

Town of Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting

December 6, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectmen Art Whitman (chair), Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, 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 November 15 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the November 29 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant, \$23,223.29. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant, \$28,068.54. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Kiernan noted that several positions are expiring in March 2022. Select Board: Ken Harrington; Auditors, Michael Caslin; Trustees of Public Funds, one opening; DRB one opening and two expirations; Planning Commission, one expiration. Anyone interested in serving on the boards can apply to the Select Board.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter reported that it was a slightly better than average year as far as delinquent taxes are concerned.

The budget year to date is very similar to last year's.

Water payments are due by Wednesday.

Back and forth with the auditors is complete.

8. Public Hearing Proposed Bylaw Changes

Mr. Whitman reminded the board that the Planning Commission chair visited the last meeting to explain the proposed changes regarding kennels, boundary line adjustments, heliports and other. Mr. Cichanowski moved to present the bylaw revisions to the voters for adoption. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

9. Community Appropriations, increases in the size of the request. (In two weeks, new applicants will appear before the board.)

Mr. Kiernan said community appropriations have gone up 149% since 2018. He asked that the Board affirm as a policy that any group that requests an increase must submit a new petition for the increase, and that every three years a petition should be submitted.

- John G. McCullough Free Library

Jennie Rozycki, Executive Director, reported that the library is asking for an additional \$1200 this year. (This is the lowest increase proposed to the three communities supporting the library.) Expenses have gone up. The library is in the midst of a major renovation – a once in every couple of generations effort -- funded by grants, donations, and ARPA funds. Circulation has been stable and safe. Almost 300 new members have joined. Digital services have grown. A video streaming service was begun. A tool library will be established. The library's 100th birthday will be celebrated. A new five-year planning process will be started. She said about one third of the library's active folks are Shaftsbury residents. (This doesn't include teachers and day care centers, nor account for the extent of use.) Mr. Whitman said the board can't give an answer at this time, as additional groups will be presenting later in the month. The board will probably make a decision in early January.

- Shire Kids

Mr. Kiernan reported that the applicant was intending to log in via Zoom, but hadn't appeared.

10. Bid Openings

- Shaftsbury Hollow Road Culvert

Only Weaver Construction bid. The proposed cost was \$60,000. Mr. Kiernan suggested that the bid materials be sent to Mike Yannotti for his review, and that the board vote on the bid at the next meeting.

- Cemetery Mowing Contract

Only Jay Coonradt bid. Mowing, one season, \$31,200; for two additional seasons, the same price; hourly rate for other work, \$65/hour including equipment unless special equipment is needed. Mr. Kiernan suggested voting on the bids at the next meeting.

11. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that re repair options to RAM pickup: the vehicle will be repaired next week. It is under warranty.

Road maintenance continues. Vehicle maintenance continues.

12. Town Meeting vote – elimination of Listers Office – contract professional assessor.

Mr. Kiernan reminded the board and viewers that there will be an article on the ballot eliminating the listers positions, and contracting with a professional assessor. Additionally, an appointed assessor's clerk will work as a part-time employee.

14. Other Business

There was none.

15. Review of Action Items

There were none.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.