

Shaftsbury Select Board
March 16, 2020
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order
Melanie Dexter, Treasurer, called the meeting to order and 6:30 p.m. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Art Whitman, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. Town administrator David Kiernan was away.
- 2) Nomination of Select Board officers.
Mr. Whitman nominated Mr. Scoggins for chair of the Select Board. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. At that point Mr. Scoggins took over leading the meeting. Mr. Krulikowski nominated Mr. Whitman for vice-chair of the Select Board. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 3) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 4) Organizational meeting
 - a) Rules of procedure. Mr. Whitman moved to adopt the existing Select Board rules of procedure. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
 - b) Liaison responsibilities. Mr. Whitman moved to adopt the 2019 liaison assignments for 2020. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
 - c) Town officers. Mr. Whitman moved to nominate officers as follows: animal control, Tracy Mulligan; BCRC commissioner, Cinda Morse; energy coordinator, Ben Hulett; health officer, Jackie Myers; deputy health officer, Tracy Mulligan; town service officer, Jackie Myers, tree warden, Jim White. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Scoggins reported that Jerry Mattison has resigned as emergency management officer. Mr. Mattison served admirably in that position for thirteen years. Mr. Scoggins reported that Paul Dansereau has agreed to step into the role. Mr. Dansereau was present and spoke to the Board, saying he moved to Shaftsbury in 2004, retired from the Army in 2015, worked for five years as MAUHS as director of facility, and will soon begin work as code enforcement officer for the Town of Bennington. Mr. Whitman moved to appoint Mr. Dansereau as emergency management director. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Town administrator David Kiernan has volunteered to be emergency management coordinator. Mr. Whitman moved to appoint Mr. Kiernan to the role of emergency management coordinator. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Whitman suggested presenting Mr. Mattison with a certificate acknowledging and thanking him for his service.
- 5) Minutes
Mr. Krulikowski moved to adopt the February 3, 2020 minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1, with Mr. Barber abstaining. Mr. Krulikowski moved to adopt the February 17, 2020 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1, with Mr. Whitman abstaining. Mr. Krulikowski moved to adopt the January 20, 2020 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 6) Warrants

Payroll warrant #18, \$26,662.52. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant # 24, \$79,665.79. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant #234, \$6650.00. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

7) Announcements

Mr. Scoggins reported that it is being recommended that towns close their public buildings. Mr. Whitman moved to close Cole Hall to the public effective March 18, 2020 until it is deemed safe to reopen. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. Mr. Scoggins noted that staff will work remotely as much as possible and otherwise minimize their time spent in the building. Members of the public needing access to land records can make an appointment with the Town Clerk. Some routine town business such as getting dog licenses, paying water bills, and getting tax bills can be done via email and online or via USPS. Checks can be safely left in a lock box outside the downstairs door to the building. Ms. Dexter reported that some towns have begun providing coordination between those needing assistance and those wanting to volunteer to provide assistance. Perhaps a resident would like to volunteer to provide that coordination in Shaftsbury.

Mr. Scoggins reported that the first meeting, by teleconference, of the new Communications Union District representatives will take place on March 18, 2020.

8) Public comments

Richard Setzer of White Creek Road clarified his comments made at Town meeting, that he asks the Select Board simply to adopt a non-binding resolution that the Town is a "Second Amendment Sanctuary City." He would not encourage citizens to break any laws but simply wishes to protect second amendment rights. Mr. Barber asked that the issue be placed on a future agenda for further discussion. Mr. Scoggins asked Mr. Sensor to email him so he can let him know when the item is to be discussed.

9) Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter noted that expenditures are about 2% ahead of last year and revenues are about 2% below, so she and the administrator will keep a close eye on cash flow. The last of the water payments are coming in. She noted that those preparing tax forms can find the information they need on the town website under "Information for Tax Preparers." Ms. Dexter will email bills upon request. All fees can be paid online or via deposit in the lock box at Cole Hall.

10) Green Lantern Solar cancelled its presentation. Mr. Whitman asked the road foreman to look at the proposed curb cut, which seems to be located in an awkward location.

