

Town of Shaftsbury Selectboard
Special Meeting via remote web platform Zoom
Monday, September 14, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order remotely, via the teleconference platform Zoom, at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Art Whitman, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

2. Conflict of interest statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

Because no minutes were circulated, the matter was postponed.

4. Warrants

Check warrant #9, \$47,835.72. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote passed 3-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins noted that there are openings on the Planning Commission and Development Review Board. If interested, citizens should send a letter or email to Mr. Scoggins or town administrator David Kiernan.

Mr. Scoggins noted that the November polling place will be the new town garage. He said the State would be mailing ballots to all registered voters soon. Voters can deliver the ballots to the garage on November 3, to the Town Clerk at Town Hall, or to the Treasurer's drop box outside the door to Cole Hall.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter said tax bills are in the mail. If citizens haven't received them they should contact the Treasurer.

She urged all to please open the bill and look at it right away and compare to last year's bill if available. This is when some citizens will discover they didn't file their homestead declaration, which can still be filed with a small penalty.

The Town asks that no in-person deliveries of tax payments be made. (If such is absolutely necessary, please make an appointment with Ms. Dexter, who will meet citizens outside.) If a receipt is needed, send a self-addressed stamped envelope with the tax payment. Ms. Dexter is available mornings five days a week.

Regarding the cash flow, \$11,000 has already come in in taxes. Much activity regarding sale and purchase of fire trucks is shown in the report.

Ms. Dexter said she doubts we will need to make a further draw on the line of credit.

8. SVSU Ed Board applicant interviews

Jeff Leake, Joan Dornhoefer, and Mike Fenick have volunteered for the position. District board members Scott McEnaney (Shaftsbury rep) and Chris Murphy (chair) were present to

explain what the Select Board should be looking for in board members. Mr. Murphy described the SVUBSD's responsibilities to all elementary school students.

Mike Fenick spoke on why he wished to serve. He said he'd been involved with education for most of his working life, in three countries (US, Australia, and England). He found the work very rewarding. He sees the effort as a way to make a contribution. He believes he has an open mind. He looks forward to working with the more experienced members of the board to address and solve problems. He finds the union concept one more likely to be productive.

Jeff Leake said he has a daughter in the district. He served on the Shaftsbury school board for two terms. He was on the Act 46 committee and worked hard to benefit all the children in the new district. He said the state's NAEP scores are concerning, and the district should address them at the local level. Literacy is a critical skill, and success begins at the elementary level. He was active in enhancing the ventilation system at the SES, and knows there are additional problems at other schools in the district. He described why for a time he was a dual resident of both Manchester and Shaftsbury, but now resides only in Shaftsbury.

Joan Dornhoeffer said she wants to be on the board because she's worked with kids and their families as a licensed clinical social worker for forty years. She is a good listener, a good collaborator, and an advocate for families. Additionally, she understands the needs of the system. In the 80s and 90s she managed a large grant at a very large hospital in Manhattan, where she had to balance the budget.

Mr. Scoggins said the Select Board will address the matter in executive session, will reach out to the absent board members, and announce their selection at the next meeting.

9. PC Appointments

Chris Williams, PC chair, was due for reappointment in March 2020. Mr. Krulikowski moved to reappoint Mr. Williams to the Planning Commission for a three year term. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote passed 3-0-0.

10. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that for the next couple of weeks the rental tractor will be put to work. Grading is starting on the east side (most of the west side is done). A tree and ditching project is underway on Rod & Gun Club Road. All new ditches are seeded and mulched. Two culvert replacements -- at East Rd. at Glastenbury and on Maple Hill Road -- will be taken care of before the end of the field season. Trucks will be undercoated, and routine maintenance of the equipment will continue. There are no big projects. There has been no word on state grants, as was expected. At the next regular meeting Mr. Kiernan would like to discuss purchasing a mower.

11. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan reported that the town received the Act 137 digitization of land records grant of \$25,891, all that he asked for. The grant program is part of the Covid CARES act. Paper land records will still be maintained at Cole Hall. Re digitizing of records, Mr. Kiernan says he hopes to go back at least 10 years or as far as the grant money will take us.

12. Review of Action Items

Mr. Scoggins will talk to the other board members about the upcoming appointment to the school district board.

13. Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss appointing an SVSU Board Member.
Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote passed 3-0-0.

14. Adjournment