

Shaftsbury Select Board

August 1, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in person at Cole Hall and remotely via the platform Zoom. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber. Several citizens were present via Zoom.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Mr. Whitman noted that a request for a liquor license submitted by BuckNorth LLC, DBA Buckstop, would be added to the agenda. He asked if anyone had a conflict with that or any other item on the agenda. No one reported a conflict of interest.

3. Minutes

Mr. Barber moved to approve the July 21 special meeting minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-2.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the July 18 meeting minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant, \$25,212.76. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #3, \$36,371.40. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman noted that there are several vacancies on the Development Review Board and Planning Commission and urged all interested to reach out to the Select Board.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers report

• Tax Rate FY23

Treasurer Melanie Dexter presented her computation of the FY 2023 tax rate of 0.4823/\$100 assessed value. She compared it to last year's at 0.4561, and noted that the voters approved an increase in the budget of about \$100,000 at the March 2022 town meeting. She noted that the rate incorporates a Town Veterans contribution, tax exemption for two properties, possible abatements, a reduction in school taxes, and an increase in the grand list of about \$4 million thanks to the yeoman efforts of the assessor and assessor's assistant. She said for a \$300,000 resident-owned home, taxes in FY 2023 would increase a total of about \$60-\$80.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve a tax rate of 0.4823/\$100 assessed value. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Dexter said she hoped to get the tax bills out by the end of August and to be able to report incoming receipts in September.

Ms. Dexter reported the cash balance at \$280,187.74. She said no line of credit would be needed this year.

8. Roads Report

Mr. Whitman noted that both town administrator David Kiernan and DPW foreman Mike Yannotti were away. He asked any citizens with comments about road issues to contact the Town Clerk, who would in turn contact Mr. Whitman or the assistant foreman.

Mr. Whitman noted that Weaver Excavating had begun work on the Blueberry Hill project.

He noted that all the mower parts have finally arrived. Mr. Yannotti asked that delivery of the mower be postponed until he could examine it upon his return from vacation, after August 14.

9. Sewer Feasibility Study – Committee recommendation for Engineering firm

Mr. Cichanowski and Ms. Cornwell reported that the sewer feasibility committee recommend the Town hire Dufresne Engineering to undertake the grant-funded study. They said Dufresne has much experience doing similar studies in towns similar in size to Shaftsbury. Mr. Cichanowski moved to appoint Dufresne. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. ARPA

Andrea Bacchi, chairperson of the committee, reported via Zoom that the community survey closes at the end of the day. Lots of responses to the postcard and digital survey have been received. More input will be sought from the schools in September. The committee will report its findings to the Select Board in the future. The next committee meeting will be held via Zoom on the morning of August 12. All are welcome to participate.

11. Other Business

Mr. Whitman reported that Paulin's has a buyer, the aforementioned Buckstop. The sale is contingent on the new owner receiving a second class liquor license with a tobacco endorsement. Mr. Barber moved to approve the licenses. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Cornwell noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting would fall on Labor Day. All agreed to reschedule when the town administrator returns.

Mr. Whitman noted that the road speeds ordinance had to be sent to the town attorney for another review. It will be presented on September 17. Appeals via petition will be due November 2.

Ms. Bacchi suggested that board member qualifications be posted publicly. Some people might wonder whether they are qualified. It would be good if the town could formally welcome their service. Ms. Cornwell clarified that any citizen of Shaftsbury or a contiguous town (by virtue of legislation enacted during the recent legislative session) is eligible to serve on a town board.

12. Review of Action Items

- Liquor license to State
- Change in Labor Day meeting date

13. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.