

## **Town of Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting**

August 21, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Naomi Miller, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present and managing the Zoom interface was Jen Holley, town webmaster and assistant town clerk.

### 2. Conflict of Interest Statement

Ms. Cornwell said she will be presenting on item 11. No one else reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

### 3. Minutes

Mr. Whitman noted that the board held a Zoom meeting on August 2 to review some warrants. Only Mr. Cichanowski, Ms. Cornwell, and himself were present. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-2.

Ms. Miller moved to approve the minutes of August 7. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

### 4. Warrants

Payroll warrant, \$29,079.51. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant #4, \$28,052.72. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #7, \$67,619.78. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

### 5. Announcements

There were none.

### 6. Public Comments

There were none.

### 7. Treasurers Report

Melanie Dexter reported.

Re the cash flow: tax receipts have begun to come in. About 10 bills have been returned. If a taxpayer hasn't received a bill, please contact the Town office. Ms. Dexter asked that taxpayers open their bills immediately to make sure there are no errors. She noted that the state is well behind on processing homestead declarations among other returns. If at all concerned about the bill, please call Ms. Dexter.

One draw was made on the line of credit. It should be the only one the Town will need.

Very little has gone on in the Reserve accounts, except that water payments are coming in.

The professional auditors will be coming later in August.

### 8. So VT CUD- Shaftsbury Certificate as 'Official Gig Town' – Tim Scoggins

Tim Scoggins, the Shaftsbury rep to the CUD, presented. He said he and Michael Corey were recently at an event celebrating the completion of the fiber optic network in Bennington County. The

event was attended by Peter Welch and others. The CUD was formed in 2019. Shortly thereafter the SoVT CUD was able to partner with Consolidated Communications to make use of federal and state funds. It is, he said, now one of the most connected areas in the country. Mr. Scoggins presented the town with an “official Gig town certificate” given him by Senator Welch. “We are wired,” he said. He described the efforts of various other CUDs around the state. He noted there are about twenty locations in the county we haven’t been able to get to for various reasons, but they will eventually be covered.

#### 9. Roadside Debris – Trash Cans – Ordinance

Mr. Whitman noted that Mr. Kiernan has secured some information on the state’s approach.

#### 10. DPW Report

Ms. Holley shared the report Mr. Yannotti shared with her. In the next two weeks, the crew will be replacing six culverts on Buck Hill Road, replacing culverts elsewhere, starting roadside mowing, and other activities. Mr. Whitman said Mr. Yannotti will soon be inspecting the dump truck ordered a couple of years ago and finally delivered to the vendor.

#### 11. “Get on Board Project” So VT Economy Project – Martha Cornwell

Ms. Cornwell described a program sponsored by Bennington and Windham County to develop a regional economic zone. It would encourage young local leaders to join and effectively engage with community boards. Training sessions will be offered. Day care can be offered.

The program charges \$150 per person. There is room for forty people in the two counties. Ms. Cornwell asked the town to sponsor a person interested in participating but limited financially. Ms. Miller moved to provide assistance to up to two interested persons (the maximum) to participate in the Get on Board Project. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Cornwell noted that Shaftsbury’s efforts to solicit input on how to spend ARPA funds have been used as a model around the area.

Ms. Cornwell urged citizens to take a survey on line or on paper to help the economic development committee devise plans for the new town green.

#### 12. Proposal to have property record cards on line via NEMRC

Ms. Holley described the request. She said people visit the assessor’s office frequently to secure a “listers card” which summarizes all the town’s information on a property. She said it would cost \$500 to set the program up and \$500 per year to run it. (It is offered by New England Municipal Records, whose database stores all the town’s assessment information.) Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter into the agreement with NEMRC. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

#### 13. Memorandum of Understanding renewal – Glastenbury

Mr. Whitman said every couple of years an MOU between Glastenbury and Shaftsbury comes up for renewal. The agreement pledges Shaftsbury’s help to Glastenbury with several matters. Mr. Cichanowski moved to sign the agreement. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

#### 14. Other Business

The next meeting will be Tuesday September 5, beginning at 5 p.m.

#### 15. Review of Action Items

Ms. Cornwell will follow up with Mr. Kiernan on sponsored Get on Board Project participants.

Ms. Miller will follow up with Jen Holley (the webmaster) and send her some information to post on the website.

Ms. Miller reported that on August 30 at 6 p.m. the planning commission will sponsor a meeting on the Enhanced Energy Plan. Bennington County Regional Commission staff will present their first draft at that time and very much seek public input. People can participate in person or via Zoom.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.