

**Town of Shaftsbury  
Selectboard Special Meeting  
Monday, Sept. 23, 2013**

Members Present: Craig Bruder, Karen Mellinger, Mitchell Race,  
Ken Harrington, Carl Korman

Others Present: Tim Scoggins, Billy Obenauer, Tom Huncharek, Margy Becker

**1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Craig Bruder.

**2. Approval of minutes for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

There was a correction to the attendee list in the minutes.

**Motion to approve Minutes for September 9, 2013 with changes noted. Moved by Mellinger/Korman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).**

**3. Approval of Warrants**

The approval was postponed until later in the meeting.

**4. Conflict of Interest**

There were no Conflict of Interest statements.

**5. Announcements**

Mitchell Race announced that the DVD *Ordinary Heroes* is currently available for purchase at the Chocolate Barn located on Route 7A and at the Town Offices.

**6. Public Comments**

There were no Public comments.

**7. Selectboard Candidate Interviews**

The Selectboard held a special meeting to interview potential candidates for the Selectboard seat being vacated by Craig Bruder effective September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Tim Scoggins joined the Selectboard meeting. He described himself as a three year resident of the town. He noted that he was retired after working for twenty five years with

Applied Research Labs. Scoggins and his family moved to Shaftsbury. Scoggins has since been heavily involved with the Shaftsbury School System, handling safety precautions and working to ensure child safety when children are walking to school.

Tim Scoggins sits on the SVSU Technology committee, and he believes that the town could benefit from the increased use of Technology to promote the town. He also noted that he served on the Principal Search Committee and believes the school “is in good shape” with the current Principal selection. He is currently working with Karen Mellinger and Ken Harrington on the Town Garage Committee.

Tim Scoggins spoke about how he played a major role in lowering the speed limit on 7A. He has worked with Larry Johnson on various appeals for a stop light at the intersection of Buck Hill Road near the Shaftsbury School.

Karen Mellinger asked Tim Scoggins if his interest in being appointed to the vacancy took into account the fact that the Selectboard vacancy is to be filled for the short term and if his commitment included running for the Selectboard seat on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tim Scoggins acknowledged that he has considered running.

Mitchell Race asked Tim Scoggins if there was anything in town that he felt needed to be changed or looked at. Tim Scoggins cited no agenda in particular and noted that he “just wanted to help.”

Ken Harrington asked Tim Scoggins how he would like to see the town grow if he were nominated. Tim Scoggins cited that he would like to see the Town take advantage of technology more.

Carl Korman asked Tim Scoggins what he would like to accomplish if nominated. Tim Scoggins wants to focus on safer ways for children to be able to attend school through the potential development of backcountry bike trails and bike lanes.

Mitchell Race inquired about any possible disappointments that Tim Scoggins may have endured in his life or career. Tim Scoggins cited work experiences and the stress that comes with occupational management as things he has learned from in hopes of becoming more effective at what he does.

Carl Korman noted the set schedule of the Selectboard and asked Tim Scoggins if he had taken that into account. Tim Scoggins believed that he was able to handle the demand on his time. Tim Scoggins was excused.

Tom Huncharek joined the meeting and noted that he moved to Shaftsbury 3 ½ years ago. He has since purchased Chocolate Barn located on Route 7A. He noted how the community welcomed his family when they moved to Shaftsbury and that the community “opened it arms, embraced us.” He noted his involvement on the

Development Review Board and that he really enjoys the DRB.

Karen Mellinger asked Tom Huncharek what issues he felt the town was facing and what difference he could make as a member of the Selectboard. Tom Huncharek cited that Shaftsbury was currently struggling to find an identity. He wanted to enhance economic opportunities, utilize technology within the town, and grow small business. He specified that Shaftsbury was “a rural agricultural community”, and he said he wanted the town to take advantage of agricultural opportunities.

Carl Korman asked Tom Huncharek what he would like to accomplish as a member of the Selectboard. He responded he was interested in having a working Constable within the town.

Mitchell Race asked Tom Huncharek if he ever had any disappointments in his life or career. Tom Huncharek noted that he has shown resolve through life’s challenges and feels as though it is a strength he can draw from as a member of the Selectboard.

Ken Harrington asked Tom Huncharek about his thoughts on “Big Business” in the Town of Shaftsbury and how he would handle the possible expansion request of William Dailey Construction. Tom Huncharek noted that industry is good for the town, to an extent, and that it would add good tax base. He also noted that industries of that size have to be zoned properly yet there should also be ways to let them succeed.

Karen Mellinger inquired if he was interested in running for the seat in December. Tom Huncharek acknowledged that he was interested.

Karen Mellinger and Craig Bruder asked Tom Huncharek if he felt there were going to be public concerns regarding his service on both the Selectboard and the Development Review Board. Tom Huncharek presented evidence that suggested there would be no concern. He stated his opinion that there would be no issue.

Craig Bruder asked Tom Huncharek if he was concerned about the requirements and demands of joining the Selectboard and if he was aware of those demands. Tom Huncharek acknowledged that he was aware and willing to commit to any challenges or requirements.

Tom Huncharek asked for a final comment and endorsed Billy Obenauer for the vacant Selectboard seat. He stated he felt that Billy Obenauer should be strongly recommended, yet reiterated that he is also very interested in serving on the Selectboard. Mr. Huncharek was excused.

Billy Obenauer joined the Selectboard meeting. Craig Bruder asked him why he wanted to be appointed to the vacant seat. Billy Obenauer explained he had served on the Selectboard before and had resigned to pursue an MBA at RPI. He noted that recently his

schedule would allow him to serve on the Selectboard.

The Selectboard asked Billy Obenauer more about his schedule and if he would be able to meet the requirements of attending the meetings on Monday nights as scheduled. Obenauer inquired about whether or not the Selectboard would be able to switch the days of meetings from Monday, as it is one of his primary days of attending classes.

Karen Mellinger asked Billy Obenauer what he thought was an issue that he would like to deal with if appointed. He replied that he would like to work more closely with the State of Vermont in particular. He felt the State was overstepping its boundaries and imposing upon local politics.

Carl Korman asked Billy Obenauer if he had any other issues of importance that needed to be addressed. Billy Obenauer cited a need to revamp and reform basic procedures and wanted the town to become more efficient through updating basic procedures. Ken Harrington asked Billy Obenauer his opinion on the importance of industry in the Town of Shaftsbury. Billy Obenauer replied that while taxes collected from industry are positive, what needs to be taken into account is that Shaftsbury is a tourism-based town and that the industries need to work with the town in terms of Zoning to keep from getting too big for the Town. He noted that local businesses are “reasonable when dealt with reasonably.”

#### 8. **Discussion on Action to Fill Selectboard Vacancy**

The Selectboard extended the application period to Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 12:00P.M.

#### 9. **Approval of Warrants (Previously Postponed)**

**Motion to approve Check Warrant #11 in the amount of \$15541.95. Mellinger/Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carries unanimously (5-0-0). Items over \$1,000: Green Mountain Power, TAM (August), West Oil (Pre-buy payment #4).**

#### 10. **Other Business**

Margy Becker spoke about the upcoming bond vote for the Town Garage and acknowledged deadlines and steps that needed to be taken in the process.

#### 11. **Adjournment**

The Selectboard meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.