

Shaftsbury Select Board
August 5, 2019
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:34 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington, and Joe Barber.
- 2) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 3) Warrants
Check warrant #3, \$22,391.16. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0. (Mr. Barber noted, in re the payment to the Sheriff, that people speed up and down Cleveland Avenue frequently. Mr. Scoggins said perhaps the town should assign the Sheriff to that location.)
Payroll warrant #2, \$22,226.71. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- 4) Announcements
Mr. Scoggins reported that the cell phone survey recently conducted by the town suggested that VTel's signal on Rod and Gun Club is strong. (Several respondents to the survey from that area complained about their lack of service.
- 5) Public comments
None.
- 6) Treasurer's report
Ms. Dexter was away. Mr. Scoggins noted that she'd provided information necessary to approve the new tax rate for FY 2020. The rate is up 2.5 cents. It has barely moved for five years. The Select Board had proposed bumping the rate up by 1.5 cents, and then the voters added another 1 cent at town meeting to buy more gravel. Mr. Harrington said he's seen few places around town where gravel is needed (and the Select Board had indeed reduced the gravel budget for 2020). Mr. Scoggins requested a motion to approve a \$42.56/\$100 valuation, the amount necessary to provide the budget that was approved by voters. None was forthcoming.
- 7) Roads report
Mr. Yanotti was away.
Mr. Scoggins reported that he and the road foreman went over the bid for the project on Shaftsbury Hollow Road and revisited the project itself. It was discovered that additional work is needed at the site, including an underdrain. After consultation with the single bidder, the project will total \$90,000, including the underdrain. Much of the expense is due to having to keep the road open at all times. That revised bid was approved at a special meeting held July 25. Mr. Harrington suggested the town try to get requests for bids out as early in the year as possible, to get as many bidders as possible. Mr. Scoggins said the highway foreman and the town administrator have produced a capital improvements budget for next year, which focuses largely on last year's worst mud season problems.
- 8) Telecom

Mr. Scoggins said he'd talked with a fellow from Consolidated Communications, who related the example of Chesterfield, NH. In partnership with Consolidated they have connected fiber optic cable to every home in town, paid for by a user fee in turn used to finance a bond. A customer base of as few as about 200 people could pay the bond down, at about \$75/month with a \$10 user fee. Such an action would require a lot of steps, and a town vote. The legislature recently approved \$10 million for towns to pursue connectivity.

9) Other business
None

10) Review of action items
Efforts to consolidate reserve funds are in the hands of the attorney.
The Shaftsbury Hollow bid was approved.

11) Adjournment
Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.