

**Selectboard Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
October 21, 2013**

Members Present: Karen Mellinger, Margy Becker, Carl Korman, Mitchell Race, Ken Harrington, Tim Scoggins

Others Present: Jim Vincent, Joe Vadakin, Paul McGann, Bob Perry

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Karen Mellinger at 6:30PM.

**2. Conflict of Interest**

There was no Conflict of interest.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Moved by Carl Korman/Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Karen Mellinger corrected the Bennington County Sheriff's Department charge to the town for patrol services. The correct rate for services to the Town of Shaftsbury is \$17.60, which is a subsidized hourly rate of the original fee of \$25.50.

Karen Mellinger corrected a statement in the minutes that specified she "endorsed" Chad Schmidt. This is a misstatement. She clarified she had meant the Selectboard was happy with the work of Sheriff's Department and that the statement was more of a formal appreciation and not considered an endorsement.

**Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

**Motion to approve Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes for October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Moved by Carl Korman/Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 4-0-1. Ken Harrington abstained.**

**Motion to approve Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes for October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Moved by Carl Korman/Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 3-0-2. Karen Mellinger and Ken Harrington abstained.**

#### **4. Warrants**

**Motion to approve Retirement Check Warrant PR08 in the amount of \$131.39. Moved by Mitch Race/Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup> . Motion carried unanimous 5-0-0.**

**Motion to approve Payroll Warrant #08 in the amount of \$16,169.23. Moved by Carl Korman/Mitch Race 2<sup>nd</sup> . Motion carried unanimous 5-0-0.**

**Motion to approve Check Warrant #13 in the amount of \$12,691 to William Barney Construction. Moved by Carl Korman/Mitch Race 2<sup>nd</sup> . Motion carried unanimous 5-0-0.**

**Motion to approve Check Warrant #14 in the amount of \$49,197.39. Moved by Mitch Race/Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup> . Motion carried unanimous 5-0-0.**

#### **5. Announcements**

No Announcements recorded.

#### **6. Request for Fire Gear – Chief Vadakin**

Shaftsbury Fire Department Chief Joe Vadakin joined the Selectboard meeting to explain the Fire Departments need for new fire gear for two of its Town firefighters. He cited normal wear and tear as reason for requesting the new gear.

Chief Vadakin supplied the Selectboard with three bids in an attempt to compare pricing for the fire gear. One offer came from a local vendor, and two from an Internet source.

Chief Vadakin recommended to the Selectboard that Reynolds & Son of Brattleboro, VT might be the best option. Chief Vadakin explained that if gear they purchase from Reynolds & Son doesn't fit, they are responsible and will honor a commitment to replace any gear that is insufficient. He noted how gear purchased online more often than not is non-refundable.

Chief Vadakin explained to the Selectboard that his Fire Department responds to roughly 100 incidents per year and that proper up-to-date equipment was needed to address said incidents.

Carl Korman compared pricing options, noted a difference of more than \$1,000 between Reynold & Son's proposal and the lowest bid, and then weighed pros and cons in regards to purchasing online as opposed to paying more for the local service endorsed by the Chief.

Chief Vadakin stressed how fire equipment needed to meet the proper specs of the fire fighter for liability concerns to the Town, and he noted that Reynolds & Son offered a service guarantee in the event the equipment was insufficient. The quote includes coats, pants, gloves, hood, helmet, and boots.

The Selectboard requested that in the future more emphasis could be applied to the search for other local vendors in Vermont that might compete with Reynolds & Son to get the best possible bid. Margy Becker questioned whether the Fire Chief appeared to be lacking the administrative support to be able to fully research other competitive bids to the Reynolds & Son quote.

