

Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

August 15, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting came 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 Coleman, 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. Krulikowski moved to approve the August 1 2022 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #3a (for delinquent tax collector), \$1660.09. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant #3, \$25,989.37. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #4, \$72,239.95. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman noted there are several open positions on the Development Review Board and Planning Commission.

Ms. Cornwell said the Bennington Battle Day parade was spectacular, and many Shaftsbury persons and institutions participated.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter said the only thing that happened in the reserve fund this month is a water payment. In the cash flow report, state contributions for delinquent taxes have come in. Delinquent taxes are the lowest in her memory. She said state payments of delinquent taxes go to the delinquent tax collector, who then cuts a check to the Town. Several cemetery plots were sold.

Ms. Dexter said the tax bills would be going out by September 1. They are due Thursday November 10 at 5 p.m. She urged citizens to open the tax bill immediately, to ensure that it is correct. Some errors can be corrected now.

8. Methane System at Landfill

Mr. Kiernan said last week the exhaust system (designed by former Shaftsbury resident and engineer Bill Pennebaker) which extracts methane at the landfill failed, probably due to an electric storm. When it was powered back up, the fan was obviously not working as it should be. A neighbor noted that it had been making strange noises for some time. At no point were measurements at the landfill border past the zero point, but still the fan must be replaced. Mr. Kiernan has been in frequent

touch with state officials. The state has recommended some engineers to advise on how to replace the fan.

Mr. Kiernan asked for Select Board approval to seek help in replacing the fan. Because methane is explosive, the process will be a difficult one. Additionally, there are questions as to whether the electrical system is still acceptable. The consensus of the Select Board was to support Mr. Kiernan in his efforts to find a solution to the problem.

9. Sidewalk Scoping Study Grandview/Hawks

Mr. Kiernan reported that a kick-off meeting was held for the project last week with a number of involved parties. A community meeting is planned for the second or third week in September, at Cole Hall via Zoom, during which the engineer, Dufresne, can take comments from residents.

10. Sewer Feasibility Study

The application is in. Dufresne was chosen as the project engineer. If the project is approved by the State, it will cover the cost in total. Mr. Kiernan said he wasn't sure if or when the application will be approved, but he said he is optimistic.

11. ACO – Kennel

The Town asked Second Chance if it would assist in holding animals temporarily for the new ACO. It refused to accept animals for the first five days, but would consider holding them thereafter if the facility has room. (By law the Town is responsible for the first five days.) The Town is considering building a small kennel at the transfer station. Kits are available but power must be provided to the kennel. A financial arrangement with the ACO can be made. Last year only one dog was kenneled by the Town. Mr. Cichanowski moved to provide up to \$5000 to provide a kennel facility at the transfer station. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that the crew has been addressing wash outs and some driveway culvert issues. The mower is still sitting in Salem. Where possible, the crew will try to borrow a mower from another town (as it did recently with Sunderland).

13. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan said he hopes to come up with a better solution than the present technology the town uses to run Zoom meetings. He will begin asking around for advice as to how to improve the experience for people at home. The select board agreed to authorize Mr. Kiernan to proceed with the research.

After waiting for a response to several phone calls and emails, the Town has heard from the state's wetland office that the proposed project can go ahead. It is too late to find a contractor for this field season.

A citizen has requested that the town institute a gun ordinance for the Village. Mr. Kiernan said a forty-five year old ordinance will be updated. It will cover the area covered by the water district and will prohibit the discharge of firearms in that area. Mr. Kiernan will try to time the release to coincide with the road speed ordinance's review and approval period.

The select board/water board meeting scheduled for September 5 will be moved to September 6. A special meeting will be held on August 29 at 4 p.m. to sign warrants.

14. Review of Action Items

- Mr. Kiernan will seek an engineer for the methane system.

- Mr. Kiernan will research buying a kennel.
- Mr. Kiernan and Mr. Yannotti will find out what is happening with the mower.
- Mr. Kiernan will revise a firearms ordinance.
- Mr. Kiernan will act on a water board action.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.