

**Town of Shaftsbury
Selectboard Selectboard Special Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2014**

Members Present: Karen Mellinger, Mitchell Race, Carl Korman, Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington
Staff Present: Margy Becker, Town Administrator;
Visitors: Bill Pennebaker, Megan Donckers, Art Whitman, Tony Krulikowski, Chris Williams, Jay Palmer, Michael Bidy, Deena Ruege, Tom Goertz

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:32P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes – NONE

3. Approval of Warrants

Motion by Carl Korman to approve CHECK WARRANT #25 in the amount of \$23,293.39. Second by Ken Harrington. Motion carried unanimously.

Items over \$1,000: include Blue Cross Blue Shield monthly premiums \$7,127.82; Bennington County Sheriff's \$1,836; Dailey's – winter sand \$4,483; KAS, Inc. Sidewalk Design PE Services \$1,951;

4. Conflict of Interest

None recorded.

5. Announcements

Karen Mellinger announced that Assistant Road Foreman Steve Washburn (Jr.) has completed the VT Local Roads "Roads Scholar" Level I certification. This achievement will be announced at Town Meeting.

6. Public Comments

Art Whitman inquired as to the timing of appointments to the DRB and Planning Commission, noting that 40% of the Selectboard will turn over at March Town Meeting. He suggested the new Board make said appointments. Karen Mellinger explained the Selectboard had recently adopted an appointment policy, which calls for a new appointment schedule.

7. Town Officer Vacancies – Interviews

Mitch Race recused himself from interviews of DRB and Planning Commission candidates.

Chris Williams was interviewed for re-appointment to the Planning Commission. His background includes long-time residency and 18 years as faculty member of Williams College. He is now retired and has a vision for the community. He is involved in school and affordable housing issues, in addition to the Preservation Trust.

Mr. Williams noted the local economy is a depressed economy and that the Planning Commission can only promote economic development in small ways – i.e. encourage home occupations. He stated his frustration with the bylaw development process – noting it is cumbersome. There are very few finished bylaw products, despite all the Planning Commission's work and research, he said. Mr. Williams stated he would like to see the Planning Commission's work implemented.

Mr. Williams acknowledged the Town Plan does not specifically address potential dissolution of the ID District and that this could be discussed in the Plan. He further noted he has not had to recuse himself in 9 years due to a conflict of interest.

Chris Williams suggested more administrative support to the Planning/DRB boards, so that Zoning Administrators do not burn out or turn over so frequently. He also pointed out that Shaftsbury's zoning bylaws need to be *clearer*. They are not necessarily deficient. A Planning Grant would be important to assure this bylaw-rewrite process would take place. The objective would be to reissue the bylaws as *one document* – including the zoning bylaw, subdivision regulations, Highway Access Ordinance, etc.

Michael Bidy was interviewed. He requests appointment to a regular position on the DRB, though he has served as Alternate for the past year. Mr. Bidy has lived in Shaftsbury since 1976. He is an arborist and tree surgeon. He also has served as Town Tree Warden until the early 2000's. Mr. Bidy has served on the Environmental Issues Committee and was involved in the initiative to bring recycling programs and the SWAP Shed to the transfer station.

Mr. Bidy stated he his opinions of economic growth are related to the type of growth being proposed. He stated he is not fond of 'suburban' growth. He pointed out the DRB can only follow the zoning bylaw, and individual member opinions concerning growth must be put aside. Mr. Bidy explained that he would like to see the Town promote local food production.

Jay Palmer was interviewed for the position of Alternate member of the DRB. Mr. Palmer explained he moved to Shaftsbury in 1997. He first moved to Pownal in 1977. He is a retired military officer after 28 years of service. He was called out of retirement to serve in the Gulf War in 1990. Mr. Palmer is rebuilding the '1804 House' on Rte. 7A.

Mr. Palmer stated he has attended all DRB meetings. He has had to sit as an Alternate at 80% of the meetings. He asked that the Selectboard appoint a second alternate.

Karen Mellinger and Tim Scoggins stated their agreement with proceeding with appointments. Ken Harrington stated that all of the candidate's statements could be reviewed by new Selectboard members and that the new board should make appointments. DRB Chair Megan Donckers requested the Selectboard proceed with appointments prior to Town Meeting.

Carl Korman made the motion to appoint Chris Williams to the Planning Commission for a term of 3 years expiring in 2017. Tim Scoggins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1-0 with Ken Harrington voting against the motion. (Race recused and not voting)

Ken Harrington explained his "no vote" to mean appointments should be made after elections.

Carl Korman made the motion to appoint Michael Bidy as a regular DRB member for a term of 3 years expiring in 2017. Tim Scoggins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1-0 with Ken Harrington voting against the motion. (Race recused and not voting)

Carl Korman made the motion to appoint Jay Palmer as an Alternative DRB member for a term of one year expiring in 2015. Tim Scoggins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1-0 with Ken Harrington voting against the motion. (Race recused and not voting)

8. Australian Ballot Information Meeting

Selectmen Mitch Race rejoined the Selectboard.

Chairman Karen Mellinger called the Informational Meeting to order and provided summary comments concerning the proposed zoning-related articles.

Chris Williams noted that the Flood Hazard Regulations are, in large part, dictated by FEMA. Adoption of said regulations will enable local residents to obtain federal flood insurance.

Brief discussions ensued on the proposed article to extend the term of elected Constables from one to two years.

9. 2013 VTrans Roads and Bridge Standards

Ken Harrington made the motion to adopt the 2013 VTans Roads and Bridge Standards. Tim Scoggins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Town Meeting Preparations

Selectboard members discussed at length proposed educational materials to be provided at Town Meeting in addition to a proposed town garage survey that Tim Scoggins presented for consideration.

Tim Scoggins made the motion to circulate the garage survey at Town Meeting. Ken Harrington seconded.

Jay Palmer requested Ken Harrington recuse himself from the Board vote to approve the town garage survey. Board members stated their disagreement.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.

11. Other Business

Selectboard members agreed Dorset's proposed ballot language to collect property taxes in two installments be further considered. Board members agreed Dick Pembroke and Bill Fisk should be consulted.

12. Adjournment

Carl Korman made the motion to adjourn at 9:50PM. Mitch Race seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,
Margy Becker