

Town of Shaftsbury Select Board

May 3, 2021

1) Call to order

The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectmen Art Whitman (chair), Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, Joe Barber, and Mike Cichanowski. 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

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes from the April 19 meeting. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4) Warrants

Payroll warrant #21, \$23,589.58. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant #22, \$22,988.85. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #34, \$20,079.80. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5) Announcements

Mr. Whitman said that after at least 30+ years of service, Tracy Mulligan has resigned from her post as animal control officer and is moving out of state. The position is open. It could be shared with Sunderland and Arlington. Any interested persons should contact Mr. Kiernan or Mr. Whitman.

6) Public Comments

There were none.

7) Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter reported that about \$300,000 came in and about \$170,000 went out in the latest statement period. The budget compares favorably with last year in both directions. She reminded citizens that they have a couple more weeks to get their homestead declarations in.

8) USFS District Ranger Martina C. Barnes

Ms. Barnes said she started her position in November. Her area of coverage includes about 30 towns, from Wallingford to the state line. There are more than 12,000 acres of National Forest in Shaftsbury. The Manchester district has a staff of about fifteen. Their mandate includes recreation, wildlife habitat, timber harvesting, trails and more. They try to be good stewards of the land. She said she was glad to answer any questions.

Mr. Whitman asked what the Forest's white ash policy is. Ms. Barnes said they have several active timber harvests going on. She will have to get back to the Select Board with information about what species are being harvested. Harvesting goes on between Dec. 15 and March 15 annually.

Ms. Barnes said there has been a huge increase in trail use, campground use, and snowmobiling because of Covid.

She said Forest roads gates are generally open now, except for Forest Road 71 (closed due to a washout). Campgrounds are open, except for Hapgood and Grout Ponds, which are closed until Memorial Day.

9) DPW report

Mr. Kiernan reported that grading will start as soon as the roads dry out. Oak Hill, Hickory Hill, Holy Smoke, Maple Hill, Old Depot, and Hidden Valley will be graded first. Work goes on at Grove Road, including culverts and stone pillows. Some ditching will be done at Oak Hill, and on Rollin – from top to bottom. DPW foreman Mike Yannotti will reach out to Rollin Road residents who might have concerns.

New signs will be going up.

Equipment is being cleaned up for summer storage and the shop is being spring-cleaned.

Improvements are being made in Howard Park.

The Shaftsbury Hollow work will begin in June and continue into July, making it possible to access funds from two fiscal years. Admittedly, the work will be disruptive. A temporary bridge will be installed.

10) Other business

Mr. Kiernan will be on vacation next week to attend two college graduations.

Mr. Kiernan will send out the list of tasks the Select Board hopes to accomplish in the next several months, and the board can begin to chip away at the list.

11) Executive session, contract discussion, TS operation: interlocal agreements

Mr. Harrington moved to enter executive session at about 6:55 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12) Review of action items

13) Adjournment