

## Shaftsbury Select Board

May 17, 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), Mike Cichanowski, Ken Harrington, Joe Barber, 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

Mr. Harrington moved to approve the May 3 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant # 23, \$26,094.68. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Water warrant #2, \$252.00. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #35, \$38,279.62. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

The town and Arlington and perhaps other towns are in need of an animal control officer. If anyone is interested, please contact the town offices.

6. Public comments

There were none.

7. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter reported on the cash flow. About \$43,000 in delinquent taxes came in on one residence in the village, a long-standing tax delinquent. The payroll warrant is larger than usual because of Mert Snow's work on the delinquent residence. There is about \$520,000 in the cash reserves. Assuming she can get the tax bills out in a timely manner, she probably won't have to seek a line of credit. Every day about \$2000 in water bills comes in. Though the homestead declaration was due today, one can still file it with a small fine.

8. McCullough Library –Jennie Rozycki

Ms. Rozycki reported that the library will undergo planned renovations this summer, mainly to make the restrooms accessible and with hot water; to do a complete and up-to-code rewiring of the building; and to work on a meeting room to turn it into a laptop bar. The project is funded by earmarked donations, bequests, and grants, including one from the State. No other tax monies are involved. Roadside media pick up will continue through construction, planned for

June-October. A welcome back weekend will be held later this year to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the library, which opened in August 1921.

Construction plans have gone out to bid. A pre-bid conference will be held May 18 at 11 a.m. at the library.

In later stages, a fire-safe staircase and an elevator will be installed.

9. Transfer station, new contract proposal with Casella

There are two different options on the table: 1) that we turn everything over to Casella, who would provide all employees and collect all fees. Though we will no longer have to worry about it, neither will we have any control over it. 2) that we control everything. The two employees needed and would be Town employees.

The costs of each option would be about the same.

An advantage to option two is that we can better control when containers are carted away and so perhaps reduce costs. (Now they sometimes go out only partly full.) It would also allow the town to better design the recycling unit and offer more space in the recycling facility.

Mr. Barber and Mr. Whitman said they were in favor of town control.

Mr. Kiernan said the agreement would be a pricing agreement lasting for one year. He said the station would be doing away with C&D, which could go to Bennington or Sunderland, because Shaftsbury doesn't have a scale. White goods would be treated as they are now. NO matter which option is chosen, the town will have to begin to cover the costs of recycling, which no longer can support itself.

Mr. Kiernan said the road crew can build the new recycling facility if necessary. It will allow the parking of bigger containers, which would reduce hauling costs. Those containers will be a little more expensive.

Mr. Whitman asked if we should wait to hear from the public what they want or begin negotiating. Mr. Krulikowski said we should begin negotiating, but meanwhile, welcome public comments. Mr. Barber thought we should begin negotiating, because we are working to provide a safer experience for the public. Mr. Whitman said it seems that at present it is the consensus of the board to take over the operation. Signing of any contract will happen in late June.

10. Resolution adopting new Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Kiernan read the resolution summarizing the work done to date and agreeing to adopt the plan resulting from those efforts, which is dated April 25, 2021. Mr. Harrington moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan will find out how many signatures are needed.

11. DPW report

Mr. Kiernan reported that ditch cleaning will take place on Daniels Road this week.

Tree work is underway on Rollin Rd. this week. The road may be closed for the occasional felling of trees. Afterward, ditches and culverts will be installed.

Grading will take place on Horton Hill, East Road, West Mountain, and Mattison this week.

Mr. Kiernan said he doesn't know what the Volvo situation is.

12. Other business

**Should Cole Hall be opened?** Mr. Kiernan said the option has been discussed with the staff. All protocols required by the state will be followed, including masks for unvaccinated persons. Requiring appointments for researchers will be continued. As to meetings of DRB, SB, and Planning, any number of vaccinated people can attend, and up to 15 unvaccinated persons can occupy the upstairs meeting room. He said he thought the town is ready to open for all.

Town Clerk Marlene Hall said she hopes to open officially June 1. Meanwhile, she is letting people in – a kind of soft opening. They wait to enter if someone else is at the counter.

It was agreed that the SB's first meeting in June will be held at Cole Hall, on June 7. A Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 27, beginning at 6 p.m. will be held to pay bills.

Mr. Kiernan said he will be meeting with GMP on May 18 to consider street lights on **Grandview and Hawks**. When he has information on costs and siting he will reach out to residents. He is working with VTrans on signs re blind persons. BCRC will be helping Mr. Kiernan put together an application, due June 7, for the sidewalk scoping project.

13. Action items

A Zoom meeting will be held on May 27.

The first in-person SB meeting will be held June 7.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.