

# MINUTES OF THE SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD EMERGENCY MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2008

COLE HALL

SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT

**Board Present:** Lon McClintock (Chairman), Bill Pennebaker, Karen Mellinger, Cinda Morse

**Board Absent:** Wynn Metcalfe

**Others Present:** Aaron Chrostowsky (Town Administrator)

## 1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Lon McClintock called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

## 2. Secure Rural Schools Act:

Chairman McClintock apologized for calling this meeting on such short notice. He only found out about the need for the Selectboard to take action on this matter by November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 this morning. He explained that he spoke with Kathleen at the U.S. Forest Service about the Secure Rural Schools Act Election.

The "September 27, 2008" date on the letter is wrong. The letter should have been dated "October 27, 2008" which is the date it was sent out.

The money at issue is not the Town's PILOT money. We will get what our budget refers to as PILOT money the same as always.

The money at issue is paid to the schools, through the towns, and the money can only be used for school purposes, except as provided below. This includes both the 25% Fund and the Secure Rural School fund.

Option 1: If we elect the 25% Fund, we will get less money than the Secure Rural School fund and lose 15% due to a federal withhold. That withhold money will not return to Bennington County.

Option 2: If we elect the Secure Rural Fund, we will lose 15% due to a federal withhold. That withhold money will not return to Bennington County.

Options 3 & 4: If we elect options 3 or 4, we will choose our own withhold -- 15% or 20% -- and the money will be set aside to be used for a project within Bennington County. The withhold money will not be paid to the Town of Shaftsbury. The money will be used for a County-wide plan. If we opt for Option 3, we can change our minds later and change to Option 4. Again, this money is going to be used for a County project and not necessarily a Town project. The rules for allowable projects has not been shared as yet, so it may be a month or two before we know how we can use the withhold funds.

Kathleen has received a number of elections from the 16 towns in Bennington County affected by the National Forest. She is recommending Option 4, so that we can use the money for fire/rescue projects/services. I agree with her recommendation.

**Ms. Mellinger made motion to elect option #4 to put 15 percent into Title III (search, rescue and emergency**

services projects). Mr. Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

**3. Adjourn.**

**The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Chrostowsky