

**Town of Shaftsbury
Selectboard Special Meeting
7:00PM
Monday, August 25, 2014
Cole Hall, 61 Buck Hill Road, Shaftsbury**

Members Present: Tim Scoggins, Mitch Race, Art Whitman, Tony Krulikowski

TA Present: David Kiernan

Members Absent: Ken Harrington

Others Present: Treasurer Bill Fisk, Bob Moffitt, Bill Pennebaker, Oliver Durand, Chris Williams, Jared Clawson, Jay Palmer, Joanne Race, David Spurr

7:00 PM Special Meeting

1. Call to Order

Special meeting is called to order at 7:01 pm by Tim Scoggins. This will be the final meeting on the town plan.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No conflicts of interest.

3. Treasurer—New Tax Rate

a. Before discussing tax rate, Treasurer Bill Fisk submits the Renewal of Capital Equipment Loan documents He noted that the Loan was reduced annually by \$11,000 in principal payments and renewed for the remaining balance. He requested that the Board adopt the resolution renewing the note for the remaining balance of \$3,000 after the fiscal year payment of \$11,000 with accrued interest is made on September 12, 2014.

Motion: Tim Scoggins motions to approve the renewal of the capital equipment funding note for \$3,000 and associated resolution that the money is being used to pay for fire equipment. Mitch Race 2nds. 4-0-0. Motion passes.

b. Bill Fisk distributes a worksheet to the Board that shows the calculation of the Shaftsbury Town tax rate for the current fiscal year. He explained his calculations and stated that he recommends the Selectboard adopt a tax rate of \$0.3587 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the Shaftsbury municipal taxes. This will result in a tax rate increase of \$0.0301 per \$100 of assessed value. He noted that the municipal taxes on a property valued at \$250,000 would increase by approximately \$75.

Mitch Race asks if this is just a projection of budget. Bill answers yes; the rate reflects the amount to be raised by taxes approved by the voters at Town Meeting and the Grand

List set by the Shaftsbury Listers. Fisk noted that the amount to be raised by taxes increased over the previous year.

Tim Scoggins states that the increase in budget accounted for by money set aside for Garage fund and to start saving for a fire truck.

Bill Fisk also noted that the Town municipal tax rate includes the education tax on properties qualified for the Veterans exemption and the Grange property which was granted a five-year exemption at Town Meeting which will expire in 2018.

Bill Fisk explains that the 2014 Grand List includes property of the Water Department. North Bennington which claims it is exempt from taxation. Tim Scoggins asks the Board if they are familiar with North Bennington Waterworks.

Bill reports that Town records show that the North Bennington Water Department had been taxed on this property until sometime in the 1960s. Bill Fisk stated that he reduced the Grand List by the \$440,800 North Bennington Water Department assessment, because he expects that North Bennington will appeal the assessment. Tim Scoggins states that this could become a thorny issue. Bill Fisk and Tim Scoggins have discussed that the Select Board may or may not have authority with respect with this.

Motion: Tim Scoggins motions to set the tax rate for fiscal year 2014-15 (the 2014 tax year) at \$.3587 per \$100 of valuation. Mitch Race 2nds. 4-0-0. Motion passes.

4. **Public Hearing: Town Plan**

This is the final hearing for the Town Plan. There have been two Selectboard hearings prior to this one, as well as two Planning Commission hearings.

Two maps were not edited in the last copy, but will be now for the final version. Map 6.1 will have VR-2 Proposed Options 1, 2, 3, removed and 6.2, and enlargement of VR-2 will be removed entirely.

Chris Williams of the Planning Committee requests replacing Map 6.2 with a Current Use/Use Value Appraisal map. The current use map had not been used since the committee only had this map for two weeks.

Tim Scoggins does not want to add map since it is not referenced anywhere in the text.

Art Whitman wants to include map. He states there is no impact on the bylaws.

Mitch Race also wants to add map.

Motion: Mitch Race proposes to remove the current Map 6.2 and replace it with a current use map. Tony Krulikowski 2nds. 3-0-1. Tim Scoggins abstains. **Motion passes.**

Chris Williams and the Planning Commission are working on by-laws to be placed on the ballot for the March 2015 election. Tim Scoggins states that Select Board is in agreement with the Planning Commission on these bylaws.

Bob Moffitt points out on the map on page 77 all the museums in town are not listed on a map. Only the Robert Frost museum is listed.

Bob Moffitt asks where the text about truck traffic on page 80 went. Tim Scoggins states that this is covered elsewhere.

Bob Moffitt asks where #4, the text about locating communication towers, went. Tim Scoggins states that this was taken out because getting cell and internet service is a primary goal and this was in conflict with that.

Jared Clawson asks if the VR2 issue is a non-issue. Tim Scoggins: Correct.

5. Vote on Town Plan

Motion: Tim Scoggins moves to adopt this version of the Town Plan, which was published on the web and made available. Minor corrections will be made to include a map that will show land under Current Use/Use Value Appraisal, to change Map 9.2 to add markers showing museums at the Galusha Homestead Museum and the Baptist Meeting House museum. Tony Krulikowski 2nds. 4-0-0. Motion passes.

Tim Scoggins thanks the Planning Commission for their hard work

6. Other Business—as needed

The Planning Commission interviewed two candidates for the Zoning Administrator position. They recommend Shelley Styles.

Discussion to hire a candidate will be on the agenda for the September 8 meeting.

7. Hazard Mitigation Plan

David Kiernan discusses the plan, which will be added to the website in a few days and placed on the agenda for public hearings at the September 8 and September 15 meetings.

The plan must be submitted by October 1. Mike Batcher of BCRC (not present at this meeting) thinks this will not be a problem. Approving the town plan was important to proceed.

We may have a special meeting before October 1 if all statistical data are not available.

Plan identifies potential hazards in town. It follows a formula successfully applied and approved by FEMA.

David Kiernan will be working with Bill Pennebaker and Jerry Mattison on this.

Tim Scoggins asks if we could approve this at the September 15th meeting.

David Kiernan explains it may be possible if all statistical data are available. We will speak to the issues on the 8th or 15th. Mike Batcher will come to answer questions.

8. Review of Action Items

Tim Scoggins to make changes to Town Plan as outlined in Motion.

9. Adjournment

Motion: Tim Scoggins motions to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Ken Harrington 2nds. 4-0-0.