

Shaftsbury Select Board

July 18, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. in person at Cole Hall and via the remote platform Zoom. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber. 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. Cichanowski moved to approve the July 5 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #1, \$26,466.66. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #2, \$63,291.72. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman noted that the Development Review Board and the Planning Commission are in need of new members.

6. Public Comments

Mr. McClintock suggested that re ARPA funds, they should be used for activities for which no state or other federal funds are available. He recommended Cole Hall be renovated. Tim Scoggins echoed Mr. McClintock's thoughts: the board should do something big with the funds, such as restoring Cole Hall.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter reported on the cash flow report, which shows funds received from the state for tax rebates and for education monies. The first highway aid payment of the year was also received. The cash balance is about \$354,778. The selectboard should be able to set the tax rate at the next meeting.

The reserve accounts show most activity in water, and state reimbursements for highway work.

8. DRB Report – Michael Day

Michael Day, chairman of the Development Review Board, presented. He said with the resignation of Tom Huncharek, the DRB is now down to three members – himself, Tedd Habberfield, and Lon McClintock. Full board membership is five members plus two alternates. Should any of the present members not be able to make a meeting, no quorum would be available. The three have agreed to try to avoid this happening and will try to be flexible in scheduling hearings. After the November election, should Mr. McClintock be elected to probate judge, the DRB would be down to two members.

Mr. Day said that, then, should a hearing should be held but in subsequent meetings regarding the hearing no quorum was available, an approval of the application would be automatic after 45 days.

Term expiration dates are shown on the website. Mr. Day suggested advertising the board vacancies in as many venues as possible.

Mr. Day explained that meetings are held in person the first and third Wednesdays at 6 p.m. The meetings usually last no more than two hours, and are usually shorter. If there is no business to conduct, and if there are no internal activities, meetings are not scheduled.

Mr. McClintock noted that with only three members, all three must agree or the application would be defeated. Such a situation is to the disadvantage of the citizens. On a question from Ms. Cornwell, Mr. McClintock clarified why the Planning Commission and the DRB were separated: so that the body handling an appeal of an action of the zoning administrator would not be the supervisor of the zoning administrator.

Mr. McClintock said he's enjoyed working on the DRB very much.

9. CUD Report – Tim Scoggins

Mr. Scoggins presented a slide presentation on recent successes of the Communications Union District. (The slide presentation will be incorporated into these minutes.) He said Consolidated Communications Inc. trucks are already running all over Bennington County. Five hundred underserved residences are in line to get fiber this construction season, including in Shaftsbury Hollow. More will be connected in 2023. Just about everybody in Shaftsbury will be connected in the first phase. A total of 2500 underserved residents are located in the county, many of, it is hoped, which will be connected using ARPA funds in phase 2. Future phases will include further build-outs, some of which will permit a choice of carriers.

He said our CUD was formed before Covid. The model is a private/public partnership (with CCI). There are ten or more CUDs around the state, some of which use a different model. Our CUD will offer 1 GB upload/1 GB download service.

Ms. Cornwell said she has looked into it, and CCI fiber internet will be significantly cheaper than her existing DSL service. Mr. Scoggins described some of the services that would be available, including bundled internet, phone, and smart or cable TV.

10. RFQ Cole Hall Architectural and Engineering

Mr. Kiernan said the Town would be sending out a request for qualifications to design and provide cost estimates for an addition on the north side of the building, where the elevator would be placed; remove the outside stairs, build new front stairs, and make other improvements. The RFQ will allow the Town to hire experts which can then review architectural and engineering designs. Mr. Kiernan said he hoped the consultant hired for this phase could also serve as general contractor for the renovation. Mr. Kiernan said other grants that could be used to finance the implementation of the new designs. He noted that whether the Town stays in Cole Hall over the long term or not, it would still have responsibility for caring for it.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to issue the RFQ. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. McClintock suggested considering heat pump heating and cooling, and joining a solar cooperative to reduce electricity costs.

11. Town Speed Limits Ordinance

Mr. Kiernan reminded listeners that the Town is updating a 1975 road speed ordinance. The new ordinance will be placed on the website by August 1. He mentioned some changes – Grandview, Grant, Maple Hill, Old Depot, Holy Smoke, and others which are detailed in the report. The changes can be appealed by petition within a sixty day period.

Ms. Cornwell reported that several people have complained about Hawks Avenue. Mr. Kiernan said those residents will be invited to participate in the sidewalk planning for that neighborhood. He admitted that enforcement is a problem.

12. Roads Report

- Bid opening W. Mountain & Blueberry Hill Drainage Project
- Bid opening Murphy Hill Culvert Project

Weaver Excavating put in for both projects, both of which are grant funded. Murphy Hill \$59,999.79; Blueberry Hill, \$29,995. No other companies put in bids. Mr. Kiernan will as the DPW foreman to review the bids.

The road crew has borrowed a mower from Sunderland (to mow intersections) as the new mower has not been delivered. The vendor hasn't offered a good reason for the delay.

12. ARPA

Some folks who should have received a survey card didn't. Mr. Krulikowski listed several locations where the cards can be found. He also noted that a link to the online survey is available at www.shaftsburyvt.gov. The committee has begun to compile responses.

13. Other Business

There was none.

14. Review of Action Items

- A tax rate will be set at the next meeting (assuming certain technical requirements can be met).
- The speed ordinance will be addressed.
- The closing of Hickory Hill will be addressed.
- New members are needed for the DRB and PC.

15. Executive Session - Personnel

A motion was approved to enter executive session at 7:52 p.m. The board returned to public session at 7:56 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski moved to hire Kelly Daniels Maitland as animal control officer. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Krulikowski moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.