

Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2017

6:30 p.m.

1) Call to order

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

2) Conflict of interest statement

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

3) Approval of minutes

Mr. Whitman moved to approve the October 2 minutes. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. A spelling error was noted and corrected. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Mr. Krulikowski abstaining.

4) Warrants

Check warrant #11, \$73,109.47. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #10, \$80. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant #7, \$19,708.21. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5) Announcements

Mr. Kiernan thanked the sheriff for putting out a radar speed control device near the school.

6) Public comments

There were none.

7) Treasurer's report

Melanie Dexter again noted incoming tax checks. No more line of credits draws will be needed. The garage fund is beginning to collect interest although a first draw will be made upon it shortly.

8) Road Foreman report

Steve Washburn could not be present. Mr. Kiernan reported that the last big project – Shaftsbury Hollow – will start Wednesday of this week. Equipment and an operator have been leased. It should be completed in five days. Winter preparation continues. Drainage work on Trumbull Hill Rd. will require shutting the road down for a day. Buses and neighbors will be notified. Sand will be purchased locally; it won't be necessary to stockpile it on site this year.

9) Economic development

a. PC feasibility report on country store

b. SVEDZ update

Stephanie Lane of Shires Housing updated the board on the Lake Paran area project, a four-building affordable housing project of 22 units. She said the PFOA issue in N. Bennington may make it impossible to connect to N. Bennington. She wondered if Shaftsbury had any excess water. They expect to need about 5400 gpd, a reduction from the original as square footage has been reduced.

She said she'd been to the N. Bennington Village trustees and was told that the Village would hesitate to allocate water to the housing project while the PFOA issue is unfolding. (The Village wants to be sure it has sufficient supply to assist any new users from the Village. The proposed project will be located outside the Village.)

Mr. Whitman said Shaftsbury gets its water from N. Bennington and has no “allocation” from the Village. Shaftsbury lines end at Twitchell Hill. N. Bennington supplies all Shaftsbury customers south of that point.

Various members suggested pursuing water from Bennington. Ms. Lane said Shires doesn’t think a well is a possibility because of PFOAs. Mr. Williams said the Planning Commission had been told around four years ago that there was enough water for about thirty additional hook-ups. Mr. Kiernan suggested working on an answer at an upcoming water board meeting.

The Select Board asked the Planning Commission to study how the Town could help restore a country-store like business in the village, that is, a gathering place for Shaftsbury. Mr. Williams and other members of the Commission reported on the study they’d produced of three different sites downtown that might have potential (the Mattison property, the former bank building next to the post office, and the former country store), and on case studies of other towns where the process was successful. Michael Cichanowski passed out copies of the report, which is incorporated by reference in these minutes. Mr. Williams said they’d wondered if the market has been saturated with Paulin’s and the Market Wagon. He pointed to the Community House on Old Depot Road as a possible different kind of model – community financed, no kitchen, non-commercial. “Micro-septic” systems were discussed, as only such a feature would solve the septic issue in the Village.

Mr. Scoggins updated the board on regional economic development in S. Vermont. The new southern zone will include both Windham and Bennington Counties. The project is part of a federal program. The group is largely in a fact-finding phase at present.

10) School Board consolidation vote Nov. 7

Mr. Scoggins summarized the upcoming vote on merger, as required by Act 46. He requested support from the board for the articles of agreement. Mr. Whitman opposed the board taking a stand. Mr. Krulikowski agreed with Mr. Whitman, and said it is the school board’s responsibility to educate the public and take a leadership position. Alice Miller, state representative, spoke in favor of consolidation. The board did not take a position.

11) Cemetery Reserve Fund update

Cinda Morse reported that there are three funds held by trustees of public funds related to cemeteries. The Cemetery Trust Fund has \$24,666 to acquire equipment or land for cemeteries. The Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund is for care of the same and is funded by lot fees. It has \$125,280. Income from both funds (about \$3500) covers some part of annual cemetery costs. Huntington Cemetery Fund (1890 gift) was to provide income to keep in repair the gravestones of his family. Income stays in the fund. Ms. Morse and Mr. Kiernan described how funds move from and to the cemetery funds and the town general fund. Ms. Morse described some of the expenses the funds recently covered.

An additional reserve fund was set up in 2010. The cemetery committee hasn’t found a clearly stated purpose for that fund. It may be meant to cover extending the wrought iron fence at the S. Shaftsbury cemetery, but that would have cost about \$60,000. Perhaps a green fence will be put up instead at less cost. There is about \$30,000 in the fund. At present it is being used for additional large projects e.g. roads and large tree work. Mr. Kiernan will research what the voters originally voted to support when the fund was set up.

12) Website design vendor

Mr. Scoggins looked at three vendors and thinks the contract should go to Spectrum Design, owned by Jonah Spivak, at a cost of about \$2,000. Without objection he will move ahead with the transition from one software to another, and a redesign of the content. Michael Cichanowski has been helping with the redesign.

13) Town garage update

Mr. Kiernan said it is moving forward fairly smoothly. The bid opening will be scheduled for the first of the year.

14) BCSWA Ordinance amendment

Mr. Kiernan proceeded with the second reading of the proposed changes to Article 7, regarding reporting by individual towns. The reporting is redundant.

15) Personnel policy revision

State law has changed re how part-time employees are compensated for sick time and other matters. VLCT has provided language reflecting these changes. Mr. Kiernan will draft these changes for review by the board and send the draft to VLCT for review.

16) Other business

About four months ago the Select Board approved the purchase of a pick-up truck. Mr. Kiernan tabled it because of loss of road crew personnel in the summer. He would like to go ahead with this purchase now.

17) Review of action items

Old:

How 911 addresses are assigned to a camp with no road access. Mr. Kiernan is working on this matter. He will follow through as best he can.

Dividing line between Arlington and Bennington Rescue: The line seems to run from the Chocolate Barn eastward, but Mr. Kiernan hasn't been able to find out how the line was drawn.

18) Adjournment