

Shaftsbury Select Board
December 3, 2018

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.
- 2) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 3) Approval of minutes
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the 11/19/18 minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-1, Mr. Harrington abstaining.
- 4) Warrants
Payroll warrant 10, \$22,140.91. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Water warrant 1, \$544. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Payroll warrant 11, \$25,596.96. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Check warrant 14, \$38,475.78. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Check warrant 15, \$219,486.24. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
Mr. Scoggins noted an executive session to discuss personnel issues would be held at the end of the meeting.
Until further notice, all select board meetings will be held at the Shaftsbury Elementary School library.
Mr. Scoggins noted several openings or expiring seats available on the Development Review Board and the Planning Commission.
- 6) Public comments
There were none.
- 7) Treasurer's report
Ms. Dexter noted garage bond monies were transferred to the general fund and a transfer of school taxes was made to the school. The Municipay tax payment option was discussed. Cash flow is normal.
- 8) Shires Housing Project – approval of public notice
Mr. Scoggins reminded the board that at the last meeting, a combined finding of no environmental impact and a request to release funds was discussed. At the time, Mr. Whitman was concerned about the Town issuing a statement of “no environmental impact;” he has since learned that if the Town didn't sign the statement, it would kill the possibility of accessing the funds under discussion – an outcome he doesn't wish for. Mr. Kiernan said the environmental

review document will be kept on file at the Town office should anyone wish to review it. He said some dates in the public notice will need be changed. Mr. Harrington asked whether the funding options under discussion were available to “any old landlord.” Stephanie Lane of Shires Housing said for-profit landlords have access to these funds as well. She also noted that Shires pays 100% of the town tax, and somewhat less in school tax (by state law). Mr. Harrington expressed a concern that the Town is being asked to subsidize Shires. Ms. Lane said there is no subsidy, and that their housing is for a narrow portion of the population. The rest may be better served by for-profit landowners. Mr. Krulikowski moved to accept the combined notice regarding environmental impact, and with dates corrected and reference to Section 8 deleted. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

9) Roads report

Mr. Kiernan reported that the crew did some grading. They will work on potholes where the roads transition from pavement to gravel.

10) FY 2020 budget

a. Fire department

Chief Joe Vadakin said they propose to replace the roof on station 2 this year. (It is thirty years old.) By moving funds from the equipment fund to the maintenance fund he will be able to accomplish the \$7000 project. There are no other major maintenance projects on the horizon. He also proposes to increase contributions to the sinking fund. These changes have already been incorporated in the proposed budget Mr. Kiernan has submitted to the board. Mr. Vadakin said overall the department has enough volunteers, but coverage is light during the day. At those times they call on mutual aid. Mr. Kiernan said AT&T, the First Net carrier, offers AT&T-using first responders a break on their phone bill. Mr. Kiernan will share that information with Mr. Vadakin.

b. Planning commission

Mr. Chris Williams, chair, reported that the commission’s needs are not notably different from last year’s.

c. Parks committee

Ms. Deena Ruege said most of the work of the parks has been taken over by the Department of Public Works, so the parks budget is only \$500. A matching grant and an endowment from Florence Howard will make possible fountains, play equipment, and recycling receptacles. A \$10,000+ parks reserve fund is also in place. The skating rink at Cleveland Park will be installed in winter 2019-20 (after work this summer to level the site). The board discussed whether to plow Howard Park in the winter. Most members felt it should not be plowed.

11) Town garage/transfer station project

Mr. Kiernan said the garage will probably be finished Feb. 1. Some site work will be delayed until spring, when the land can be worked. A problem with access to the transfer station will be fixed before winter hits. Citizens can make suggestions regarding design.

Work begins on Cole Hall immediately. The treasurer and the administrator will move to a trailer for the construction period. The renovation will not affect the historic resources of the building. The work should be completed in February.

12) Cemetery bids

The website was down for a week, so bids for mowing couldn't be submitted via the web. Mr. Kiernan wondered if time should therefore be added to the bids deadline. The announcement appeared in the Banner twice. The bid deadline is December 14. The consensus was the deadline did not need to be changed.

13) Roadside commercial zone 7A – Ken Harrington

Mr. Harrington said most of Route 7A is already Roadside Commercial. Why not extend it from Shaftsbury Village to Arlington, 200' on either side of the road?

Chris Williams from the Planning Commission reported that they agreed a) that this represents the triumph of hopes over experience – we probably won't get many if any jobs out of this, and no business has opened in the existing RC for at least five or six years; b) the Shires Byway? Arlington doesn't have any commercial use for several miles from the village to the Arlington town line. To make Shaftsbury 7A, RC would greatly conflict with the goals embodied in the byway designation (almost all existing business there pre-date zoning); c) such a change would conflict with state and regional planning goals, as it could promote commercial sprawl. (Smart growth principles would keep commercial development in the village.)

Mr. Scoggins described what the next steps would be. If the Planning Commission chooses not to promote the idea (which it has done), a citizen can seek petition signatures, or the Select Board can choose to attempt to move the matter forward. The board discussed the idea but did not agree to pursue it.

Relatedly, Mr. Scoggins reported on a gathering of southern Vermont towns at which broadband connectivity was discussed. EC Fiber is a non-profit company in central Vermont laying cable at densities as low as 6 homes per mile. Mr. Scoggins said that, rather than build up a company, it might make more sense to try to find a way to fill in existing gaps, perhaps using grants. The southern Vermont group worked on a survey to find out where the gaps are; perhaps Shaftsbury could participate in the survey or conduct one of its own. Mr. Williams said the Planning Commission could add this to the Town plan revision process. He suggested two maps – on cell phone coverage and broadband coverage. The Select Board agreed to ask the Planning Commission to map these features.

14) Other business

Mr. Kiernan shared four errors and omissions from the listers:

- Harris, parcel 05 01 05, a reduction; Mr. Krulikowski moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Tichnor, 08 20 34, a reduction. Mr. Krulikowski moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Nadeau, 12 01 14, a reduction. Mr. Krulikowski moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Cross, 18 10 14.1, a reduction. Mr. Krulikowski moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Harrington asked about the Hollow Hideaway culvert. Mr. Kiernan said the town needs to put aside additional funds for construction in FY 2020.

15) Review of action items

- A wish list and prices for cemeteries was received.
- The treasurer has looked into printing a notice re Municipay on tax bill but would prefer placing it on the envelope. Tax reimbursements were approved.

- VTrans is using a contractor to do Glastenbury Rd. The Town will seek to add the Town's mileage to that contract.
- Re discussing consolidating and/or liquidating cemetery and health care funds: Mr. Scoggins and Mr. Kiernan have not had a chance to discuss with town attorneys. (It has been settled that the Grandview fund is a perpetual care trust fund. Teasing out whether it can be combined with other perpetual funds may be an expensive task.) This task will stay on the list.
- We have a new schedule for warning the bylaw revision.
- The Shires housing matter has been handled. Mr. Scoggins will talk to local employers to see if they would be willing to add their names to the letter to VCDP.
- Add \$1500 to Paran Recreation community appropriation for a playground. Mr. Kiernan will find out if this is what Paran Recreation really wants the Select Board to do.
- Mr. Scoggins and Mr. Kiernan will get information on FirstNet phone discounts to Chief Vadakin.
- Mr. Kiernan and the parks committee will work on acquiring water fountains for Howard Park and Cleveland Park.
- Mr. Scoggins will place the mowing bids document on website.
- The Planning Commission will look into mapping cell and broadband service.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 8:34 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16) Adjournment