

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 17, 2018

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00pm in the Town Hearing Room at the Sharon Community Center with Selectman William A. Heitin, Selectman Walter B. Roach, Selectwoman Emily E. Smith-Lee, 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.

Board Reorganization

MOTION: To appoint Selectman Heitin as Chair for a one-year term
(Roach – Smith-Lee) 3-0 **PASSES**

MOTION: To appoint Selectman Roach as Clerk
(Smith-Lee – Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Chairman Heitin welcomed Selectwoman Smith-Lee to the Board and thanked JJ McGrath for his service.

Organization of Police Chief Candidate Questions

Chairman Heitin noted that the Board will use Mr. Turkington's questions as guidance for the three candidates. Mr. Turkington reviewed the process for selecting a new chief; the Screening Committee members from the prior search served again, two police chiefs assisted in the screening process of five internal candidates, and oral interviews took place on April 28. Promotions within the department will be occurring as a result of hiring an internal candidate. Chairman Heitin explained that each of the Board members will review their notes and the applicants' materials after the interviews and have a conversation at next Tuesday's meeting. Selectman Roach noted the Town is fortunate to have three internal candidates and the Town will be well-served.

Donald Brewer – Police Chief Interview

Chairman Heitin welcomed Mr. Brewer. Mr. Brewer provided the Board with a summary of his background and career to date, and noted the goal of the department is to prepare the next group of men and women for future growth. He added that how officers treat people is paramount.

In response to a question about transparency, Mr. Brewer explained that policy accreditation and law enforcement best practices is important, engage more fully in social media and that his goal as Chief would be to create the Chief's Advisory Council, to gain other's perspectives of the department. In response to a question about a canine officer, Mr. Brewer indicated he would like to see a canine officer, and its addition would need to be carefully organized, with a policy. In response to a question about whether there is a need for more than one school resource officer, Mr. Brewer believes the department needs at least one more. He praised the current school resource officer and pointed out that the department is doing a lot of training. In response to a question about what he would do as Chief, he stressed the importance of strong policies; needs buy-in at every level; will treat staff with respect and wants the staff to shine. He feels his greatest attributes are his discipline, his ability to be organized, and his integrity. Conversely, a weakness of his is that he believes what someone says is true, but admits he may need to dig a little deeper sometimes. In response to a question about what he enjoys doing in his free time, Mr. Brewer told the Board that he enjoys jogging, reading, and spending time with his family.

The Board thanked Mr. Brewer for his time.

Donald D. Williams – Police Chief Interview

Chairman Heitin welcomed Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams provided the Board with a summary of his background and career to date, as well as his accomplishments. He noted that he has trained with most, if not all, officers.

In response to a question about transparency, Mr. Williams explained that the department needs to integrate with the community and open its doors to the public, fulfill all public records requests in a timely fashion, do more with community events and get out of the cruisers and into the schools. In response to a question about a canine officer, Mr. Williams believes the department's staffing needs to be evaluated, and believes it would be great to have a canine officer, but is mindful of the cost, and a full departmental review is needed. In response to a question about whether there is a need for more than one school resource officer, Mr. Williams would like to have a second school resource officer to focus on the middle and elementary schools. In response to a question about what he would do as Chief, he stressed the importance that the department get accreditation and complimented the entire staff, and not just the sworn officers, such as dispatchers and crossing guards. In response to a question about what he enjoys doing in his free time, Mr. Williams enjoying riding his motorcycle, splitting wood as a stress release and loves spending time with his grandchildren. In a closing statement, Mr. Williams has the most experience in uniform, believes his military experience is beneficial, has an extensive training record, has no intention of letting down the town, wants to continue learning and is not afraid to ask for help. He noted that preparedness is key and that we create our own good luck.

The Board thanked Mr. Williams for his time.

John E. Ford – Police Chief Interview

Chairman Heitin welcomed Mr. Ford. Mr. Ford provided the Board with a summary of his background and career to date.

In response to a question about transparency, Mr. Ford wants officers to be part of the fabric of the community and wants people to know who the officers are. Facebook and social media are important tools and spoke about the success of the Public Safety Academy. We wants to ensure there is an open dialogue between the department and the community. In response to a question about a canine officer, Mr. Ford noted that the department does occasionally require the use of a canine officer. He is very supportive of the idea but noted that he would need to look at the budget. He added that a canine officer would be great for the community. In response to a question about whether there is a need for more than one school resource officer, Mr. Ford believes there is a need for a second school resource officer, but will need to look practically at the budget. He would work with the School Superintendent on this issue. In response to a question about what he enjoys doing in his free time, Mr. Ford explained that he loves old movies and playing the piano.

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

Mr. Turkington explained to the Board the process for selecting someone to serve out the final year of Selectwoman Smith-Lee's School Committee term. The Board noted their availability to meet with the School Committee to interview and select a candidate on either June 5 or June 6.

Executive Session – 7:33pm

MOTION: To enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation and at the end, to adjourn. Discussion of this item in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.

(Heitin – Roach) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin - Aye
Roach - Aye
Smith-Lee - Aye

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:02pm
(Smith-Lee - Heitin) 3-0 **PASSES**

Heitin - Aye
Roach - Aye
Smith-Lee - Aye

List of Documents

- Donald Brewer – Resume and Police Chief Screening Committee response materials
- Donald Williams – Resume and Police Chief Screening Committee response materials
- John Ford – Resume and Police Chief Screening Committee response materials