

MINUTES
SHARON SELECT BOARD
January 18, 2022

The meeting of the Sharon Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair William Heitin remotely via Zoom. Select Board members Hanna R. Switekowski and Emily Smith-Lee were in attendance as was Town Administrator Frederic E. Turkington, Jr. and Assistant to the Town Administrator, Lauren Barnes. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police Department FY2023 operating budget

Chief Brewer and Deputy Chief Coffey presented an overview of the Police Department operating budget which was included for the Board in preparation for tonight's meeting.

Salary & wages for police, and crossing guards and dispatchers were calculated based on existing contracts (future contract estimates). The 2.5% increase is based on the following:

1. The addition of police officers who have degrees. By FY23 we will have added 6 new officers. We have been functioning below 31 personnel and have been without a DC since April of 2021.
2. We are also doing more and more activities in the community and hope to add another community officer during fiscal 2023.
3. Citizens Academy will be a part of fiscal 2023.
4. Deputy Chief will be a part of fiscal 2023.

Longevity and earned time were calculated based on current contracts and upon years of service. This decreased slightly.

There is a request for a \$5,000 increase in anticipation of an increased demand for new officer training and an increase for in-house specialized training on cultural awareness, use of force, de-escalation, CIT training and community awareness issues relating to the police reform bill of 2020 (POST). Training in today's Police Department is paramount to reflect community values.

Potential impact of a level funded budget for FY 2023 includes the following.

- Reduction in community events and community outreach
- Reduction in training during a vital time in policing
- Reduction in police sponsored events
- Reduction in morale of new officers who are developing specialties
- Reduction in specialty opportunities
- Reduction in Accreditation process and lowering of best practice standards
- Reduction in equipment quality which affects moral and police performance

When asked about the status of accreditation, Mr. Coffey explained that the process is consistently set back due to new police reform regulations, but the mock assessment should be completed within the month.

The Board thanked Chief Brewer and Deputy Chief Coffey for their time this evening.

Review and vote to approve Memorandum of Agreement – 145 Old Post Road sewer connection

The Town has been working with the owner of the property at 145 Old Post Road to identify additional affordable housing opportunities. The owner has agreed to build up to affordable rental housing. The Town is currently at the ten percent threshold which leaves the community vulnerable to potential 40B development. It was explained that 40B regulations, also known as the Comprehensive Permit Act, enables local Zoning Boards of Appeals to approve affordable housing developments under flexible rules if at least 20-25% of the units have long-term affordability restrictions. Developers have the right to appeal an adverse local decision if the

community has less than ten percent of its year-round housing deemed affordable. The Board explained that although they are in favor of increased affordable housing, they wish to retain control over and the ability to regulate affordable housing to preserve the Town's interests and overall community master plan.

Mr. Turkington forwarded an updated draft with specific changes in paragraph 11. This new copy eliminates red line revisions. This agreement allows the owner to connect to the sewer line if the Town assumes control in the future. The sewer line is currently privately owned and managed. The agreement also allows for necessary trenches and other construction work.

MOTION: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement for 145 Old Post Road as discussed.
(Switekowski – Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Review proposed articles in Annual Town Meeting warrant

A list of articles was provided to the Board in their meeting materials. Mr. Turkington advised that there were no petition articles to insert for Town Meeting. He further advised that there is a possibility for acquisition of the property located at 94 South Main Street. The owners have expressed interest in selling to the Town. At this time, these items are placeholders and the Board does not need to act this evening.

Consent calendar

Review and approve consent calendar:

- I. Vote to approve the minutes of the following meetings:
 - a. January 5, 2022 Executive Session
 - b. January 5, 2022 regular session
- II. Vote to approve the following banner requests:
 - a. SYBSA spring registration, January 24-31, 2022, in 2nd position
- III. Vote to support the reduction of speed limits allowed in thickly settled areas, as per MGL Chapter 90, Section 193, Sub-Section 17C, for Furnace Street from Wolomolopoag Street to Gavins Pond Road to 25 mph
- IV. Vote to award a contract to and authorize notice to proceed for Mecor Environmental of Weymouth, MA in the amount of \$216,900 for Well Station 4 Booster pump and appurtenant work
- V. Vote to award a contract to and authorize notice to proceed for Mass Installation, Inc. of Norwood, MA in the amount of \$593,143.75 for automatic meter reading system installation services

MOTION: To approve the consent calendar.
(Switekowski - Smith-Lee)

Heitin: AYE
Switekowski: AYE
Smith-Lee: AYE
3-0 **PASSES**

Report of the Town Administrator

Mr. Turkington reported that 18 pieces of correspondence were received over last four weeks. These messages include concerns of neighborhood impact for Sharon Gallery, a notice of appeal, notification of a grant award of \$329,000 for crosswalk improvements, a request by Oasis of Tranquility inquiring about the potential for a Host Community Agreement for a marijuana grow facility lease at 5 Merchant Street, a letter of support for a \$45,000 tourism grant, and concerns regarding noise and dust at a construction site near Sharon Country Club where 8 homes are being developed and response from Town staff.

He advised that the annual Capital Outlay facilities tour is scheduled for January 29 but there is the possibility for a remote version due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns.

Mr. Turkington provided an overview of expected business for the upcoming three meetings including review of Public Works and Water Department operating budgets, and a public hearing for water rates and trash fees. He further advised that he is 95% complete with the budget review. There is a shortfall of \$80,000 of the target allocation but a moving list of items could impact that figure. The Town Clerk's budget is \$60,000 higher this year due to expenses related to the State Primary and State Election. Increases will be seen every other year and staff is working on a solution to set aside funds to anticipate these biannual expenses. Public Works is grappling with reduced revenue for parking funds. During the most recent quarterly sale, 140 passes were sold. This is the highest number of sales since start of pandemic.

When questioned about Town Meeting and whether there may be a need to hold it outdoors, Mr. Turkington advised that staff is monitoring COVID impacts and will consider this possibility as the date for Town Meeting approaches. He further stated that in the absence of a State of Emergency declaration by the Governor, the date of Town Meeting cannot be changed as it is set according to bylaw. Although there is the possibility of opening Town Meeting and postponing until the next night, this may create confusion.

Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Ms. Switekowski mentioned that on Monday, over 60 participants from the community participated in the MLK program hosted by the Interfaith Clergy Association. A recording of the program is available on Sharon TV.

Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:35 pm.
(Smith-Lee - Switekowski)

Heitin: AYE

Switekowski: AYE

Smith-Lee: AYE

3-0 **PASSES**

List of Documents

- Budget
- Draft agreement
- List of warrant articles
- Minutes
- Banner request form
- Memos (3)
- Draft letter
- Bid tabulations (2)
- Town Administrator's report
- Preliminary budget
- Preliminary budget overview