

Sherborn Select Board
July 27, 2023
7PM _ Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Eric Johnson, Marian Neutra, Paul DeRensis, Steven Tsai, Jeff Waldron

SB Staff: Jeremy Marsette, Diane Moores

Public Comment:

Chairman Waldron asked for a moment of silence for Sadie Mauro in her passing from a recent tragic boat accident.

Reading of the Agenda

Motion

Move to amend the Agenda for Item #4, remove the word **rescind** and insert the work **re-sign**.

Moved: Eric Johnson

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll call Vote: 5-0-0

Select Board Member Eric Johnson left the meeting for the discussion surrounding Special Town Meeting.

Review of Special Town Meeting Timeline and draft list of Warrant Articles

Consideration of dates to open and close the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting – October 17, 2023

Chairman Jeff Waldron stated that the Town has secured Lindquist Commons to hold the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 17, 2023. The Board discussed the opening and closing of the Special Town Meeting Warrant dates. The Advisory Hearing for STM is scheduled for September 27th at 7PM.

Town Administrator Jeremy Marsette stated that there are 2 items that are really the purpose for having a Special Town Meeting and that is for the North Sherborn Water-Sewer District Special Legislation and for Meadowbrook Commons Revised Preliminary Development Plan.

Other Warrant Articles are strictly housekeeping Articles and can wait until 2024 Spring Town Meeting and he will bring more information forward at the next meeting for the Board to review and discuss.

Select Board Member Paul DeRensis stated that his rule of thumb is to close the warrant 60 days before a Town Meeting, because it gives the Select Board ample time to be able to prepare the warrant appropriately.

Bob Murchison stated that he doesn't think it's appropriate to close the Warrant so quickly because it will not allow residents ample time to file a citizen's petition.

Paul DeRensis responded that that was not his intention to discourage residents from coming forward with an article, his intent was that the SB would need the time to review, and approve the draft warrant and that takes time and for Town Counsel to draft the motions and sometimes

articles may need to go before the Planning Board for a hearing. In theory that would mean we would close the Warrant on August 17th and open the Warrant tonight.

Jeff Waldron stated that since the SB is meeting on August 10th, if there was anything that needed to be added to the Warrant, we could do it that night.

Marian Neutra stated that until we vote the actual Warrant it is still just a draft warrant and it can be modified, it does not mean we are shutting down public comment, on the contrary.

Marian Neutra asked that the Advisory Report should go out at the same time as the announcement of the Hearing is posted on the website.

Jeff Waldron asked Jeanne Guthrie to put a notice on the Town's Website that the Warrant for Special Town Meeting is open and the date when it closes and if anyone has anything they would like included to let the Select Board Office know.

Setting the Quorum will be discussed at the August 24th SB meeting.

Motion:

Move to open the Warrant tonight (07/27/2023) and close the Warrant on August 17, 2023 at 5PM.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: DeRensis, aye; Neutra, aye, Tsai, aye; Waldron, aye

Eric Johnson not present for vote

4-0-0

Coolidge Street Homes – 40B

Jeff Waldron stated that there was a tour of the project on July 14th. We received an extension from MassHousing that our comments are now due by August 28, 2023.

The next step in the evaluation of the proposed 40B affordable housing development on Coolidge Street is for the Select Board to write a comprehensive letter to MassHousing, conveying the comments (positive and negative) and concerns of relevant Sherborn Boards, Committees and various Town Departments.

All comments are due back to the Select Board's Office by August 21, 2023 so that all comments can be integrated into one letter to MassHousing.

Select Board Member Eric Johnson returned to the meeting.

Draft IMA Social Work Services Agreement, Chief Galvin

The Police Chief stated that a few months ago he came before the SB to discuss some grants that his department was applying for as part of addressing mental health issues within the area, one of which was the jail divergent clinician. Since 2015 Holliston, Hopkinton and Sherborn have shared a Co-Responsive Clinician. The services in the past had been provided by Advocates and the three towns broke that contract with Advocates several months ago because they were unable to provide a Clinician.

There is now a new Grant which will allow for a new clinician that will actually be an employee of the Town of Holliston.

The IMA before the SB incorporated what was in the prior Agreement with Advocates. The IMA has been reviewed by all 3 Police Chiefs, all 3 Town Administrators and all 3 community Town Counsels.

All expenses are anticipated to be paid from the Grant and the Town of Holliston will be the gatekeeper of the Grant.

Paul DeRensis stated that he is in favor of this, but as a Town Counsel he has a concern about who would be liable if the clinician does something wrong. He urged the Police Chief to have Counsel take a look at the language again to make sure which community will hold the liability if something goes wrong.

Motion:

Move to authorize Police Chief Tom Galvin to sign the IMA Social Work Services Agreement.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye, Tsai, aye, Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Waldron, aye

Consideration to Re-Sign the Massachusetts Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement, Chief Galvin

The Chief informed the SB that many years ago the Town signed on to the Massachusetts Interagency Mutual Aid Agreement and the Middlesex County Chief's Association is asking every community to re-sign the agreement to update changes made.

Motion:

Move to re-sign the Mass IMA Agreement

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Eric Johnson

Roll Call: Johnson, aye, Tsai, aye, Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Waldron, aye

Community Assessment Update and New Community Guide, Sue Kelliher, COA Director

Sue Kelliher presented an update to the SB since the Community Assessment Plan that was conducted by UMass Gerontology Institute. The COA office took the recommendations and worked on developing a plan in four major categories: Community Engagement, Quality Programming, Advocacy and Social and Support Services.

