

Shaftsbury Select Board
January 6, 2020
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan and Charlie Hall.
- 2) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 3) Minutes
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes for Dec. 2, 2019. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes for Dec. 16, 2019. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 4) Warrants
Check warrant #17, \$102,516.12. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Payroll warrant #13, \$25,524.25. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Retirement warrant #2, \$11,796.60. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Check warrant #16, \$83,485. (These are all community appropriations that were approved by the voters last year.) Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Payroll warrant #12, \$32,308.02. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
Mr. Scoggins noted that open offices are and will become available on the Planning Commission and DRB. Two Select Board positions are expiring.
- 6) Public comments
None.
- 7) Treasurer's report
The treasurer could not be present. Mr. Kiernan noted that last year we had spent more by this time, but all budgeted items will be implemented.
- 8) Budget Session - Transfer Station PAYT Fees
Mr. Kiernan said that every year we run about \$50,000-\$70,000 behind in operating the transfer station. The price per bag (for 12 pounds) has been \$1 since 2006. Bennington charges \$3.50; Pownal charges \$2.50. Non-users are subsidizing users of the station. Mr. Kiernan suggested leaving the access permit price unchanged, but increasing the bag fee to \$2 beginning July 1. He said the town should sit down with Casella to negotiate a reduced management fee under the new contract beginning in 2021, thereby reducing expenses somewhat. The additional \$1/bag should produce about \$32,000-\$36,000 annually. (Some subsidy will remain.) Mr. Whitman moved to increase the

per-bag fee from \$1 to \$2 effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. The color of the stickers will be changed in the summer. A new method of recording the sale and use of bag stickers will be implemented this year, in accordance with recommendations from the professional audit. (Despite the auditors' recommendations, no discrepancy has been found between tickets sold and poundage received.)

Mr. Kiernan asked the Select Board to hold a brief special session to address certain changes he's had to make to the proposed budget. It was agreed to hold the meeting Monday January 13, 6:30 pm.

9) Road Reports

Work continues. The crew tries to respond to calls as they come in, but responses can be delayed until the drivers finish their regular 12-13 mile route. Continuous mud seasons become expensive. The town will take possession of the former N. Bennington truck very soon. Mr. Kiernan will post on the state bid page on January 7 a request for a single axle dump, around \$160,000, to be paid for from the reserve fund and the sale of existing equipment. The crew is noting now where improvements should be made during the construction season.

Mr. Harrington suggested that a smaller truck might be better than the single axle dump. Mr. Kiernan will ask the road foreman to attend the next meeting to discuss the matter. He said we must act soon or we won't have the truck we need for the 2020-21 winter season.

10) Internet: CUD on March Ballot

Mr. Scoggins said the ballot would contain a question regarding joining the southern Vermont Communication Union District. He urged voters to vote "yes." By law, town tax money cannot be spent on the operation of a CUD. Instead, it would be paid for by those using the service. The other towns participating in the district would be Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Manchester, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Woodford.

11) Other Business

Mr. Kiernan said the new CAT-TV contract will cost \$4200, similar in scope and cost to last year. The bill will be split in two pieces, one-half paid in FY 2020, one-half in FY 2021. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the contract. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan asked the board to approve the preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by the BCRC, an action which had already been approved by the board. Mr. Scoggins signed the agreement.

Mr. Whitman said, after being notified that the old Baptist church in center Shaftsbury is for sale, he would like representatives of the Historical Society to attend a meeting to describe what is going on.

12) Review of Action Items

The road foreman will be asked to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Kiernan will post the bid document for the new single axle dump, noting in the document that the town has the right to cancel the bid request.

A representative of the Historical Society will be asked to attend a meeting to talk about the putative sale of the center Shaftsbury church.

13) Executive Session - Personnel

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

14) Adjournment