

Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

Cole Hall, 61 Buck Hill Road

Monday, March 21, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, Joe Barber, 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 March 7 minutes. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

- Payroll warrant, \$25,653.29. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Check warrant 29, \$64,245.22. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman noted that the Mack Molding Company of Arlington has signed a lease on a good portion of the former Stanley Tools building and hopes to begin manufacturing there soon. Other companies could possibly follow suit.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Town Resolution, War in Ukraine

Mr. Carl Korman presented a statement condemning the unprovoked invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine by Russia signed by several Shaftsbury residents, and asked that the selectboard sign and submit the resolution to the Ukrainian embassy, that the town provide some sort of visible support for the people of Ukraine, and that the town establish a voluntary donation venue, donations to which could be given to a formal relief agency. Mr. Korman read the statement, the content of which is incorporated in these minutes by reference.

Ms. Cornwell moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. In discussion, Ms. Cornwell said over 25 residents reached out to her to support the resolution. Mr. Barber said he understands that Putin is a thug, and what is going on in Ukraine is not good. However, the "invasion" of our own borders by drug peddlers and child traffickers is of higher importance to him. Mr. Kiernan said he'd have to explore how a donation site might be set up. Mr. Krulikowski suggested limiting donations to money only, not clothing or other suppliers. A citizen suggested piggybacking on the gesture made by the governor (a donation of \$1 per Vermonter). The motion passed 4-1-0. Mr. Kiernan will follow up on the decision.

8. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter described the various treasurer's reports. She highlighted the state and federal program to assist citizens with utility and property tax payments. Mr. Kiernan said the town will be going door to door notifying citizens of this program next week. She said tax collector Merton Snow has received a good amount of delinquent taxes.

She said she is keeping a close eye on cash flow.

9. DPW report

Mr. Kiernan said the crew is grading and fixing soft spots and potholes. He said the roads are in unusually good shape for mud season.

- FY23 Highway Projects

Projects coming up include ditching on Buck Hill Road, a culvert at the end of Shaftsbury Hollow (to be paid for with a Better Roads grant), and paving East Road from Reservoir Rd. to Route 7. Also to be paved are the entrance to Birch Hill, the entrance to Hidden Valley, and part of Twitchell Hill. The town will hire an engineer to do some bore holes on White Creek Rd. These projects will be funded by state funds and by ARPA funds

- Town Road and Bridge Standards

Ms. Cornwell moved to sign the necessary form attesting town compliance with the state standards. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. This signature protects the town's right to apply for state grants.

10. Liaison Assignments

Assignments were re-ordered following the election of Ms. Cornwell to the select board.

11. ARPA Funds - Discussion – Possible Topics

ARPA funds must be spent by 2026. Mr. Whitman and Mr. Kiernan invited residents to comment on the following issues.

- Economic Development Study
- Sewer Study

Mr. Whitman suggested combining economic development and sewer, and to closely review an earlier report, "The Future of Shaftsbury." Ms. Cornwell agreed to be the select board representative for this project, should it proceed. Mr. Whitman noted that the original sewer study was paid for by a loan of \$35,000 from the state and wouldn't need to be repeated. (Should the town ever install a sewer system, the loan would become due.) Instead the committee should focus on the economic impacts of sewers.

- Cole Hall Accessibility

The elevator and fire exit must be replaced. A draft design has been prepared. The elevator alone would cost about \$300,000. (Other improvements can be funded with non-ARPA sources.) Alternatively, the project could be bonded.

- Water Main Replacement

The phase 1 replacement would cost \$1.1 million and would serve 320 customers. This phase should be done soon, as Route 7A is going to be repaved shortly (we don't want to dig it up again).

- Highway Improvements – Large culverts – Bridges etc.

Mr. Kiernan said he hasn't chosen the sites yet. He noted that the Shaftsbury Hollow culvert cost \$400,000.

Ms. Cornwell shared information on the Harwood Institute process, a methodology to gather information from citizens on what they'd like to see their town become. She described it as inclusive.

She said she's been hearing from folks a desire for smaller things than those items discussed by the selectboard. She said she would help with outreach to the public about ARPA funds.

12. Cole Hall FY23 Projects

While waiting to implement the installation of an elevator, Mr. Kiernan hopes to request bids on painting the steeple and side deck, making some necessary repairs to the roof, removing of the old garage pad, turning much of the graveled space into green space, and addressing the front steps (railings are needed). Grants may be sought to fund a new heating system. There is about \$18,000 in the Cole Hall fund and money in the Hawkins fund to cover much of these expenses. By consensus the board consented to having Mr. Kiernan request bids for the Cole Hall FY 23 projects.

13. Policy and Ordinance Review

- Speed Zone Ordinance Revisions

Town roads are now posted at twenty five, thirty, and thirty-five miles an hour. Mr. Kiernan will post the lists on the website for public review. Selectpersons remembered that Myers Rd. was posted at thirty miles per hour about twenty years ago, when residents became concerned about the widening of the road at that time. Suggestions were made to return it to thirty –five miles per hour.

- Rescind: Shaftsbury Landfill Regulations, Shaftsbury Policy for Transportation Construction and Improvements.

Mr. Kiernan noted that the town no longer has an active landfill, and the state's Road and Bridge standards supercede the old transportation regulations. Mr. Krulikowski moved to rescind both policies. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

- To be reviewed by responsible parties: Access to Town Highways (DPW & Zoning), Burning and Disposable Waste (FD & TA)

Mr. Kiernan reported that both policies would be updated with input from responsible parties in the coming months.

14. Transfer Station Ramp Bids

Completed plans have been prepared and the appropriate containers have been delivered. Mr. Kiernan reminded the board that it had earlier decided to spend a portion of Hawkins Fund monies on transfer station updates, and that those funds will cover the ramps. He will seek bids for the ramps.

15. Sidewalk Scoping Study Contractor Selection Committee

Mr. Kiernan nominated Mr. Yannotti to serve on the selection committee. Anyone else interested is encouraged to participate.

16. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan will ask the animal control officer and health officer if they wish to continue to serve.

Mr. Whitman reminded viewers that a committee from Bennington College is investigating water quality issues in the Paran Lake watershed. He urged interested citizens to consider participating.

17. Review of Action Items

Ms. Cornwell will share information on the "Hartford Process," and work with Mr. Kiernan on the old economic development study, and post the speed limit information. Mr. Kiernan will send out the Ukrainian resolution, get out several bids, and continue to work on revising ordinances.

18. Adjournment

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