website of the Town of Sharon that is operated and maintained by the town's government.

SECTION 3. If any provision or section of this act is invalidated, the remainder shall survive in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

An affirmative vote under this Article would authorize the Select Board to petition the state legislature to change the legal notice media requirements for public hearings by allowing for the ability to post legal notice for public hearings via electronic media, such as the town website, in conjunction with posting at the Town Clerk's office, as an alternative to the current requirement to advertise in local newspapers. Once the state law is amended, the Town can then amend its By-Laws to enable the change.

Massachusetts General Law chapter 40A, section 11 currently requires publishing legal notice in local newspapers, however with the severe decline and absence of true local newspapers, this requirement is due for an update. With *the Massapoag Advocate* long-gone, compliance with existing law requires advertising in *the Patriot Ledger* – at a cost of \$275 each instance, per recent placements by the Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee ("LMAC") for public hearings before the Conservation Commission. Estimated readership in town of this regional newspaper is low, limiting its effectiveness.

Last year, the LMAC had to file three (3) such legal notices before the Conservation Commission and anticipates more going forward. The LMAC, recognizing a need to improve this process, has undertaken the sponsorship of this initiative, which will be a benefit to the Town beyond its own committee.

In 2022, the Town of Acton had a similar home rule petition signed into law. Other towns, including Franklin, Bedford and Dracut, have filed similar home rule petitions in the current legislative session. Such a change in improving notice visibility would be both good government and would save the Town money.

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

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

QUANTUM OF VOTE: **Majority vote**

MOTION: That the Town authorize the Select Board to petition the Massachusetts General Court to enact legislation entitled “An Act Authorizing the Town of Sharon to Adopt Alternative Methods for Notice of Public Hearings,” and further authorize the Select Board to approve amendments to said legislation before its enactment by the General Court that are within the scope of the general objectives of this motion, exactly as printed on page 59 of the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, with the exception of the words “or take any action relative thereto.”

APPENDIX A – RESERVE FUND TRANSFER HISTORY, FY 2019 – FY 2023

As required by Section 12-9.B(3) of the Town By-Laws, this table provides an historical accounting of Finance Committee action to transfer from the Reserve Fund (see account 132 in the omnibus budget table in Article 10) to the budget line-items listed below:

Reserve Fund Transfer History, FY2019 – FY2023

	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Amount Appropriated	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$500,000.00
Amounts Allocated:					
Assessors	4,600.00				
Capital - Schools		105,000.00		261,135.00	
Capital - Town	15,830.77	96,040.00			
Council on Aging			6,000.00		
DPW	212,803.25	49,423.98	68,500.00		
Elections & Registration		22,775.00			
Fire Department			50,000.00	120,000.00	110,000.00
Healthcare Trust Fund		96,704.00			
Lake Management		312.00	312.00	17,700.00	
Legal		80,000.00	28,500.00		
Schools	35,389.06		241,688.00	41,750.00	175,000.00
Town Clerk		17,245.00			
Treasurer			5,000.00		
Unemployment		25,000.00			
Veterans		7,500.00			
Zoning Board of Appeals			100,000.00		
COVID (CVRF)				192,377.72	
Total Allocation	\$268,623.08	\$499,999.98	\$500,000.00	\$632,962.72	\$285,000.00
Appropriations					
Turned Back	\$231,376.92	\$0.02	\$0.00	\$167,037.28	\$215,000.00

APPENDIX B – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

The following positions listed below are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY
(Formerly administrative, technical and professional category)

MP-00	Assistant Town Engineer	MP-2	Animal Control Officer* Assistant Recreation Director
MP-0	Building Inspector Water Systems Supervisor Operations/Forestry & Grounds Supervisor		Business Manager Assistant Supervisor – Water Assistant Operations Supervisor Systems Administrator Water Construction Supervisor Water Pump Station Operator
MP-1	Forestry & Grounds Supervisor Health Agent for Engineering Conservation Agent GIS Coordinator Facilities Supervisor	MP-3	Recreation Athletic Supervisor Social Worker* Technical Support Specialist Engineering/Planning Specialist
		MP-4	Part-Time Public Health Nurse*

* The following positions work other than a forty (40) hour work week:
 Animal Control Officer – 37.5 hours
 Part-Time Public Health Nurse – 2 hours (up to 10 hours for vacation coverage)
 Social Worker – 37.5 hours
 Technical Support Specialist – 19 hours

SECTION 2.400
 PAY SCHEDULE/HOURLY
 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

