

Shaftsbury Select Board

June 7, 2021

1. Call to order

The meeting came to order in person at Cole Hall and remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectmen Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Ken Harrington, and Tony Krulikowski. Joe Barber attended remotely. 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 May 17 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #24, \$22,798.74. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #37, \$53,412.62. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

On Monday, June 14, at 6:30, a public meeting will be held at Cole Hall to discuss water main replacements in the Village. Dufresne Engineering will make a presentation. All non-vaccinated persons will be asked to wear masks. A Zoom link will be placed on the Town's webpage.

Mr. Whitman said it is great that Vermont has done such great job on managing the pandemic.

Mr. Kiernan said there is information on the webpage regarding a program providing financial assistance to those needing help with broadband payments.

6. Public comments

Sue Andrews, 19 Hewitt Drive, expressed concerns about operations at the transfer station. She said an unbelievable amount of plastic, particularly, is being thrown in the trash there. Perhaps a citizens committee could be formed, now while a new contract is being negotiated, to improve people's behaviors around recycling. Ms. Andrews said she noticed also that food - fresh and canned - is being thrown away. Mr. Kiernan said that if the Town takes over the transfer station, a public education campaign could be undertaken.

7. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter reported that only two things happened in May in the reserve accounts: a lot of water cash came in, and she transferred about half of the Town Clerk's fees into the restoration fund - a state program to protect the items in the vault.

As for cash flow, a large chunk of delinquent tax monies came in upon the sale of a house in arrears for years. The first school check arrived.

Actual versus budget is in a positive zone. We probably won't need a tax anticipation note this year.

An audit of pension fund monies will be done on Friday this week.

8. Brownell Salvage Yard license renewal

Mr. Kiernan said he confirmed with the State that a hearing is not required. Vince Chiorgno from the State said the State had recently inspected the yard and found it in compliance. He said in the five years since the last renewal he has received no complaints about the yard.

Neighbor Cinda Morse asked if the application describes what is happening now at the junkyard. Mr. Kiernan said what the town approved five years ago is identical to what is being proposed now. He can email the fourteen conditions of the earlier permit to Ms. Morse. Some are conditions imposed by the town; others by the state. Mr. Kiernan said the town does not inspect the site. The state does not issue a report summarizing their inspection results to the town.

9. Transfer station

Mr. Kiernan said he received several comments from citizens urging the Town to take over the transfer station. Mr. Kiernan said he wants to ensure that recycling bins are swapped out when the station attendant requests the swapping. Otherwise, he said the Town will proceed to acquire control over the station. The new recycling ramps will be designed and built after the new contract has been signed.

Mr. Kiernan will need to talk further with Casella before the Town can advertise for new employees. An executive session will be held at that time.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to re-impose a rate of \$2/12# on July 1. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Food waste composting and recycling will continue to be free. Other parts of the contract – metal, refrigerators, and other things – are still under discussion. Construction and demolition debris will not be accepted. Mr. Kiernan said the old TAM building is not being used but Casella is maintaining their permits. The motion passed 5-0-0.

10. Parks committee survey

A link to the survey will be put up on the town website on June 8. The Recreation Committee wants to know what kind of facilities citizens want for the parks in the future. And should a part time recreation director be hired? Hard copies can be had at the Town Clerk's office.

A new security camera system has been installed at Howard Park.

11. Village Center recertification

Mr. Kiernan introduced the process, which the board can act on at the next meeting. VC certification provides a number of benefits, including tax breaks, access to grant funds, and others.

12. Mr. Kiernan brought to the board's attention that Shaftsbury and Arlington are negotiating to share an animal pound, but will pay the new animal control officer individually.

13. DPW report

The town was notified that \$20,900 in FY 22 grants in aid has been awarded (with a \$5000 match). It will be used to repair the drainage system at Cole Hall. (It is a high ranking project in a recent stormwater assessment conducted for the town, and also works into our plans to redevelop the park around Cole Hall. There are also Veterans Park funds that can be accessed.)

Other grants include: a grant for \$26,660 for West Mountain Road stormwater work near the orchard (the work will go out to bid); \$48,000 from Better Roads to replace a culvert on Shaftsbury Hollow Road, near the end (also out to bid); and for work on Buck Hill near East. Most of these projects will be constructed beginning next field season.

Work planned for this week includes ditching on Bouplon Hollow, Daniels, and Lower East Road. Next week, culverts will be installed on Rollin and ditching will continue there.

DPW has not forgotten about a study of White Creek Road and the slumping there. Mr. Yannotti will check with VTrans.

Excavator replacement and purpose of roadside mower: Mr. Kiernan called the state again, but has heard nothing further on the town's request for a loan. Mr. Yannotti has put together bid documents. The mower has been budgeted for. The excavator will require an additional contribution to the equipment fund. He hopes to have bid documents ready for board review of June 22. They will be due July 19. The award date will be August 2.

DPW will experiment with a different road sealer beginning in July, when the dust is high.

Mr. Kiernan said they'd used a recycled asphalt shingle grant to resurface part of Myers Road about two years ago but have heard nothing more about the program since.

14. Grandview Avenue update

Mr. Kiernan said the grant application is in, the speed survey has been completed, we're still working on signs, and the grass is growing well in the ditches. GMP inspected the area to discuss lighting. Mr. Kiernan noted that the neighbors will be asked to weigh in on the lights, as they will greatly change the character of the neighborhood. A public hearing will be held to get further input once all the information has been gathered.

15. Other business

Mr. Krulikowski moved to rescind the emergency health order of July 2020 requiring masks to be worn in businesses in Shaftsbury. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16. Action items

Mr. Yannotti will look into buying a hydroseeder.

Mr. Yannotti and Mr. Harrington will produce bid documents for an excavator and a mower.

Mr. Yannotti will check to see if anyone issued an RFP for engineering of the slumping on White Creek Road.

As part of its dissolution, we will want to make a presentation to the Attorney General's office to move monies from the health fund to **Julia Mattison** and the Recreation Fund for exercise pathways.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.