

Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

October 19, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:30 p.m. Present were select board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Tony Krulikowski, Ken Harrington, Joe Barber, and Art Whitman. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan, and resident Jeri Schoof.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Minutes

Mr. Harrington moved to approve the minutes for 9/14/20, 9/21/20, and 10/5/20. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Check warrant, \$50,276.61. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman noted that the town clerk reports that if one has secured an absentee ballot, but neglects to bring it to the polling place, one will be asked to sign an affidavit that, in essence, their absentee ballot is void.

Mr. Scoggins noted that the Nov. 3 election will be held at the new town garage.

Mr. Scoggins noted that there are openings on the Planning Commission and the DRB, and that interested citizens should contact him or the town administrator to express their interest.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers Report

Melanie Dexter said she compared this year's tax receipts to last year's, and the two are essentially identical. She has processed \$700,000 in tax bills since October.

People are often leaving their payments with a self-addressed envelope in her drop box. A receipt is returned in the SASE. Ms. Dexter appreciates this.

Highway state aid came through in the past week.

Ms. Dexter noted that the garage bond reserve account has been zeroed out.

8. Planning Commission appointment of Martha Cornwell

Mr. Harrington moved to appoint Ms. Cornwell to a three year term on the Planning Commission. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

9. DRB - Mr. Habberfield appointment to a 2 year term

Mr. Whitman moved to appoint Mr. Habberfield to a two year term on the DRB. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Scoggins noted that according to the town's appointment policy, all terms for the PC and the DRB expire in March after town meeting, so that the new Select Board can appoint the new boards. (Mr. Habberfield was reappointed at this meetings because when he was appointed at the last meeting, the motion failed to specify the term length.)

10. DPW Report Grant - Sidewalk scoping study Rte. 67 – White Creek

Mr. Kiernan said the crew is getting ready for winter. No additional major projects will be begun this year.

Mr. Kiernan suggested scoping the costs of new sidewalks from Route 67 in N. Bennington (at Grandview) up White Creek Road to Elm Street. Mr. Scoggins said he was imagining something much smaller – blacktopping along a town road - and that he thought there was a state grant available, for construction. Mr. Kiernan clarified that the grant was a federal grant, and would require scoping. Mr. Harrington noted that the town has no snow clearing equipment in that part of town. Mr. Scoggins said perhaps an arrangement could be made with N. Bennington to plow the sidewalk. It was agreed that there had been a misunderstanding as to what was proposed, and that the issue would be revisited.

Mr. Harrington said he went to a vendor in Londonderry to look at a Massey Ferguson tractor that is a little smaller than the one Mr. Yannotti was considering, but does everything Mr. Yannotti's tractor would do for about \$40,000 less. Mr. Harrington suggested we keep shopping for the new tractor. Mr. Barber suggested that Mr. Yannotti should check out the Londonderry tractor. Mr. Kiernan noted that we won't know about the grant that would make Mr. Yannotti's original suggested purchase possible for two or three months, so we have time to look. The board will ask Mr. Yannotti to weigh in on the Massey Ferguson, and to attend the next SB meeting to discuss it.

Howard Park will be wrapped up for the winter beginning next week.

Mr. Kiernan said the crew is doing routine maintenance such as repairing potholes.

11. Other Business; Resolution to Close Cleveland Ave 10/31/20 5pm to 9pm

Mr. Whitman moved to close Cleveland Avenue on Halloween eve from 5 pm to 9 pm. The board agreed that the resolution does not imply approval of trick or treating, and asked that everyone practice social distancing and mask wearing that evening. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12. Public Comments

There were none.

13. Review of Action Items

Mr. Kiernan will explore a scaled-down sidewalk idea.

Mr. Yannotti will look into and report on the Massey Ferguson tractor.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Krulikowski moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.