

Shaftsbury Select Board

February 7, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:33 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

Mr. Whitman reported a conflict of interest with an item on the agenda regarding overweight trucks. No other conflicts of interest were reported.

3. Minutes

Mr. Harrington moved to approve the January 3 and January 17 meeting minutes. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

4. Warrants

Check warrant #25, \$64,066.12. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Payroll warrant #16, \$21,027.65. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

There were none.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter reported on the cash flow report – highway state aid and delinquent taxes were notable receipts. Cash flow is very much on budget compared to last year. About \$10,000 in water payments came in in January.

8. PC appointment Erin Cross

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve Erin Cross as a Planning Commissioner. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

9. Review contract proposal for Chronicle mapping program for Town Cemeteries – Jen Holley Cemetery Superintendent

The software will cost about \$12,150, which will come out of various cemetery reserve funds. Ms. Holley described the program. She said the cemetery committee has approved its purchase. At present, the town maintains information on no more than 60% of its plots in a database program with no graphic interface. The Chronicle program is a graphic mapping program that also incorporates a database. When complete, each plot record will be mapped to a grid. When one walks through the graveyard, those plots will be viewable, as on Google Earth. A video of the features of the software was shared. Ms. Holley said the original cost includes the annual maintenance fee. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the purchase. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

10. DPW Report

Weight restrictions: Mr. Kiernan said the board had never imposed weight restrictions and asked if the board wished to impose restrictions for this mud season. Mr. Harrington asked if temporary restrictions could be imposed and Mr. Kiernan said yes. No one wished to impose restrictions. Mr. Harrington moved to table the matter. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Whitman abstaining.

- Bid Opening New Truck

Only one bid was received for a 2023 single axle International, from Allegiance Trucks in Hoosick Falls (formerly DeLureys), at a price of \$189,795 plus \$8250 for an extended warranty on engine and transmission, and a \$22,500 trade in credit for the truck it replaces, for a total of \$175,545. Mr. Kiernan asked to share his bid with DPW Foreman Mike Yannotti for review, and to hold a vote on the bid at the next meeting. Mr. Harrington asked if the truck included automatic chains.

11. ARPA Funding Options

Mr. Kiernan described recently published changes to the ARPA guidelines that provide communities with much greater flexibility in spending ARPA funds. VLCT is reviewing those changes and will comment shortly. It is clear, however, that outfitting Cole Hall as an emergency shelter and repairing roads, culverts and other transportation features will now be eligible. It may make sense to reduce the funds the town planned to use on the phase 1 water main replacement and spend those monies more equitably for improvements for the whole town. Mr. Kiernan has asked Mr. Yannotti for a list of big highway projects that the Town otherwise couldn't afford. Mr. Whitman suggested that the public be involved in suggesting projects. Mr. Kiernan described how important it might be that Cole Hall be outfitted as an emergency operations center.

12. Institutional Funds termination (Health and Cemetery Trust) and transfer to Recreation Fund (Health) and Town Cemetery Reserve Fund (Cemetery Trust).

Mr. Kiernan explained that the Cemetery Trust fund wasn't being used for anything as its restrictions were so narrow. The Town would like to transfer those funds to the Cemetery Reserve Fund. There have been no drawdowns on the Health Fund for many years and suggestions have been made to move the Health fund monies to the Recreation fund. Neither the Court nor the AG's office, however, would put in writing their approval for the changes Mr. Kiernan described. Mr. Kiernan asked the Town's attorney to draft a memorandum of understanding explaining and recommending these changes. Mr. Harrington moved to send the attorney's letter to the Trustees of Public Funds. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

13. Tax Map Maintenance Proposal (annual)

The annual contract with CAI is due for renewal. The cost is \$2000 plus \$15 for any added changes. Mr. Cichanowski moved to accept the contract for another year. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

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

Mr. Kiernan reminded citizens that on the March ballot will be an item to eliminate the listers office and replace that office with an assessor's assistant to the professional assessor. Mr. Whitman noted that the ballot will nonetheless contain the names of lister candidates. This is because, if the vote to eliminate the listers office fails, listers would need to continue to serve.

15. Board Term expirations 2022

- Re-appointment Lon McClintock DRB
- Re-appointment Michael Day DRB

Mr. Kiernan reported that both individuals have submitted letters requesting reappointment. Mr. Krulikowski moved to reappoint Mr. McClintock and Mr. Day. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

16. Extending Rule requiring face masks from February 16th 2022.

Mr. Whitman noted that citizens will be gathering for balloting in the Town garage on March 1 and mask wearing would be a reasonable requirement for that activity. Mr. Krulikowski moved to extend the rule another thirty days. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion. Mr. Harrington noted that virus counts are falling and entities across the nation are allowing mask mandates to expire. Messrs. Krulikowski and Cichanowski said they agreed, but would vote to extend the mandate one last time. Upon a vote, the motion passed 3-1-0.

17. Other Business

Mr. Harrington noted that pipes put in by his father in the '60s on Simeon Dean and on Maple Hill should be inspected. A boiler used as a culvert on White Creek Road should also be inspected.

Mr. Kiernan said a board meeting will be held on Feb. 21. At that time, Jen Holley will give a quick presentation on the new town website.

Mr. Kiernan asked board members to come to Cole Hall to sign several documents.

18. Review of Action Items

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.