

Shaftsbury Select Board

November 21, 2022

1. Call to order

The meeting came to order in person and remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:34 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan. Mr. Whitman noted that a discussion of a replacement phone system for Cole Hall would be held after the DPW report.

2. Conflict of interest statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

4. Warrants

- Check warrant #15, for tax refunds, \$14,990.71. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Check warrant #14, \$50,579.86. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- A warrant to pay the Cole Hall and fire department water bill, \$334.08. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Payroll warrant #9, \$26,002.01. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Payroll warrant #10, \$25,702.38. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Ms. Cornwall announced that the town and the Norshaft Lions would be hosting a reading of Polar Express on December 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the elementary school. Santa Claus intends to appear. All are welcome. The event replaces the usual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

6. Public Comments

David Durfee reported that a person complained about the Church Street/Route 7A intersection, that sight lines are obstructed when a car is parked on Route 7A on the northwest corner. He said the state would need to take action, but town must first submit a request to prohibit parking in front of the former laundromat.

Roberta Carroll said a number of persons on Cold Spring Road had signed a petition to reduce the speed on the road to 25 m.p.h. Mr. Kiernan said the Regional Commission did a week-long study on road speeds there, and that he would be reporting on the study in December. Mr. Kiernan said he has asked the sheriff to target that road, and to issue summonses rather than warnings. He noted that the Town intends to increase its law enforcement budget next year. Whether it is the sheriff's department or the state police that are charged with enforcement remains to be seen.

Mike Day thanked the road crew for significant improvements on Hidden Valley Rd.

Andrea Bacchi asked when the make-up of the economic development committee would be decided upon. Ms. Cornwell said the group is still accepting applications.

7. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter turned to October statements. Lots of taxes came in. The Class 3 roads fund grant came in. Water bills have been sent out. (If a citizen has not received the bill, please contact Ms. Dexter.) The delinquent tax numbers are about the same as last year's. Delinquent tax collector Mert Snow will be reaching out to people in the next few weeks. Ms. Dexter said she would be putting together some recommendations regarding a policy on late tax payments for select board consideration.

8. Appointments: Nancy Burns to PC, Zoe Contros Kearn to DRB, Sarah Costin to DRB, and James Browe to DRB.

- Ms. Cornwell moved to appoint Nancy Burns to the PC. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Ms. Cornwell moved to appoint Zoe Control Kearn to the DRB. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion and said he'd thought she'd be a good member. The motion passed 5-0-0.
- Ms. Cornwell moved to appoint Sarah Costin to the DRB. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Mr. Cichanowski moved to appoint James Browe to the DRB. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman said Mr. Browe was on the DRB some years ago. The motion passed 5-0-0.

9. Proposed Property Purchase, 83 Buck Hill Rd.

Mr. Whitman reminded the public that the Town had entered into a contract with intent to buy a 2+ acre parcel behind Cole Hall using ARPA funds. The use of ARPA funds would mean the purchase would not require voter approval. He said a second public discussion would be held on November 28.

10. ARPA Funds, Economic Development Committee (EDC), Cole Hall Committee

Ms. Cornwell said the committees are seeking members for both committees. There would likely be some overlap in membership. The EDC would be a long term entity; the Cole Hall committee would be limited to the footprint of Cole Hall and its surrounds. Town officials will also participate on the committees. Mr. Kiernan shared draft committee structure diagrams.

11. Proposed zoning bylaw changes, schedule public hearing Dec. 5

Mr. Whitman notified the public that the changes would be presented on December 5. A second hearing may be held December 19. Mr. Kiernan said the changes have been posted on the town website.

12. DPW report

Mr. Kiernan said the crew has begun sanding and salting. He said the dog kennel is a very nice one and has already been used. The Tilgner trail was completely rebuilt by the road crew last week.

13. Replacement of phone system

Mr. Kiernan recommended a complete change to a voice-over-internet system. It will save the Town a great deal of money. He said a group of folks from the town and its contractors

will meet with representatives of the company (Consolidated) which would install the new system. Power outages could be a problem, but both Cole Hall and the fire house would continue to have emergency connection capabilities via hard lines. Mr. Kiernan will have more information at the next meeting.

14. Other business

Ms. Bacchi asked about Shaftsbury receiving broadband money. Mr. Kiernan didn't know about it.

15. Review of action items

- A select board meeting will be held November 28.
- Mr. Kiernan will work on the new phone system.
- Mr. Kiernan will report on the Cold Spring Rd. study on December 5.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Barber moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.