	Min	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9
MP-00	43.4443	44.4174	45.4188	46.4484	47.4923	48.5644	52.2991	53.0836	53.8799
MP-0	41.2155	42.1323	43.0915	44.0504	45.0520	46.0537	49.6252	50.3696	51.1251
MP-1	38.5354	39.3819	40.2706	41.2015	42.1184	43.0493	46.3993	47.0953	47.8017
MP-2	34.9527	35.7567	36.5325	37.3648	38.2112	39.0713	42.0835	42.7147	43.3555
MP-3	32.0471	32.7806	33.5141	34.2899	35.0375	35.8558	38.5959	39.1748	39.7624
MP-4	29.1557	29.8042	30.4814	31.1867	31.8637	32.5689	35.0792	35.6054	36.1395

LIBRARY CATEGORY
 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

LMP-3	Head of Adult Services Head of Circulation Services Head of Youth Services
LMP-4	Information Services Librarian Youth Services Librarian
LOC-3A	Head of Technical Services Circulation Supervisor

LOC-3B | Administrative Assistant
 LOC-4A | Library Assistant
 | Technical Services Assistant

	Min	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
LOC-3A	26.48	27.01	27.53	28.10	28.65	29.22	29.81	30.42	31.02	31.63
LOC-3B	25.07	25.58	26.08	26.60	27.15	27.70	28.24	28.80	29.37	29.96
LOC-4A	23.78	24.24	24.72	25.21	25.74	26.22	26.78	27.31	27.84	28.42
LMP-3	32.09	32.79	33.52	34.28	35.06	35.88	36.65	37.47	38.32	39.17
LMP-4	29.16	29.82	30.48	31.17	31.85	32.62	33.35	34.09	34.86	35.64
Library Page - Minimum Wage										

LABOR CATEGORY

SECTION 1.500
 CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

Grade A – Working Foreman (F&G, Water, Operations), Senior Water Systems Technician
 Grade B – Master Mechanic
 Grade C – Aerial Lift Oper., Heavy Equip. Oper., Water Sys. Tech., Working Foreman/Facilities
 Maint-Comm Ctr
 Grade D – Auto Equipment Operator, Recreation Custodian, Maint Man/Custodian DPW

SECTION 2.500
 PAY SCHEDULE/HOURLY
 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Grade	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12
A	\$30.21	\$31.02	\$31.81	\$32.64	\$33.44	\$34.25	\$35.09	\$35.89	\$36.68	\$37.50	\$38.25	\$39.02
B	\$28.91	\$29.57	\$30.19	\$30.83	\$31.45	\$32.12	\$32.74	\$33.41	\$34.04	\$34.69	\$35.37	\$36.09
C	\$26.41	\$27.12	\$27.81	\$28.53	\$29.20	\$29.93	\$30.66	\$31.36	\$32.07	\$32.77	\$33.42	\$34.09
D	\$25.31	\$25.83	\$26.33	\$26.88	\$27.37	\$27.92	\$28.51	\$29.06	\$29.64	\$30.22	\$30.83	\$31.45

OFFICE OCCUPATION CATEGORY

SECTION 1.600
 CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

OC-1 Assistant Accountant
 Assistant Public Health Administrator
 Deputy Collector
 Revenue Manager

OC-2a Administrative Assistant, Assessor
 Administrative Fire Secretary/Ambulance Records Supervisor
 Assistant Town Clerk
 Confidential Secretary to the Police Chief (40 hour work week)
 Financial Analyst/Veteran’s Confidential Assistant
 Office Manager/Transportation Coordinator, Council on Aging

OC-2b Collections Supervisor

Payroll / Employee Benefits Administrator

- OC-3a Elections/Registration Secretary
- OC-3b Activities Program Coordinator for Council on Aging
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health
Financial Assistant – Treasurer
Secretary (as assigned to departments: Building & Engineering; Recreation; Water; DPW
Operations Division; Conservation)
Senior Clerk – Assessor
- OC-4a Secretary- Planning Board; Zoning Board of Appeals
Secretary - Finance Committee; Personnel Board
Secretary – Sharon Standing Building Committee
- OC-4b Bus/Van Driver
Police Clerk
Secretary – all other committees
Secretary – Community Preservation Committee

