

Town of Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting
6:30PM
September 18, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p. Present were chair Tim Scoggins, and board members Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, Art Whitman, and Joe Barber. Also present was Town Administrator David Kiernan.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Board members reported no conflicts of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the October 31, 2017 special meeting minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. Mr. Barber pointed out that the correct name is Jason Willey. The motion passed 4-0-1, Mr. Whitman abstaining.

4. Warrants

Check warrant 8: \$67,698.14. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant 7: \$1,048.34. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant 5: \$18,162.28. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins reported that a bill has been introduced into the Vermont Senate that would require "primary police coverage" (undefined). A meeting regarding it will be held on 9/26/17 at the Manchester Community Library 9a-11:30a. Apparently some towns depend entirely on State Police for all policing activities, contrary to the mission of the State Police.

Mr. Scoggins noted the recent passing of Ruth Levin, co-author of the history of the Town.

6. Public comments

Mr. Bob Moffit shared information regarding his E911 address and others in his neighborhood off Shaftsbury Hollow Road on the so-called Sleepy Hollow Rd. He pointed out an irregularity re the number system. Mr. Kiernan said he would check in with the E911 board re the numbering and fix it.

Mr. Moffit shared photos of his camp. He said the lists seem to be missing information regarding it and may have inaccurate information re his lot and a neighboring lot.

Mr. Moffit shared a photo of the old stagecoach road leading into Black Hole Hollow.

Mr. Brian Berkley, a new homeowner in town, introduced himself.

7. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter reported that the tax bills have been mailed. If viewers have not received them, she asked that they contact her. Taxpayers can drop off payments in one of two secure lock boxes at Cole Hall. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to pay, whether or not the bill is received.

She reported that she'd drawn on the line of credit in August, and would probably not need to revisit it (as taxes are coming in briskly).

She said the status of the accounts at this time is similar to that at this time last year.

She said the office weathered last week's auditors' visit well. They will return and will have additional questions.

The credit card issue has been postponed to around January.

Mr. Moffit pointed out a discrepancy on the website re the mailing address. It will be fixed to make it clear that the mailing address is PO Box 409.

8. Road Foreman Report

Mr. Washburn couldn't attend, so Mr. Kiernan reported on the road foreman's behalf. The crew has done mostly grading last and this week. The goal is to get the roads ready for winter. Three projects remain: a type of French drain on Trumbull Hill; stone mattresses on East Rd.; and Shaftsbury Hollow. With the rainy weather, work is running slightly behind schedule. The repair to Myers Rd. will be postponed to next year, after an engineered design has been prepared. Re roadside mowing: the contract language must be revised next year. Mr. Scoggins said using the mower leaves the site looking as though a bomb went off. Mr. Kiernan said only a mower (not saws) could cover the miles that need cutting each year. The crew hopes to replace aprons at five or so locations, including at Corey Lane. The new Parks employee is doing an excellent job, per the Recreation Committee.

9. Bennington Rescue Squad

Mr. Forest Weyen presented on the last half year's activities of the Bennington Rescue Squad and answered questions shared earlier and during the following discussion.

10. BCSWA Report –Ordinance Change

By agreement of the Alliance, the quarterly reports previously required by the haulers will no longer be required. The change to the ordinance must be officially warned, beginning next meeting.

11. Change to Cemetery Fee Schedule

The cemetery committee asked the Select Board to increase the fees for corner markers from \$150 to \$175, the actual cost. Mr. Whitman moved to amend the cemetery operating procedures to increase the corner marker cost to \$175. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrington, and passed 5-0-0.

12. Cole Hall Improvements

Mr. Kiernan shared a 2009 renovation report which he hopes to implement this winter. He noted that none of the proposed improvements will impact the building's historical value. The total cost of the proposed improvements will be about \$40,000. While there are several historic preservation grant programs, almost none of the improvements are eligible for such funding. It appears that the slate roof must be repaired routinely. (It was completely replaced in 2009.) A drop ceiling will be installed. Mr. Kiernan urged the members to discuss this proposal with citizens.

13. Town Garage Update

Transfer station construction is now scheduled for spring 2018. The DRB will review the application for the garage and associated facilities at a hearing on October 4, 2017. Goldstone reported that a waiver for the fire wall in the garage has been awarded. The final documents prepared by Goldstone, constituting the bid that will be going to contractors, will be placed in Dropbox. Mr. Kiernan will ask Jeff Goldstone to appear at a special meeting to walk members through the documents, in time to issue the bid documents on Oct. 1.

14. RFP, Cleaning Services Cole Hall

Mr. Kiernan shared a draft office cleaning contract modelled on one provided by the State of Vermont. At present, the Town has no janitorial contract with its office cleaner. The contract will be circulated to local folks. The contractor will know exactly what the expectations are. Mr. Kiernan will circulate the draft for a vote next meeting. The contractor will be required to have insurance.

15. Tree Work

The \$5000 FY 2018 tree removal budget is nearly exhausted. Mr. Kiernan hopes to use excess funds from the highways budget to continue tree work. He will submit the proposal once the audit is complete and he knows what exactly the balance is.

16. Contract – Listers Office: New VT Appraiser

The listers, with the recommendation of the State, have made an offer to Barbara Schlesinger to take over assessor's duties. Ms. Schlesinger does not, however, have a company – for which reason the listers propose to hire her as an employee of the listers. Ms. Schlesinger finds this arrangement acceptable. Mr. Whitman asked who is the employer? Mr. Kiernan said the listers have the authority to hire, but the Town will control payroll and benefits. Mr. Kiernan reported that the listers have discussed eliminating the listers as an elected office and under the law have an appointed lister/appraiser/assessor. He thought the issue could be brought to the ballot in March 2018. It was agreed that this discussion will be continued. She will be a part-time employee with no benefits.

17. Other Business

There was none.

18. Review of Action Items

Old

- A water board meeting will be held in November.
- The water board budget was approved in August.
- The state has agreed to fix signs on White Creek Rd. and Bank St. Mr. Kiernan will follow up.
- The trees around the radar fixture will be trimmed when GMP begins tree work in October.
- Two temporary road crew employees were hired. A full time employee, Kyle Legacy, has been hired. Mr. Kiernan said if we decide not to extend the term of one of the temporary people, we will need to hire a snow plowing contractor. (Six, rather than an earlier approved five full time employees, are needed because much of the work must be done pairs.)
- The Bennington Rescue Squad made a presentation.
- The road crew indeed does call before it digs.
- Community appropriations funds are usually automatically mailed out in December of each year.

New

- The Shaftsbury Hollow E911 issue will be resolved.
- A notice that tax notices have been mailed will be placed on the website.
- Mr. Scoggins will review the website and make sure the mailing address is clear.
- Mr. Kiernan will figure out where the Bennington/Arlington Rescue Squad territories came from.
- A special meeting with Goldstone will be arranged for the week of September 25.
- Mr. Kiernan will distribute a draft janitorial services contract.

19. Adjournment

Mr. Krulikowski moved to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.