

Sherborn Select Board at the Advisory Hearing

March 18, 2023

8:30AM

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Jeff Waldron, Marian Neutra, George Morrill, Eric Johnson, Paul DeRensis

Staff: Jeremy Marsette, Diane Moores

Motion:

Move to convene the Select Board at the Advisory Hearing

George Morrill

Eric Johnson

Roll Call: Roll call: Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Johnson, aye, Morrill, aye, Waldron, aye

Articles 1 through 6

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously favorable action on these articles.

Article 7 – Omnibus Budget

Motion to support favorable action on non-held items identified by advisory

Eric Johnson

Paul DeRensis

Roll call: Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Johnson, aye, Morrill, aye, Waldron, aye

The following budgets were held by Advisory.

IT Budget - Presentation given by Klaus Ullman, IT Specialist

Motion:

Select Board Motion to support favorable action.

Paul DeRensis

Marian Neutra

Roll call: Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Johnson, aye, Morrill, aye, Waldron, aye

Board of Health – Daryl Beardsley discussed the increased hours for the BOH Administrator, working with TA and HR Director looking at Exempt Non-Exempt status. Working with TA and HR Director and expect that the position will be back in the Non-Exempt status by the next fiscal year. Working with Personnel, evaluated the Administrator duties and will be circling. back with Personnel. Looking to increase the hours from 35 to 40 hours per week.

Discussions:

Vicki Rellas, Personnel Chair, stated that the Personnel Board never met to approve a change from exempt to non-exempt, what the Personnel approved was for a review of the BOH as a group and not just one particular position.

Paul DeRensis, urged Advisory to support the budget item, two separate issues one is an HR issue and the other is the increase in the hours. TA and HR will work out the details. What is before Advisory is the budget. It is an injustice to an employee, we should provide the additional hours, recognize their

contributions, the town cannot take advantage of employees, without giving them the recognition and compensation that they deserve.

Matt Vitale – echo the comments that Paul DeRensis made.

Motion:

Move to support favorable action on the BOH budget

Eric Johnson - with the contingency that the position is moved to an exempt position.

Paul DeRensis

Eric Johnson

Roll call: Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Johnson, aye, Morrill, aye, Waldron, aye

Council on Aging- Sue Kelliher gave a presentation on the Community Assessment that was done to help explain the need for the extra hours in the COA Office. Many of the COA members spoke on behalf of having the hours increased.

Discussion:

Paul DeRensis urged Advisory to support this small request. Our Seniors play a big roll in our community and we need to make sure that we support them, approving this request will help the COA to work with the Seniors to keep them in their homes.

The town authorized the COA to have an Assessment done and in the context of the report there was a list of items that would expand on what the COA is doing including more investment in the office staff, without this the seniors will not get the benefit of what the assessment stated should be done.

Pam Dowse, in town hall everyday and see the amount of Seniors that come into the town hall everyday for the many programs that are run by the Council on Aging. Supports this request 100%

Carole Marple, Village Way, supports this requests and urges the Advisory Committee to support this request also. The staff goes way beyond what they have to do, urges Advisory to support their request.

Vicki Rellas, Sue has presented this position to the Personnel Board and it was approved unanimously by Personnel.

Eric Johnson stated that it is only 5 more hours and is in favor of this but would like to see what the actual cost it would be for the increase in hours

Select Board Motion to support favorable action.

Paul DeRensis

Eric Johnson

Roll call: Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Johnson, aye, Morrill, aye, Waldron, aye

Article 8 – Capital Improvement Plan

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the Select Board voted to unanimously approve all the Capital Items as presented prior to the hearing this morning.

Presentations were given by Fire Department, Police Department, DPW and Sherborn School Committee and the Region on various capital item requests.

A discussion took place on how each of the items listed as capital items would be funded., what would be funded through free cash and what would be excluded debt.

Article 9 - Regional School Capital Expense

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the Select Board voted to unanimously approve the Regional School Capital Expense prior to the hearing this morning.

Article 10 – Use of Free Cash

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously favorable action on these articles.

Article 11 Funding of 350th Anniversary Celebration

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously on favorable action of this article.

Article 12 – Combined Appointed Treasurer/Collector Position

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB voted 4-1 on this article this morning prior to the Advisory Hearing. Jeff stated that he was the one that was not in favor of this article.

Article 13-Amend Board of Assessors Membership

Eric Johnson stated that at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting the residents voted to change the Board of Assessors from elected to appointed, at that time there was some concern from some residents about having an appointed Board of Assessors without one being a Sherborn resident. Those residents felt that having a Sherborn resident on the board would give it better balance. This new membership would give the SB the ability to appoint someone if they cannot find a qualified Sherborn resident.