SECTION 2.600
PAY SCHEDULE/HOURLY
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Grade	Min	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12
OC-1	31.8294	32.4635	33.1087	33.7756	34.4645	35.1424	35.8422	36.5639	37.2964	38.0400	38.8054	39.5815
OC-2a	28.6585	29.2316	29.8163	30.4126	31.0208	31.6412	32.2741	32.9196	33.5779	34.2495	34.9345	35.6332
OC-2b	27.4120	27.9602	28.5194	29.0898	29.6716	30.2650	30.8703	31.4877	32.1175	32.7598	33.4150	34.0833
OC-3a	25.7609	26.2761	26.8016	27.3377	27.8844	28.4421	29.0110	29.5912	30.1830	30.7867	31.4024	32.0304
OC-3b	24.4051	24.8932	25.3910	25.8988	26.4168	26.9452	27.4841	28.0337	28.5944	29.1663	29.7496	30.3446
OC-4a	23.1476	23.6106	24.0828	24.5645	25.0557	25.5569	26.0680	26.5894	27.1211	27.6636	28.2168	28.7812
OC-4b	21.9449	22.3838	22.8314	23.2881	23.7538	24.2289	24.7135	25.2078	25.7119	26.2262	26.7507	27.2857

These are the rates that have been in effect, and will continue to be in effect, until such time as a new collective bargaining agreement is executed.

PUBLIC SAFETY CATEGORY

SECTION 1.700
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

SECTION 2.700
PAY SCHEDULE/WEEKLY

POLICE DEPARTMENT
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Patrol Officer	PD-60A	PD-60B	PD-60C	PD-60D	PD-60E	PD-60F	PD-60G	PD-60H	PD-60I
PD-60	Recruit 966.04	Step 1 1,030.59	Step 2 1,099.14	Step 3 1,155.69	Step 4 1,216.04	Step 5 1,240.40	Step 6 1,296.87	Step 7 1,329.28	Step 8 1,362.52
Sergeant	PD-80A	PD-80B	PD-80C	PD-80D	PD-80E	PD-80F			
PD-80	Step 1 1,457.49	Step 2 1,486.67	Step 3 1,516.37	Step 4 1,546.70	Step 5 1,577.31	Step 6 1,640.41			

The amounts of pay shown in the above schedule do not include the extra pay for educational qualifications provided for in the statutes and regulations of the state.

These are the rates that have been in effect, and will continue to be in effect, until such time as a new collective bargaining agreement is executed.

DISPATCHERS
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Relief 1	Relief 2	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9
25.18	25.75	26.21	26.72	27.27	27.80	28.37	28.93	29.52	30.11	30.71

POLICE CROSSING GUARDS
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

		Daily Rate	
School Crossing Guard	PD-20	Step 1	42.75
		Step 2	46.48
		Step 3	51.10
School Crossing Guard Supervisor	PD-20A		64.02

POLICE SUPERIOR OFFICERS
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
2,129.14	2,214.73	2,303.04	2,372.66	2,443.84	2,517.15

These are the rates that have 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, 2023 – June 30, 2024

SECTION 1.410
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

SECTION 2.410
PAY SCHEDULE/WEEKLY

		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Capt./EMT	FD90	1,683.79	1,767.98			1,856.38	
Capt./Medic	FD92	1,769.91	1,858.41			1,951.33	
Lt./EMT	FD80	1,549.74	1,588.48			1,636.13	
Lt./Medic	FD82	1,629.00	1,669.73			1,719.82	
F-F/EMT	FD60	1,255.72	1,293.39	1,351.59	1,419.17	1,490.13	1,512.48
F-F/Medic	FD62	1,307.37	1,346.59	1,407.19	1,477.55	1,551.43	1,574.70

These are the rates that have been in effect, and will continue to be in effect, until such time as a new collective bargaining agreement is executed.

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 21, 2024 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:

Board of Assessors	1 Seat	3 Year Term
Board of Library Trustees	2 Seats	3 Year Term
Planning Board	1 Seat	3 Year Term
School Committee	3 Seats	3 Year Term
Select Board	1 Seat	3 Year Term

And for the following ballot question:

QUESTION NO. 1

Shall an Act passed by the General Court entitled 'An Act expanding the Select Board of the Town of Sharon' be accepted?

YES _____ NO _____

Summary: Acceptance of this Act by a majority of votes at the next annual town election will increase the members of the Select Board from the current three to five. The increase will occur following such acceptance by, in addition to the election of persons to fill expiring terms, the election of one additional member to serve for a two-year term and one additional member to serve for a three-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 18th day of April, A.D., 2024

SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF SHARON

Kiana Pierre-Louis, Chair

Hanna R. Switekowski, Clerk

Emily E. Smith-Lee, Member

A True Copy: Stephen M. Coffey, Constable
Sharon, Massachusetts
Dated: April 18, 2024

**TOWN OF SHARON
SHARON, MA 02067**

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