

Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting

October 17, 2022

Cole Hall and Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Mr. Whitman will recuse himself from a vote on a bid opening regarding gravel hauling.

3. Minutes

Mr. Whitman noted two changes to the October 3 minutes: he was not the only one bidding on gravel hauling, and, in the dog kennel under construction, heating will be "provided to the animals." Mr. Cichanowski moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

4. Warrants

- Payroll warrant # 7, \$245,037.31. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- Payroll warrant # 7A, \$331.23. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- Check warrant # 10, \$52,927.49. Mr. Barber moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman reported that Cleveland Avenue would be closed for Halloween that Monday evening.

Mr. Kiernan reported that the state informed him the town had received the maximum \$25,000 grant for work on Howard Park. That work will commence next spring.

6. Public Comments

In answer to a question, Mr. Whitman said the town is complying with state masking requirements at present. There are none. Anyone attending town meetings is welcome to wear a mask.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter reported that check deposit problems with the bank have been resolved, but she is still unable to access statements for the month of September. Today the town received state highway aid. Many tax payments have come in. Past transfer station fees and clerk fees were recorded in this month. The cash balance is healthy, as it usually is this time of year. All of the ARPA funds have been received - \$1,024,000.

Today is the last day to make a homestead declaration.

Taxes are due Thursday November 10.

8. Proposed Ordinance Hearing

- Firearm Ordinance Village Residential Districts

Mr. Cichanowski moved to untable the firearms ordinance. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Cichanowski moved to adopt the firearms ordinance. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman said it has come to the board's attention that the earlier firearms ordinance covered the then fire and light district. That district included rural lands, including a swamp, owned by David Mance, and only a portion of the trailer park. Mr. Whitman suggested recommendations as to the rezoning of those areas should be made to the Planning Commission, which would propose changes to the citizens. Mr. Barber asked whether the ordinance should cover BB guns or air guns, which are frequently used. A citizen spoke in favor of an ordinance to protect safety of children especially and noted that some firearm ammunitions carry long distances. Mr. Cichanowski moved to withdraw the motion to adopt the ordinance in order to discuss further whether it should cover compressed air munitions.

9. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that hazard trees will be taken down on Airport Road in the next two weeks. Grading continues on Shaftsbury Hollow, East Road, and Cider Mill. Culvert work will be done on Cider Mill and Cold Spring. Equipment is being readied for winter. Birch Hill and Hidden Valley will be paved on October 20 and 21, before the paving plant closes down for the year. Roadside mowing continues on the east side of town. Some minor cemetery work is underway as well.

Mr. Whitman turned the meeting over to Mr. Barber for the opening of the bids on gravel hauling from Wallingford to Shaftsbury. Mr. Kiernan noted that all bids were delivered sealed by the deadline on Thursday October 13. Mr. Barber opened a bid from Weaver Excavating for \$13/ton. The next bid, for the same services, was from AK Agriservices LLC for \$9.75/ton. Mr. Cichanowski moved to accept the bid from AK Agriservices. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

10. Landfill- Methane vent blower system design to replace existing failing system- MSK Engineers

Mr. Whitman said the methane system is old and needs to be redesigned. He asked for a motion to contract out the design of the new system. Mr. Kiernan said output and wiring would be examined. MSK believes an electrical contractor will be able to install the system. Mr. Cichanowski moved to enter into a contract with MSK Engineers. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

11. Letter Support to Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone – Federal Designation as Economic Development District

Mr. Whitman read out the letter, which describes support for the 2030 vision for the zone and priority actions identified in that vision, and for the development of an economic development district. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the letter. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

12. Constable Compliance Tracking

Mr. Kiernan for the first time the town has been requested to report on its constable policies. Mr. Barber moved to authorize Mr. Kiernan to complete and submit the form. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

13. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan asked for authorization to hire sheriff's staff to close Cleveland Avenue on Halloween evening from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. All present agreed.

Ms. Carroll said the ditching of the roads has removed much of a shoulder on some roads in here area, and that some newly ditched roads have been lined with rock. She wondered what the criteria for ditching and lining with rock are. Mr. Whitman described state regulations: rock where slope

is equal to or to greater than 5%, and ditches at an elevation of at least two feet below road surface and at a certain distance from the bottom of a culvert.

Ms. Carroll asked about contracts for sheriff's patrols. Mr. Whitman said the contract is for something like ten hours weekly. Mr. Kiernan said they don't always meet that goal. Mr. Whitman said next year's budget for sheriff hours could be increased, but probably the first step should be insuring the sheriff gives the town the number of hours promised. Mr. Krulikowski noted that part of the reason for speeding is the improved quality of roads in recent years. Ms. Bacchi noted that the ARPA survey contained feedback about more sheriff coverage on town roads. She also asked about mounting speed observation cameras. Mr. Kiernan said the only way to reduce speeds is to enforce the limits.

14. Review of Action Items

- The town will enter into a contract with MSK.
- Mr. Kiernan will sign the letter of support for the economic development zone.
- Mr. Kiernan will hire sheriffs to close Cleveland Avenue for Halloween evening.

15. Executive Session – Legal

Mr. Cichanowski moved to enter executive session. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Kiernan paused the Zoom meeting. He asked Mr. Krulikowski to call in to the town administrator's office.

Upon return to open meeting, Mr. Cichanowski moved to authorize Mr. Whitman to enter into a contingency for a possible real estate purchase of up to \$1000 in order to hold the property pending public discussion. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.