

Town of Shaftsbury  
Selectboard Meeting  
6:00 PM  
Monday, November 17, 2014  
Cole Hall, 61 Buck Hill Road, Shaftsbury, VT

Present: Tim Scoggins (Chair), Mitch Race, Ken Harrington,  
Tony Krulikowski, Art Whitman

TA Present: David Kiernan

Others: Jennifer McGean

**6:00 PM Special Budget Meeting**

**1. Health Insurance**

- The employees are happy with their current health insurance coverage, which is Blue Cross/Blue Shield Gold Plan MVP.
- Increase in rates will cost the Town an additional \$5,012.28 for 2015.
- Employees also contribute to the plan,
- More options may be available next year.
- The change in premiums will work with the current budget.
- The Select Board agreed by consensus to keep the same health insurance options as last year.

**2. Budget Issues**

**a. Garage**

A new place to put the Town Garage is being sought.

Tim Scoggins invited ideas on placement.

**b. Bank Street Sidewalk**

A separate fund will be created for the Around the Block Sidewalk Project, which is \$97,150. This money is currently included in the Road Department budget and is returned to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Reallocating this money allow more money to be available for the roads and landfill without raising taxes.

A separate capital projects fund budget line item may be created for all grant money received from the State.

It may be cheaper to have contractors do some of the projects and allow the Road Department to work on other projects.

**c. Buck Hill Parking Lot**

An .18-acre lot located across the street from Town Hall that is leased to provide parking for tenants of an apartment building is for sale.

The Town owns this property and currently leases it to the owner of the apartment building. It is a small piece of property. (Discussed further in Item # 11, Regular Meeting below.)

**d. Cold Spring Historical Marker**

A grant being sought will provide a maximum of \$15,000 for this project. It is intended to help hire an artist and some funds can be used toward completion of the project.

**e. Howard Park**

Two questions posed for running Howard Park are:

1. How should security be handled?
2. Should there be a Park Supervisor position. Our current Park Supervisor, Walter Merritt, spends most of his time mowing.

A grant has been submitted to pay for repairs to Howard Park. If the grant request is turned down, the Town will be able to complete most of the repairs identified during a site visit in the spring.

**f. Culvert in Shaftsbury Hollow**

A grant is available to pay for repairs to the culvert in Shaftsbury Hollow. If we receive the grant, repairs will be done.

The same grant was submitted for East Road and was denied for this year. The Town will reapply for next year.

**6:30 PM Regular Meeting****1. Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Tim Scoggins (Chair) at 6:40 PM.

**A change was made to the agenda:** An executive session to discuss a real estate transaction was added at the end of the meeting.

**2. Approval of Warrants**

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to pay a check warrant for Payroll #7 in the amount of \$17,364.94. Mitch Race 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to pay a check warrant for Payroll #10 in the amount of \$16,787.79. Mitch Race 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to pay a check warrant for Retirement #10 in the amount of \$127.34. Mitch Race 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to pay a check warrant for Retirement #9 in the amount of \$126.32. Mitch Race 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to pay Check Warrant #11 in the amount of \$46,864.10. Mitch Race 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

**3. Conflict of Interest**

None

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2014 meeting with changes. Mitch Race 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

**5. Announcements**

Norshaft Lions will have a holiday lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM at Cole Hall.

**6. Public Comments**

None

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer is unavailable and will report at the next meeting.

**8. Road Foreman's Report**

Terry Stacy is unavailable; David Kiernan gave the report in his place.

**a. Road Report**

The Road Department began clearing the streets of snow and slush at 4 AM that morning.

**b. Traffic Report**

(None)

**c. Salt Shed**

Salt shed storage is being rented from Bernstein Displays as an add-on to an existing lease for equipment storage.

There is currently 80 tons of salt stored there. At the end of the season, what is not used will be brought back to the garage.

20 tons of salt borrowed last year has been returned to North Bennington.

The Road Department is trying to grade the last few roads and taking down trees on Holy Smoke Road.

**9. Town Administrator's Report****a. Postage Meter**

Buying or leasing a postage meter is too expensive. Other alternatives are being reviewed. Currently, the office uses prestamped envelopes from the U.S. Postal Service for mass mailings, such as tax bills and water bills. This may be the best option.

**b. Update on White Creek Road**

Road is finished. State reimbursement money has come in. Town's portion of the cost was about \$31,000.

**c. Update on Truck Lease**

Delurey was paid for the truck. The body is still being installed in Williston.

Completion date is still to be determined.

If a truck is needed in the meantime, one can be borrowed or rented.

**10. Property Transfer**

Property next to Town Hall is for sale.

Art Whitman stated the Town should acquire the land in one way or another. The Selectboard is working on this. All negotiations will be done in Executive Session.

The Board has not changed its mind: The new Town Garage will not be placed on the property surrounding Cole Hall.

In the short term, the property is needed until the new Garage can be built.

**11. Lease Renewal for Buck Hill Road Property**

New lease proposal was received. Current lease expires in January 2015. If the property is sold, the lease will transfer to the new owner. The Town can park one vehicle on the property.

David Kiernan will send the lease proposal to Town Attorney Rob Woolmington for approval.

Board should decide amount of rent and length of lease at the December 1st meeting.

Art Whitman noted that the parties can cancel the lease with 90-days' notice.

If the Town chooses to sell the property, Lessee will be given first right of refusal.

**12. Grand List Errors and Omissions**

There are two:

1. Property # 1, the homestead value and the site value were not calculated properly.

The Selectboard needs more information about this item from Jim Boyle to approve it.

2. Property # 2, a homeowner who is a disabled Veteran should have received a Veteran's exemption of \$40,000 was not properly processed by the State.

This is an impact loss of \$143.48.

**Motion:** Tim Scoggins makes a motion for a Grand List correction for Mr. Stratton's property (Parcel ID # 030215). Ken Harrington 2nds. 5-0-0. Motion passes.

### **13. Other Business**

The Selectboard returned to its earlier discussion on the budget. David Kiernan discussed:

- Administration costs will go down about 6%.
- Budget for repairs and maintenance has dropped. There is a fund for Cole Hall. Repairs will begin after the election.
- Budget for the Listers will stay the same.
- Animal Control may be changed from employee status to contractor status.
- Fire Station maintenance budget item will be increased by \$5,000 to re-side the fire station on Old Depot Street.
- The budget for the following costs will go up: tree removal, paving, gravel, chloride (used for dust control on roads), winter sand, and winter salt.
- A professional service may take over methane well monitoring at the Transfer Station.
- The cost of street lights may go down, if money is received from Efficiency Vermont.

At the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, Department Heads will speak from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The Highway Department will discuss the budget at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There will be a budget meeting on Monday, December 8th at 6:30 PM.

#### **14. Review of Action Items**

- Look at cost of Pallet for Road Sealant
- What is the obligation of mowing the Landfill?

**Motion:** At 8:20, Tim Scoggins makes a motion for the Board to enter into executive session to discuss a property transfer. Mitch Race 2nds.5-0-0. Motion passes.

#### **15. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, December 1, 2014. Budget hearings from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.