

Shaftsbury Select Board
April 6, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting via teleconference came to order at 6:32PM. Present were Selectmen Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Tony Krulikowski (after a short technical delay), and Joe Barber. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan, Paul Dansereau (emergency management coordinator), and Michael Batcher (BCRC). Mr. Scoggins reported he would be calling the roll for each vote. He also said the public can call in comments.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Via roll call, all present reported no conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

March 3, 2020 town meeting. Mr. Barber moved to approve the minutes as amended below. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. (Amendments: Mr. Whitman noted that the gentleman who spoke on the Second Amendment is named Setz; and Mr. Scoggins, not Mr. Whitman, wrote the letter to the Village of North Bennington.) By roll call, the motion was approved 4-0-0 (Mr. Krulikowski had not yet become audible.)

March 16, 2020. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. By roll call, the motion was approved 4-0-1, with Mr. Harrington abstaining.

March 30, 2020. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. By roll call the motion passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Harrington abstaining.

4. Warrants

Check warrant 26, \$32,830.72. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. By roll call the motion passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins noted that Cole Hall is closed to the public. All meetings are cancelled except Select Board meetings and urgent meetings of the Development Review Board.

Sources of a variety of COVID 19 assistance are posted on the town website.

6. Public Comments—by teleconference

There were none.

6. Treasurer's Report

Melanie Dexter spoke re the cash balance. As of the end of March it was about \$184,000, a little less than she'd like. It shouldn't be an issue as long as two payments due from the state are received, but they are wild cards: a \$40K highway grant due last January, and another similar grant due in April. Additional delinquent taxes and a possible education adjustment (in the last couple of years it has been about \$100,000) would also help. (She doesn't know, however, what is happening at state Education.)

Mr. Kiernan described how the general fund could be strengthened. He said the host town fund could be tapped to the extent of a little more than \$25,000 to defray some of the costs of the paving of North Road. (Paving costs are over budget.) The Shaftsbury Hollow project could be covered in part by a balance in the Class 3 road fund. He said the budget freeze would generate about \$38,000. He is waiting for \$6400 from the Federal PILOT fund. And he has lowballed revenues. Still, it will be a tight budget situation for a bit.

Ms. Dexter said she'd be preparing the forms for a new line of credit to have it ready to go on July 1.

Mr. Kiernan said that unless funds are moved about, highway costs would cause the town to go over budget by more than \$60,000.

7. Emergency Manager Report –Paul Dansereau

Mr. Dansereau offered an update on the COVID 19 situation in town and in Vermont. Though Cole Hall is closed, town employees are working remotely and can be reached by phone and email. Activities at the transfer station are largely unchanged, although hours have been reduced, stickers are not being sold, and exact change in the secure drop box is required. The fire department remains fully operational. DPW remains operation under social distancing procedures. Mr. Dansereau suggested www.healthvermont.gov as an excellent source of a variety of COVID 19 information. He urged social distancing, leaving home for only essential tasks, thorough sanitation at home, frequent hand washing, and wearing a mask when away from home. He also suggested www.vem.vermont.gov. At that site one can volunteer, make a donation, seek assistance for a small business, and more. Five surge medical sites have been set up by the National Guard, the nearest in Rutland. He said as of 1 pm today there were 25 cases in Bennington County, and three deaths in the county. Mr. Barber suggested being proactive by providing one's own masks and cleaning surface areas at work.

8. Hazard Mitigation Plan –Michael Batcher BCRC

Mr. Batcher noted that FEMA does not require towns to adopt hazard mitigation plans, but the plans do open doors to additional funding, as well as getting people thinking about potential threats. The town's plan would need to be approved by FEMA by December 2020.

He outlined what the process would look like. A planning team would be created. It would host public meetings, review the state plan, identify past and potential threats, identify key assets such as medical centers or development clusters, devise mitigation measures, and rank actions. BCRC will help as much as possible all along the way.

Mr. Batcher said he doesn't expect FEMA to extend the deadline to complete the plan but he can reach out to VT Emergency Management to ask them to ask for an extension. He said FEMA can provide funding even if the plan hasn't been adopted, as long as the town is working on it.

Mr. Batcher said the core team should include the town administrator, someone from the Select Board, the emergency manager, someone from the fire department, and others as the need arises. For example, representatives of large businesses might be asked for input. He said the Select Board should appoint the team.

9. BCSWA agreement –Mike Batcher BCRC

Mr. Batcher said the Alliance board agreed to not pursue a hazardous waste site.

10. Roads Report

Mr. Kiernan said the road crew is grading and graveling the roads. They will put chloride down on Cross Hill Road shortly. They are ditching as necessary. They will continue to do required maintenance in order to keep the roads safe and passable with observing social distancing procedures. On rainy days, they cannot be together in the garage. Mr. Whitman said someone reported to him that North Rd. fabric needs attention. Also, a guard rail is needed at the bottom of the North Rd. hill. Logs left roadside by the crew may be taken by the public. Any logs not taken following tree work will be removed by the road crew prior to the start of mowing.

11. Other Business

Mr. Scoggins said North Bennington thanked him for the Select Board letter re the cell tower proposal.

Mr. Kiernan said the designers of the solar array on Sally Gannon are redesigning the access to the array and will be present at the next meeting.

12. Review of Action Items

Mr. Scoggins will make corrections to the minutes. He will sign the signature page on the warrant, sign the minutes, scan them, and send all to Mr. Kiernan.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Whitman moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0-0.