

Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting Monday August 2, Cole Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectmen Art Whitman (chair), Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, Mike Cichanowski, and Joe Barber. The meeting was a hybrid in-person/Zoom gathering. 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

June 30 minutes. Mr. Krulikowski moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

July 19 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Check warrant #3, \$32,676. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Warrant #2, \$22,582.98. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman said that as of Sunday, the Town took over control of the transfer station. The two employees there are Town employees. There will be a transition period. Any citizen with a suggestion or concern is encouraged to contact the Town.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter said the tax rate will go up from .4496 last year to .4561 for fiscal year 2022. The school rate has been held almost steady. She recommended the Select Board approve the .4561 rate. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the tax rate. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Dexter reviewed the cash flow report. Taxes and water payments continue to come in. \$164,430 is the cash balance available as of July 31. A \$110,000 loan was received to buy the mower.

She said she will get the tax bills out very soon (but first she needs to and will purchase a folding machine).

8. Purchasing a New Server

Mr. XXX reported on a discussion with the town administrator regarding replacing the town's existing server. It runs on a Microsoft software that MS no longer supports. It therefore has several vulnerabilities and could be hacked or go down. Two systems were compared. Mr. XXX recommended the slightly more expensive version, which has greater expansion capability,

better security features, and a wifi-enabled firewall. Its cost is about \$10,300 versus the \$9200 for the other system (essentially an entry-level system). Both servers include support services for a three-year period, including 24-hour/seven day response and nearly immediate firewall hardware replacement. Tim Scoggins also recommended the more expensive system. Mr. Cichanowski moved to accept the \$10,286.67 system. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan suggested that the invoice be paid with funds made available by an increase in value in the Hawkins Fund in the past year.

9. Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance Hazardous Waste Facility Loan Agreement

Mr. Kiernan reported that the Alliance has been provided a loan by the State to build a permanent hazardous waste facility at the Bennington transfer station. (A couple of satellite hazardous waste days will still need to be held annually, to serve towns located too far from the Bennington facility.) The goal is to keep the facility open at least one day weekly. The total cost to build will be \$117,000 with a match of \$47,640 for the towns required. Shaftsbury's share would be \$12,288 (based on population). Mr. Kiernan asked the Select Board to approve entering into the loan agreement. He said the regular solid waste budget will cover this cost. He said the existing MOU with the Alliance will staff the facility. Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter the agreement to take out a loan. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. Update on Grandview Street sidewalks

Mr. Whitman said the Town received a grant of \$32,000 to do a sidewalk scoping for Grandview and Hawks Avenue. It would also include new storm drainage structures, and crossings of the state highway. Shaftsbury's match would be \$8000. The study would allow the Town to hire an engineering firm to outline possible systems and estimate their costs, which will be considerable. Mr. Kiernan said he plans to ask the neighborhood group to postpone the investigation of installing street lights until the sidewalk project has moved forward. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the sidewalk study and appoint Mr. Kiernan as the point person. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11. DPW Report

Mr. Yannotti said the contracted culvert crew has assembled and set the culvert on Shaftsbury Hollow Road. After ANR approved the culvert, the stream was returned to its channel. The temporary bridge should be removed by Wednesday this week. The bridge should be opened by the weekend. The site will be cleaned up and a landowner's yard restored in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Yannotti said pretty much every road in town needs grading, and graders are working on both sides of town. He plans to get to some culvert repairs shortly.

Mr. Yannotti recommended accepting the following bulleted bids:

- The West Mountain project, by Weaver Construction, to be done in September, for \$33,000.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to enter into a contract with Weaver Construction for an amount up to \$33,000. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

- The excavator, from Milton Cat, a Caterpillar 3075, for a total \$55,900 including a trade-in of the Volvo for \$55,000 with a five-year purchase/lease agreement which will be covered by the long term capital plan.

Mr. Harrington moved to purchase the excavator. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Yannotti asked for permission to purchase a 21-ton Rogers trailer for sale for \$5000 by Weaver Construction before someone else buys it first. Mr. Harrington moved to purchase the trailer. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

- Tractor with mid-mount boom mower, from Salem Farm Supply, A Case IH, with a 15" rotary head with three blades for \$174,160. (Mr. Yannotti said that after a few years of rotary mowing to get down the brush we may be able to purchase a flail mower. The boom can accept flail heads as well.) Mr. Kiernan said a loan has been approved by the state, and the voters approved paying off the loan over 5 years at the 2021 town meeting.

Mr. Harrington moved to approve the purchase. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan noted that all the chosen bids were also the low bids.

Mr. Whitman said as far as he is concerned, the crew is authorized for overtime for mowing. (Mr. Yannotti said he could see running a 10- or 12-hour day with a half day Saturday.)

12. Review of Action Items

There were none, other than ordering what was just approved.

13. Other business

14. Executive session

Mr. Harrington moved to enter executive session at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

At 8:03 the Select Board returned to open session.

Mr. Harrington moved to appoint Tim Gulley as DPW assistant foreman. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Harrington moved to approve Michelle (Shelly) Boardman be appointed transfer station supervisor. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Harrington moved to appoint Greg Squires as transfer station attendant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the hiring of Nicholas Spur, should he accept the offer. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.