There was a robust lengthy discussion among those in attendance.

George Morrill stated that prior to this morning's SB meeting, he was not in favor of this article but voted in favor of it during the SB Meeting this morning prior to the Advisory Hearing and since hearing the discussions he has now changed his mind again and is now not in favor of the article.

Jeff Waldron informed Advisory that the SB voted prior to the hearing to support this article.

Article 14-Change of Membership to Land Acquisition Capital Budget to groundwater

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously favorable action on this Article.

Article 15 Amend Capital Budget Committee Section 3

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously favorable action on this Article.

Article 16-Amend Personnel Admin Plan – Longevity

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously favorable action on this Article.

The Town Administrator stated that we are confirming with Town Counsel to use Free Cash for this year and going forward would be incorporated into the operating budget.

Paul DeRensis stated that the Article wording already authorizes not only favorable action for the program but also a line item to transfer funding from Free Cash.

Article 17 – For the Town to opt-in to MGL c. 90, Section 17G statutory speed limit within a thickly settled or business district.

Paul DeRensis stated that this Article will allow for greater safety.

Jeff Waldron informed the Advisory Committee that the SB at their meeting of 3/16/2023 voted unanimously favorable action on this Article.

Article 18 Amend ZBL Section 5.10 Ground Mounted Solar

Will Dunham, Planning Board Members stated that Solar is protected land use, so you cannot put over protections in a bylaw when dealing with solar. This amendment will be protective of Sherborn interests in town but not make it so restrictive that could cause a legal problem.

Paul DeRensis cautioned speakers not to speak about what could be determined in a court of law in this public meeting as it could be used against us should a lawsuit arise.

Marian Neutra spoke in favor of this Article and expressed some of the concerns.

Evan Turner, a Solar Developer spoke regarding the Article stating that under the Article under “Dimensional Requirements” Section 5.10. 4 may propose an issue with the Attorney General as written.

A lengthy discussion took place on this Article.

Motion from Select Board

Move to approve Article 18 - Ground Mounted Solar

Moved: Marian Neutra

Second: Jeff Waldron

Discussion:

Eric Johnson may be some vulnerability in the Article.

George Morrill stated the he questions the legality of the Article.

Paul DeRensis going to abstain on this Article, had a developer come to his property to lease land from him for a Solar project. He will be abstaining.

Eric Johnson asked if anyone would consider removing from the article the wording “in its natural state”

Voted as follows:

Neutra, aye; Waldron, aye, Morrill, aye, Johnson aye, DeRensis, abstain

4-0-1

Article 19 – Amend GBL, Chapter 6 Stretch Energy Code – Delete existing by-law and replace with new specialized stretch energy code by-law

Brad Karalius gave a presentation on behalf of the Energy Committee

Marian Neutra enthusiastically in favor of this, heard that it may derail affordable housing but from what I hear today and what I’ve learned that is not the case. Highly supportive this Article.

Paul DeRensis generally in favor of this article and wants to assure those that had objections by revisiting one part, he has been told that it is going to interfere with doing renovations on their homes. How would this specialized code affect renovating.

Brad Karalius stated that it would not affect renovations or additions.

George Morrill concerns: a lot of new growth comes from single family homes, not the time for the Town to adopt this, wait for when the State adopts.

Eric Johnson stated he would encourage deferring this for one year and to wait for other communities to adopt this. If a contractor wants to build a passive house, then that is fine but to be mandated to do so is not in our best interest right now.

Marian Neutra stated that with the Climate Emergency we should not wait to adopt this.

Motion:

Motion to support and recommend favorable actions

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: DeRensis, aye Johnson, nay Morrill, nay Neutra, aye Waldron, nay

03-02-0

2 in favor: DeRensis, Neutra

3 opposed: Morrill, Johnson and Waldron

Steven Tsai expressed his disappointment in the Select Board since the Board signed the Emergency Declaration last year,

Articles 20, 21 22 and 23

Were voted unanimously at the Select Board Meeting of March 16, 2023 to support

Consideration of Ballot Questions

George Morrill would like to wait and vote on the Ballot Questions at the Select Board meeting of March 30, 2023.

Motion to Adjourn-4:55 pm

George Morrill

Jeff Waldron

Roll Call: Roll call: Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Johnson, aye, Morrill, aye, Waldron, aye

Note To the Reader of the Minutes: Articles 20, 21, 22 and 23 were previously voted to support favorable action at their meeting of March 16, 2023

Submitted by: Diane Moores

Approved: April 6, 2023