11) The presentation from the Shaftsbury Historical Society was cancelled. Mitch Race, president, emailed Mr. Scoggins and asked the Select Board to send him questions. In his email he said the Society has decided that it would entertain an offer to buy the church in order to finance the maintenance of the Galusha homestead. Mr. Krulikowski wanted to know whether the church's deed posed any use restrictions. He wouldn't want a use ill-suited to its historic character to be installed there.

12) Road Reports

Mr. Yanotti reported the crew has been adding gravel to the bad sections. In some locations, the roads have dried up enough to allow some spot-grading. The potholes have been frustrating. He said there are about 700-800 tons of sand and about 150 tons of salt in the shed.

Mr. Yanotti said he thought the crew would be able to institute its alternative work schedule May 4 -Oct 30, in which four men would work ten-hour days Mon-Thurs, and two would work 8-hour days Mon-Friday. Mr. Whitman moved to adopt the alternative work schedule. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman noted that the crew may have to work on Saturdays sometimes. The motion passed 4-0-0.

13) Opening bids for a shed

The bids for a swap shed structure and a shed at the fire house will be postponed. Shewell Construction put in a bid for the shed for the transfer station attendant at approximately \$6500. The other bids were considerably higher. Mr. Barber moved to accept the bid from Shewell Construction. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

14) Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Mr. Scoggins read for the Board a statement confirming the creation of the CUD and appointing Mr. Scoggins as the representative to the CUD for one year. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

15) Letter of support for cell tower in N. Bennington.

Mr. Whitman reported that Verizon has found that the best spot for a new tower is behind the Village garage on Mechanic Street. Many neighbors objected for a variety of reasons. One more hearing will be held. If the Trustees approve the request, the citizens may still appeal via petition. Mr. Whitman believes that the tower is essential for business in the region. At Whitman's suggestion, Scoggins prepared a statement of support for the tower which he read to the Select Board. Mr. Krulikowski moved to send the letter to the Trustees of North Bennington. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

16) Other Business

Renew contract with CAI Technologies for maintenance of the town tax maps. Mr. Krulikowski moved to renew the contract. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Renewal of liquor license for Paulin's: Mr. Krulikowski moved to renew the license. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan requested a special meeting on March 30 to sign warrants. The meeting was scheduled without objection at 5 p.m. on that date.

17) Review of Action Items

- Mr. Scoggins will honor Mr. Mattison's service.
- Mr. Yanotti will check the curb cut for the solar installation.
- Mr. Scoggins will arrange for a presentation by the Historical Society.
- The Board will hold a special meeting on March 30 at 5 p.m.

20) Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues and a contract negotiation. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Upon return, Mr. Whitman moved to award a stipend of \$500 dollars to Town Clerk Marlene Hall to thank her for her work on the Town Plan. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0-0.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to raise the Town Clerk's salary from \$41,544 to 43,544 in FY21? Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

21) The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Shaftsbury Selectboard
PO Box 409
61 Buck Hill Road
Shaftsbury VT 05262

16 March 2020

North Bennington Village Board of Trustees
c/o The Fund for North Bennington, Inc.
P.O. Box 803
North Bennington, VT 05257

Dear Trustees,

The Shaftsbury Selectboard encourages you to approve the proposed new cell tower on North Bennington village property.

Lack of telecommunications infrastructure is a restraint our economy. Lack of broadband internet and cell service inhibits our ability to attract business and population to our region. Many people today see these services as essential to daily life and are reluctant to relocate where they are unavailable. A new cell tower in our area is welcome relief.

Lack of telecommunications infrastructure is, increasingly, a public safety issue. Telephone landlines, carried over copper wires, are deteriorating with age and disrepair. Service providers have no economic incentive to maintain them and no plan to replace them with newer technology. Combined with lack of Internet and cell service, more and more areas are being cut off, without even the ability to call 911 in an emergency. Better cell coverage in our area will enhance safety and peace of mind.

For economic development, convenience, safety, and peace of mind, we support the new cell tower in North Bennington as a benefit to your village and the surrounding area. We encourage its approval.

Sincerely,

The Shaftsbury Selectboard

