

Town of Shaftsbury Special Select Board Meeting 6:30 PM

Cole Hall, 61 Buck Hill Road, and remotely via Zoom

Monday, November 28, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, 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 minutes of October 31. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the minutes of November 7. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the minutes of November 21. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

4. Warrants

Check warrant #16, \$4,235,591.65, school taxes. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

Ms. Cornwell noted that a Polar Express reading will be held December 4, 4p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Shaftsbury Elementary School. All are welcome.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Proposed Property Purchase 83 Buck Hill Road

Mr. Whitman reminded citizens that the Town had entered into a contract to purchase the property behind Cole Hall. The contract expires December 1. The contract does not execute the purchase of the property, which closing could occur in late December or afterward. Mr. Barber moved to authorize the chair to proceed with the purchase of 83 Buck Hill for \$89,900 from 89 Buck Hill Road LLC. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

8. Request for No Parking Zone NW corner of VT Rte. 7A and Church St.

Mr. Kiernan said he'd started the outreach to Vtrans to restrict parking on that corner. When a car is parked in the spot, sight lines from Church Street northward are badly obscured. The issue will have to go before a state committee. The process may take a few months.

9. Preliminary Budget review FY24

Mr. Kiernan said he'd tried to keep the increase to no more than 5% this year. He proposes cutting back a little on the class 3 road fund, as the crew has just about all the granted work it can handle for the next couple of years. He said he'd talked to Bennington Rescue about their line item, and that he intends to place Arlington Rescue on the budget as a line item rather than as a community appropriation. He proposes an increase in the traffic control budget to about 30 hours weekly from 10 hours weekly, to be provided by both sheriff and State Police staff. One new organization has requested

a community appropriation. They and several others will need to present their requests to the Select Board in December. Gravel purchases are to go down. Insurances are up in the 6-7% range. The tax rate is proposed to go up by 0.0245, or about \$61 for a \$250,000 home. Mr. Kiernan hopes to finalize the budget at the second meeting in December. He will as usual confer with the Fire Chief before finalizing the budget. Mr. Kiernan noted that all the items inside the barn at 83 Buck Hill and old machinery inside a shed are to be removed as part of the Town's purchase of the property.

10. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan suggested voting on membership on the Economic Development committee after the new year. Ms.Cornwell will let the applicants know.

11. Review of Action Items

The chair will pursue the purchase of the 83 Buck Hill Road property as outlined in the contract.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.