

Shaftsbury Select Board

January 21, 2019

The meeting came to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

Mr. Krulikowski reported a conflict of interest regarding the Bennington Rescue Squad, on whose board he sits, though he receives no financial gain from serving on the board of the Squad. Mr. Scoggins argued that the Select Board asked Mr. Krulikowski to join the Rescue Squad board expressly to bring back information to the Select Board. The consensus of the Select Board was that there was no conflict of interest.

Minutes:

Mr. Whitman moved to approve the October 1, 2018 minutes as circulated. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Whitman moved to approve the January 2, 2019 minutes as circulated. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-2, with Mr. Harrington and Mr. Barber abstaining.

Mr. Whitman moved to approve the January 7, 2019 minutes as circulated. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-1, with Mr. Krulikowski abstaining.

Mr. Whitman moved to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes as circulated. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-1, with Mr. Krulikowski abstaining.

Warrants

Payroll #14, \$24,643.17. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check 21, \$72,754.09. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Announcements

Town boards will continue to meet at the elementary school through February at least while Cole Hall is being renovated.

Citizens are invited to serve on the Development Review Board or Planning Commission, both of which have openings. Send a letter of interest to town manager David Kiernan.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer was not present to give her report.

Roads report

The road foreman was not present to give his report. Mr. Kiernan said he knew of nothing new to report. Mr. Whitman said he'd learned at the recent DRB meeting that the Town could not impose

conditions regarding the roads on a developer beyond those contained in the curb cut regulations. Mr. Scoggins and Mr. Kiernan said they would explore this further.

Budget report

Lisa Byer from **CAT TV** presented a request that the Town help pay for the cost of CAT-TV's recording the Select Board meetings. She explained CAT-TV's financial situation, a complex one with a lot of different issues: Comcast has started using new accounting practices that allows them to divert funds away from cable revenue, reducing allocations to CAT-TV of \$20K annually, about 5% of their budget; cord cutting (in favor of streaming); Comcast is suing the Public Utilities Commission at great cost to the access centers; FCC rulemaking may allow "rent" currently paid to cable companies as fees to access centers to be substituted for by a kind of in-kind donation of infrastructure; an FCC ruling down the pike would take away local control over public rights of way, in preparation for launching 5G; finally, a case before the Supreme Court may result in a finding that cable companies cannot be forced to provide community cable access. The station covers more than 20 meetings monthly. The cost would be \$1800 for 24 meetings of 1.5 hours each, with no charge for travel, set up, breakdown, or media processing. CAT-TV has been seeking underwriters, offering videoing for hire, fundraising, and working on the state and federal levels. Ms. Bryars said they would prefer to enter into a calendar year contract. Mr. Whitman moved to fund CAT-TV to televise the Select Board meetings for FY 2020 at a cost of \$1800. Mr. Whitman moved to amend the amount to \$2200. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Whitman moved to enter into a contract with CAT-TV for calendar year 2019 for \$1800. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Scoggins said he had agreed to be a candidate for the CAT-TV board but didn't consider that to be a conflict of interest.

Bennington Rescue Squad: a motion to increase BRS funding to \$25K in the 2020 budget entered into at the last meeting was placed back on the table. Mr. Whitman said the BRS request to Shaftsbury was to make whole the endowment they'd tapped into, something which Shaftsbury had no responsibility for. He also said the additional funds BRS requested would make it more likely, but not guarantee, that a Shaftsbury resident would receive service, because it would enable the Squad to basically keep an ambulance "on hold" for such calls (rather than sending it on a transport call). Mr. Krulikowski reminded listeners that the squad is now staffed by medical professionals, not volunteers. Mr. Scoggins reiterated that the \$42K figure is based on a state-wide average per resident, but BRS doesn't serve all the residents of Shaftsbury – Arlington serves a large chunk. Also, Shaftsbury calls are fewer in number than the state average. Finally, Shaftsbury got essentially free services from the Squad for many years. The board discussed the difficulties of coming up with a per-call number. Each kind of call costs something different, and if a transport is not involved, no fee can be charged. Mr. Whitman said the \$25K on the table is very similar to the per-call cost Bennington pays. The motion passed 4-1-0. Mr. Barber voted no, he said, because the increase was so large.

Mr. Kiernan reviewed the budget. He said the 2020 budget is only about 2.9% higher than the 2015 budget. He said the auditor had a few comments, including one regarding selling stickers at the transfer station.

Change in disability insurance

Following a meeting with AFLACK, the road crew has decided to go with their disability insurance. Mr. Kiernan will confirm that the crew fully understands the ramifications. The cost to the town would be

about \$1000 annually. Their individual costs will double. Mr. Kiernan said the Town Clerk would also like to enroll in the program. Fees are according to salary and age. No one objected to paying its share of the Clerk's disability insurance. Mr. Whitman moved to change the short term disability insurance to AFLACK, and to add the Town Clerk to the list of eligible employees. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Garage/Cole Hall

Wells will be tested shortly. The heat is on. The propane tanks are partially filled. Mr. Kiernan said if the water tests too high for PFAS even vehicle wash water will have to be run through a POET system. Cole Hall will be completed mid- to late-February. Mr. Scoggins said he'd asked Goldstone for an estimate of the cost of addressing the exterior of Cole Hall, and will also share with the firm a plan for the grounds.

Other business

Mr. Whitman said he is concerned about parking at the Chocolate Barn. A lower speed limit, as requested by the Town, won't suffice.

Action items

Mr. Kiernan said there is no resolution to the Glastenbury Rd. issue. There is some confusion regarding who is to pay for what, though the road is being well taken care of.

Re consolidating cemetery funds; this will be revisited after Town meeting.

The Grove Road noise issue is being addressed. Mr. Scoggins requested more information from those who complained about noise, per the request of Brian Lent of Dailey's, who wants to better understand when the noises occur and what they are.

Mr. Kiernan said it would cost about \$3000 to restore the ice rink at Cleveland Ave.

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Dave, Tim: Find out what steps can be taken by the Town if a new business threatens to burden Town infrastructure.

Dave, Tim: Find out if trucks can be washed with straight well water, should the water, at some future date, fail drinking water standards.

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.