

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 9, 2018

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Chairman John J. McGrath, Clerk William A. Heitin, Selectman Walter B. Roach, 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.

FY19 Budget Overview

Mr. Turkington provided an overview of the FY2019 operating and capital budget, which is an updated version from the recent Priorities Committee meeting. The projected allocation of estimated available revenue supports a 2.51% increase in expenditures to the three operating sectors, net of so-called fixed expenses. Variable line items to watch include unused levy capacity; ambulance receipts; cherry sheet receipts and charges; local receipts (motor vehicle excise, hotel and meal trends, building permit activity, and investment income); cash capital and stabilization fund. The gap to meet the 2.51% increase for the town side is currently \$75,000. Preliminary state aid figures will be coming out in the next few weeks. The budget figures are a moving target at this point.

FY19 DPW/Water Budget Review

Superintendent of Public Works Eric Hooper appeared before the Board. He presented the FY19 proposed budget for the Department of Public Works. He explained there is nothing new proposed in the FY19 budget. It is estimated at \$3.5 million. The utilities and maintenance line items remain a "wild card" for the existing buildings. In response to a question from Selectman Roach, Mr. Hooper noted that DPW is going to go with the contracted services for the janitorial services at the public safety building for the time building. He said the larger issue is with the custodial staff at the Community Center. Mr. Hooper explained that due to several retirements, there are some savings in the budget.

The proposed FY19 budget assumes that the Water Department revenues and retained earnings reserve fund have sufficient capacity to fund operating expenses, completion of the South Pleasant/Forest Street neighborhoods water main replacement project and purchase of replacement equipment. Expected revenue for FY19 is \$3,790,000 and will be used to fund operating expenses. Previously authorized funding will be used to initiate the MWRA Emergency Connection. Projected revenue of \$3,790,000 will be used to cover the cost of Salaries and Wages, Materials and Supplies and water main replacement in the South Pleasant Street area. A borrowing of \$2,400,000 is proposed for this fiscal year to cover the cost of the Massapoag Avenue tank replacement. A total of \$268,631 will be allocated from retained earnings accumulated during prior years. Tentatively identified major construction projects totaling \$1,390,000 for FY19 include completion of the South Pleasant Street neighborhood water main replacement. The South Pleasant Street project is a continuation of the projects recommended by the Master Plan which recommends correcting fire flow deficiencies. Encumbered funds will be used to cover expenses incurred for the MWRA Emergency Connection project. The Water Management Advisory Committee has reviewed the FY19 budget proposal.

The proposed FY19 budget for street lighting is a decrease of \$3. The decision to move to LED street lights has saved the town money.

Selectman Roach asked Mr. Hooper if the town has thought about doing the maintenance/replacement/repair of the street lights internally; Mr. Hooper said that it is not on the table today, but they have thought about it.

Mr. Hooper added that East Foxboro Street will be repaved in the spring.

Selectman Heitin thanked Mr. Hooper and the DPW staff on the snow removal efforts in the recent snowstorm. Mr. Hooper will pass along the Board's thanks to his staff. Chairman McGrath noted that the comments were overwhelming positive and thanked the staff for their hard work.

Selectman Roach would like the Board to send a letter to the staff to be posted in their breakroom. The other members agreed.

The Board thanked Mr. Hooper for his time.

Town Administrator Annual Performance Evaluation Discussion

Chairman McGrath explained that this agenda item will be held until the next meeting.

Discussion of Potential Fall 2018 Special Town Meeting

Mr. Turkington noted that the bylaw requires the Board to determine in January if there should be a Special Town Meeting in the fall. The Board discussed the three options provided by the Town Clerk at length, and noted challenges with all proposed dates. The Board asked to hold this item until the next meeting, and ask the Town Clerk to provide dates other than a Monday. Mr. Turkington said that he will speak with Ms. Chused about a Thursday, December 13 Special Town Meeting.

Consent Calendar

- I. Vote to approve regular session minutes of December 19, 2017
- II. Vote to approve and sign the 2018 Common Victualler's license for Angel's Cafe
- III. Vote to approve an extension of the Solid Waste Collection and Transportation Agreement with Republic Services until June 30, 2018
- IV. Vote to open the warrant for the May 1, 2018 Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, January 10 at 8:30 a.m. through Tuesday, January 23 at 4:30 p.m. and insert placeholder articles
- V. Vote to appoint Seema Dixit to the Sharon Cultural Council for a term through June 30, 2020
- VI. Vote to approve and sign Conservation Restriction from Alan Schaffel to the Town of Sharon for the property located at 92R Billings Street and 000 High Street, Sharon, Massachusetts, Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book: 16611, Page: 429

MOTION: To approve
(Heitin - Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Turkington reported the following:

- Reviewed the placeholder articles for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting; the warrant will open on Wednesday, January 10 and close on Tuesday, January 23. Placeholder articles include one for electricity aggregation and three marijuana-related articles.
- Met with Republic Services today to negotiate the details of the municipal solid waste and recycling collection contract for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2018.

- Republic is willing to place a dumpster for cardboard disposal; the location will need to be determined.
- They also agreed to pick up the trash barrels that were purchased for their trash, now that they will be using a town barrel
- The town is working on a letter that will be sent out to each household to explain how to select the barrel size that best fits their household's needs
- Billing will be through City Hall Systems as opposed to Republic
- The trash barrel vendor is prepared to provide the barrel
- Mr. Turkington asked if the Board would be amenable to allocate 10 free overflow bags to those who select the 35-barrel gallon – the Board thinks this is acceptable
- Tri-board meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm, and it is anticipated that it will be rescheduled to January 29
- Agenda topics for January 23 meeting: beach fees public hearing; recreation, police and fire budget reviews; and a recreational marijuana discussion

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

Chairman McGrath thanked Police, Fire and DPW for their hard work during the snowstorm.

Executive Session – 7:41pm

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for the police chief search and at the end, to adjourn of the evening. Discussion of this item in open session would be detrimental to the bargaining position of the Town.

(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye
Roach: Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:07pm

(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

McGrath: Aye
Heitin: Aye
Roach: Aye

List of Documents:

- Overview of FY2019 Operating and Capital Budget (Revised Friday, January 4, 2018)
- Revenue Forecast spreadsheets
- Department of Public Works Budget documents
- Executive Performance Evaluation Forms for Fred Turkington, reviewer: Bill Heitin
- Proposed 2018 STM Dates from Town Clerk Marlene Chused
- December 19, 2017 Board of Selectmen minutes
- Common Victualler License Application – Angel's Café
- Third Amendment to Solid Waste Collection and Transportation Agreement Dated June 1, 2010
- 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Draft List
- Sharon Cultural Counsel application – Seema Dixit

- Sharon Cultural Counsel member list
- Grant of Conservation Restriction to the Town of Sharon from Alan Schaffel of 126 Billings Street for 92 Billings Street and 000 High Street, Sharon, MA
- Report of the Town Administrator
- Department of Energy Resources – Green Community Designation\
- Energy Advisory Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee applicant lists
- Miscellaneous Correspondence