

**Town of Shaftsbury  
Selectboard Meeting  
Monday October 7, 2013  
Cole Hall – 61 Buck Hill Road**

Members Present: Karen Mellinger, Mitchell Race, Ken Harrington,  
Tim Scoggins, Carl Korman  
Staff present: Margy Becker, Town Administrator  
Others Present: Chad Schmidt, Paul McGann, Bob Perry

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Karen Mellinger at 6:36PM.

**2. Conflict of Interest Statement**

There was no Conflict of Interest

**3. Election of Officers**

The Selectboard voted to elect a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, as Craig Bruder resigned from the Chair position. Karen Mellinger previously served as the Vice Chairperson.

Karen Mellinger called for Nominations for the Chairperson vacancy. Carl Korman called for Karen Mellinger and Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination. **Motion carried 4-0-1. Karen Mellinger abstained.**

Ken Harrington nominated Carl Korman for the Vice Chairperson vacancy. Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination. **Motion carried 4-0-1. Carl Korman abstains.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve Minutes for September 23<sup>rd</sup> Selectboard Special Meeting. Moved by Carl Korman. Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).**

Mitchell Race informed the Selectboard that the DVD *Ordinary Heroes* is available for sale at the Shaftsbury Town Offices and also at the Chocolate Barn.

**Motion to approve Minutes for September 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Moved by Carl Korman.**

**Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).**

### **5. Approval of Warrants**

**Motion to approve Check Warrant #12 in the amount of \$25,717. Moved by Carl Korman/ Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).**

**Items over \$1,000:** John Ray, Henry Martinka (Howard Park mower repair), Sycamore Landscape (mowing), TAM, VMERS.

### **6. 6:45PM Announcements**

Tim Scoggins announced that Shaftsbury School will conduct a “walk to school” day Wednesday October 9th, 2013. It is all a part of the Safe Routes to School program per “encouraging kids to walk to school.”

Mitchell Race announced that on October 20<sup>th</sup> the Shaftsbury Historical Society will conduct an Open House at the Galusha House. The Open House will showcase a Civil War Medicine seminary by Phyllis Chapman between the hours of 2-4P.M. The showcase will include all the Medical tools used during the Civil War.

Karen Mellinger announced the Town of Shaftsbury received word that the Bike and Pedestrian Grant was accepted.

### **7. Public Comments**

There were none.

### **8. 6:50PM Shaftsbury Constables – Current and Potential Future Duties**

The Selectboard discussed current and potential future duties with Bennington County Sheriff Chad Schmidt. Mitchell Race and Ken Harrington have worked on providing the Selectboard information about the best possible means of enforcement in the Town of Shaftsbury going forward, as the Town's current contract with the Bennington County Sheriff is set to expire.

It was noted Constables are now required to have certification training in law enforcement to be able to enforce laws as the Town Constable that includes, but not limited to, enforcing speed limits, and the ability to search, seize, and arrest.

The Selectboard discussed the expiring contract with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department currently charges the Town of Shaftsbury an

hourly rate of \$17.67/hour. The Selectboard acknowledged that the current agreement is set to expire November 30th.

Mitchell Race suggested the Selectboard change the Constable from an elected position to appointed position in an effort to provide the Selectboard more control over Constable activities and more involvement in the enforcement process.

The contract with the Bennington County Sheriff's Office expires on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The current agreement between the Town and the County Sheriff services includes 20 hrs/week of patrolling. The current budget is \$19,732. The unsubsidized cost of service is \$510.00 per week and \$26,520 per year.

Chad Schmidt stated he believed that there would be a conflict in having a full-time Constable enforcing the law in conjunction with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department. He stated he would not be open to a compromise. Chad Schmidt said he would still honor the current rate his Sheriff's Department charges the Town, once the agreement expires if the Town chose to continue to request his service. The hourly rate without the COPS grant is \$25.50/hr.

The Selectboard members said it was very pleased with the Service being provided by the Bennington County Sheriff's Department.

The Selectboard reviewed the statutory requirement for constables to have training for law enforcement. Questions of law enforcement authority were answered by Chad Schmidt.

Paul McGann and Bob Perry joined the Selectboard to discuss the need for a local Constable presence. Paul McGann suggested a "Community Policing" initiative. He stated he felt he and Bob Perry could enforce the law in the Town of Shaftsbury effectively.

### **9. Board of Listers: Request for Approval of Grand List Errors and Omissions**

The Selectboard read aloud the Grand List Errors and Omissions from the 2013 Grand List as provided by the Listers. The Errors and Omissions are submitted to the Selectboard when errors in the grand list are found after the grand list is lodged with the Town Clerk.

**Motion to approve adjusted Grand List for Parcel ID#1101352 in the amount of \$611,900. Moved by Korman/Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimous (5-0-0).**

**Motion to approve \$40,000 exemption which is to be applied to Grand List Parcel**

**ID#162266. Moved by Korman/Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried Unanimous (5-0-0).**

**Motion to approve deed update to show land is 1 acre with a new grand list value of \$148,200 for Parcel ID#080203. Moved by Korman/Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimous (5-0-0).**

### **10. Appointment Policy (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Mitchell Race is currently working on developing the appointment policy for the Shaftsbury Planning Commission and Development Review Board. The Board's reading of the proposed policy was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of three readings. Carl Korman noted that his suggested modifications did not appear in the version being discussed. Mitch Race will circulate the correct version.

The Selectboard announced that a reading of the full policy with updated corrections will be added to the October 21<sup>st</sup> Selectboard agenda.

### **11. Confirmation of Special Election on December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Selectboard discussed the upcoming voting deadlines for the vote on the proposed Town Garage. The Selectboard discussed the need to have the bonding resolution, formal warning, and associated documents signed by October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The Selectboard reviewed the deadlines and necessary steps to be taken to have the Town Garage proposal officially on the ballot for the upcoming Town Elections. They acknowledged that the warning language is currently being reviewed

### **12. Halloween Closure of Cleveland Avenue**

The Selectboard discussed the closure of Cleveland Avenue on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. A vote was taken to formally close the street.

**Motion to close Cleveland Avenue on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 between the hours of 4:30 to 8:30 P.M. Moved by Carl Korman/Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimous (5-0-0).**

### **13. VT Health Exchange**

The Selectboard reviewed and discussed information regarding health insurance plans offered on the VT Health exchange. Town Administrator Margy Becker acknowledged that she was personally reviewing the plans to better understand them. The Selectboard discussed costs associated with various plans. Karen Mellinger suggested feedback from Town employees is important in order to determine how much Town support would be

given toward purchase of health insurance plans. A Board workshop on this topic was scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **14. Town Administrator's Report**

Margy Becker reported that the Town is currently recruiting and hiring for the position of Zoning Administrator. She suggested the Selectboard meet weekly as of next month to work on budget issues.

Margy Becker reminded the public that Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will take place Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 9A.M.-12P.M.

#### **15. Other Business**

There was none.

#### **16. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm by Karen Mellinger.

#### **Prepared By:**

**Shawn M. Sterling**