**Motion “to approve Shaftsbury Fire Department's request to purchase two sets of ‘turn out’ fire gear from Reynolds & Son for a quote of \$6,380.12. In the future the Fire Chief shall contact vendors of other brands.” Moved by Ken Harrington/Tim Scoggins 2<sup>nd</sup> .**

**Tim Scoggins proposed to amend the motion to read “vendors offering comparable brands and service”. Ken Harrington agreed to the friendly amendment.**

**The revised Motion reads “to approve Shaftsbury Fire Department’s request to purchase two sets of ‘turn out’ gear from Reynolds & Son. In the future the Fire Chief shall contact vendors offering comparable brands and service”.**

**The revised Motion carried 4-0-1. Carl Korman abstained.**

## **7. Public Comments**

Shaftsbury resident Jim Vincent voiced a complaint with regards to possible waste dumping on Elm Street across the street from his property on Harvest Hills. He inquired about whether or not land owner Mike Cloud had zoning permits to be able to accept the dumping of fill material and debris. Ken Harrington and Tim Scoggins will conduct a site visit.

## **8. Shaftsbury Constables – Potential Future Duties**

The Selectboard invited Constables Paul McGann and Bob Perry back to discuss potential future duties of Constables. The Selectboard briefly considered a preliminary list of potential costs to town start-up costs for a law enforcement program. Paul McGann cited his connections with other law enforcement agencies and officers as a possible way of obtaining the necessary equipment on loan rather than through outright purchase. This would in turn reduce the costs to the Town.

The Selectboard again discussed pros and cons of changing the Constable positions to appointed rather than elected positions. Karen Mellinger inquired whether the Board's intent was to place the question on the December 3 ballot. Mitch Race advocated for putting the question to the voters at that time.

Carl Korman suggested language to appear on the ballot. A) to change from elected to appointed, and B) to specify Constables to have only civil authority.

Karen Mellinger suggested that more research in terms of the available budget for Constables was needed before moving forward with a vote. More information was needed on start-up costs. She stated there was no rush to address the question. She further stated her preference that no additional business be voted on December 3 (other than elections), since the bond vote is the priority at this time. Tim Scoggins voiced skepticism of a December vote and believed the topic needed further discussion.

Board members agreed there was consensus that a one-year term is too short.

**Motion to approve a December vote to appoint 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Constables for three years. Moved by Harrington/Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion failed on 2-3 vote. Harrington and Race voted for the motion; Mellinger, Korman, Scoggins voted against the motion. The Motion failed.**

It was agreed the discussions on renewal of the Sheriff's contract will be placed on the agenda for the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Carl Korman said he favored a March vote on changing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Constables from elected to appointed positions. Karen Mellinger concurred.

#### **10. Health Insurance Options – VT Health Connect (Continued)**

The Selectboard reviewed healthcare information and options provided to the Board by Tim Scoggins, Carl Korman, and Mitchell Race. A special meeting on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 4:00PM was agreed to.

#### **11. Board of Listers – Grand List Errors and Omissions (Chenaille)**

Tabled by the Selectboard and to be addressed at the next Selectboard meeting.

#### **12. Contract Renewal/Extension – Cemetery Mowing**

**Motion to renew contract with Sycamore Landscape for Cemetery Mowing services for a period of two years and through 2015. Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

**13. Approval of Bond Vote Resolution and warning documents**

Action was tabled until October 28<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

**14. Selectboard Liaison Duties – Reassignment**

It was agreed that Karen Mellinger would take over Craig Bruder's liaison duties, inclusive of acting as liaison to the highway department. She will relinquish Water Department liaison duties after a transition of said role to Ken Harrington. She will retain liaison duties to the Animal Control Officer. Tim Scoggins will assume the balance of Karen Mellinger's former liaison duties. Margy Becker will prepare the revised liaison chart for distribution to board members and public.

**15. Town Administrator Report**

The Town Administrator provided a brief administrative report. The resume review process for zoning administrator candidates has begun. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday from 9AM to Noon; 4 rimless tires per household may be dropped off for free at the transfer station between 7AM and 4PM.

**16. Other Business**

None Reported.

**17. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

**Prepared By:**  
**Shawn M. Sterling**