Some of the major accomplishments are:

1. The Resource Directory that is directed at homeowners and new residents. A grant paid for the 1,800 directories.
2. Postcards to targeted age groups to increase awareness of the COA. The age groups are 60-65 and 70 plus.
3. The weekly email blast is up to 508 subscribers, the Link is sent to all households and business in town.
4. Organized and executed an Adult Resource Fair in April 2023
5. The Implementation of a Dial-A-Ride program that began in January 2023.
6. Added two new instructors to the Lifetime Learning programs

7. Added an indoor in person exercise class along with weekly specialty walks as well as to zoom exercise classes.
8. Increased the intergenerational programs in partnership with the library.
9. New drop-in programs have been added

The Select Board thanked her for a job well done, especially with the new Welcome to Sherborn Directory which was impressive, thorough and informative.

Consideration of Additional ARPA funds for Irrigation Well at Laurel Fields, Dave Goldberg, Recreation Department

David Goldberg is in front of the SB asking for an additional \$60,000 in ARPA funds for money to fund an "Exploration Study" to be conducted by Geosphere

Dave stated that the Board had voted to give the Recreation Department \$100,000 to get the project started. It is now at the point that the Consultant is ready to move forward with the drilling. A contractor has been identified who will essentially oversee the drilling. In order to move forward with the drilling another \$60,000 is needed. The funds were earmarked for the project but only \$100,000 was initially approved for spending.

Eric Johnson asked that if the two test wells prove that there is sufficient water, will they be converted into a permanent well.

The Board of Health has confirmed that they do not have separate approval requirements for irrigation wells as opposed to drinking water wells. The Board of Health will likely waive their fee for the work which is typically \$400 per well.

Dave Goldberg responded that they would indeed be converted to a permanent well.

Paul DeRensis stated that we understand that the Town is committed to having these fields the best that they can be and in order to do that the process needs to move forward.

It was noted that the initial request from the Recreation Department was for \$350,00 but the SB only authorized \$100,000 up to this point. Currently there is \$74,000 left from the first \$100,000 that was authorized.

Dave Goldberg stated that he spoke with the consultant and assuming that they hit water which they believe they will then there should be sufficient amount of funding from ARPA to design something for the fields. It may not be every field but will have enough funds to irrigate a significant portion of fields for Laurel.

Motion:

Move to approve an additional \$60,000 funds to allow drilling of two test wells.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Steven Tsai

Roll Call: Johnson, aye, Tsai, aye, Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Waldron, aye

Consideration of Appointments:

There was a discussion around having each candidate present a resume at the time of the appointments being made.

Marian Neutra also stated that it is helpful to see a resume, as we are a small town and the resume tells you a little something about that person.

Paul DeRensis stated that speaking as a Town Counsel, these resumes once submitted now become a public document and there is a lot of information on these resumes, we might consider asking more questions on the application or if you really want to know more you can just Google that person.

Eric Johnson stated that initially it was thought that if there was more than one person applying for one slot on a board or committee that it would be more beneficial to the SB to review a resume to help determine which candidate would be a better fit for the board or committee.

Motion:

Move to appointment the following

Agricultural Commission

Mark Williams for a term to expire June 15, 2026

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Elderly & Disabled Tax Aid Committee

Cornelia (Rennie) Roberts for a term to expire June 15, 2026

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Zoning Board of Appeals

Zach McBride for a term to expire on June 15, 2026 from Assoc. to Full Voting

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Todd Labbe for a term to expire June 15, 2026 as an Associate Board Member

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Election Workers

Jackie Morris stated that every year it is required that the Select Board vote on the current list of election workers.

Move to appoint the Election Workers as presented by Jackie Morris, Town Clerk

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Consent Agenda

Motion:

Move to approve as presented.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Marian Neutra

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Town Administrator Report

Brush Hill and Hunting Lane Cell Towers: Did some research and discovered some special Legislation that was filed in 1992 that clears the hurdle of Chapter 97 disposition and Counsel has opined that we do not need to follow the Chapter 97 process to renew the lease or put a new RFP for a lease.

Entered into a natural gas supply contract similar to what we had. The pricing was favorable so we went for a 24-month term, which should save the community about \$6,000.

Solar- hoping to enter into a contract with Select Energy. The proposed solar panels would generate about 50% of the electric demand for the Fire Station and over the course of 20 years could save Sherborn \$10,000.

Entered into a contract with David Fixler, Architecture, Planning and Restoration to do a feasibility study about fitting the basement of the library to house the Sherborn Historic Society and hope to bring forward a presentation to the Select Board.

The permit for the Sudbury Aqueduct recreation trail has been approved that will allow public access for the full length of the trail that runs about 2 miles from Framingham border south of Kendall Ave eastward toward Everett Street. It also allows the town to build a small pedestrian bridge over a canal near 38 Meadowbrook Road which the Sherborn Forest and Trails Association is planning to build at some point.

Farm Road: Eversource has begun the replacement of utility poles and the electrical service, which will hopefully minimize future power outages.

SB Reports

Marian Neutra stated that all of the Articles that were voted in favor of at the last Town Meeting were ratified with the exception of the Solar Bylaw and that will be discussed at length at the next Planning Board meeting.

Move to Adjourn

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Eric Johnson

Roll Call: Johnson, aye; Neutra, aye, DeRensis, aye, Tsai, aye, Waldron, Aye

Submitted by: Diane Moores

Documents from the meeting may be viewed by emailing diane.moores@sherbornma.org

The meeting may be viewed by going to www.youtube.com or www.dsctv.com

Approved: August 10, 2023

