

Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 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 was town administrator David Kiernan and Rob Steuer, trustee of public funds.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Minutes

None were distributed.

4. Warrants

Warrant for new plow truck, \$173,045. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion. Mr. Kiernan noted that the funds would be withdrawn from a reserve fund; no loan would be required. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #9, \$65,929.79: Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Ms. Cornwell thanked folks for completing the Town Green survey. She said once synthesized, the results will be shared at a Select Board meeting.

6. Public Comments

A citizen reported that traffic speeds in the Village area are sometimes out of control. The majority of the speeders on 7A are trucks, many of which are leaving W E Dailey's. The speed warning sign has been broken. (Mr. Kiernan said the sign belonged to the town and that he was waiting for replacement parts.) She said she has called the sheriff's department. A cat was recently killed. She asked that speed bumps be placed on Cleveland Avenue (which is being used as a shortcut). Mr. Kiernan said he would speak with the sheriff. Mr. Whitman said speed tables are expensive, must be engineered, and are noisy.

Rob Steuer said farm traffic on Cross Hill Road, at the west end, is sometimes dangerous. Occasionally, truck traffic from Route 7, taking a shortcut to NY Rt. 68, obstructs passage on the road. These should be addressed. Mr. Kiernan noted that he hopes to increase the hours the sheriff's staff monitors the town's roads beginning in July 2024.

7. Treasurers Report

Mr. Kiernan reported for Ms. Dexter that tax receipts are already over \$300,000. A fair number of tax bills have been returned "undeliverable." The treasurer asks that if a citizen hasn't received a bill, that person should contact her office. She noted also that the state is behind on processing homestead exemptions and suggests that taxpayers closely review their bills to make sure they're being correctly charged. Three of four quarterly state highway aid payments have already been received (the schedule was changed in acknowledgement of the flooding events this summer). The class three road fund shows a large deficit because we are waiting on a state grant payment. There are some negatives in the reserve fund because the reserve funds aren't replenished until all taxes are received.

8. EDC Consultant – Planning Grant

Mr. Kiernan said the planning grant application will now be dedicated to engaging a consultant (the Regional Commission) rather than to Cole Hall's remediation. Mr. Kiernan will bring more information to the Select Board at the next meeting.

9. Cole Hall Improvements Contract

Mr. Kiernan said two approaches are possible: a construction management bid or a more traditional bid. He said that in a high demand market such as we are in we are not likely to receive a more traditional bid. In the former, the manager essentially hires the other parties in the project – the architect, the contractor, and so on. If the former, a specific bid document must be released soon. Additionally, a decision regarding LULA or standard elevator must be made ASAP. Ms. Cornwell moved to hire a construction manager. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman noted that this approach is more flexible. Ms. Miller also noted that a traditional bid would require Mr. Kiernan to be the manager, meaning he wouldn't have time to do anything else. Mr. Kiernan noted that the construction manager approach could be problematic if the team doesn't work well together. The motion passed 5-0-0.

10. Leased Property Buck Hill Road

Mr. Kiernan said the Town owns the parking area across the street. It serves the apartment building on the corner. He suggested we notify the building owner that we do not want to renew the 10 year lease now coming due, but would instead like to sell the property. That building owner would have the first right of refusal. Mr. Cichanowski moved to begin the process of selling the property opposite Cole Hall now used as a parking lot. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The lot has been used as a parking lot for decades. It used to host a blacksmith's shop. The motion passed 5-0-0.

11. Request to Board of Public Trustees

- Transfer from Howard Park Fund for drainage project \$45,000
Mr. Kiernan said the Howard family left about \$45,000 for Howard Park improvement. He said the cost of drainage improvements would be much more than that, and would be partially covered by a grant. He said the Recreation Committee has recommended the transfer. Mr. Kiernan noted that recreational improvements are dependent upon improving the drainage there. A member of the Howard family is on the Committee. Mr. Steuer said the \$45,000 distribution would leave about \$2K in the fund. Ms. Cornwell moved to transfer \$45,000 from the Howard Park fund to the drainage fund to be managed by the Trustees. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Transfer from GW Hawkins Fund for Transfer Station improvements \$20,000
Mr. Kiernan requested a transfer from the Hawkins Fund to purchase a pre-fab structure for the station attendants. It would have a payment window, a porch, and be served with electricity. (An earlier request for transfer station improvements was larger; that proposal has been scaled back.) Mr. Cichanowski moved to transfer \$20,000 from the GW Hawkins fund to finance transfer station improvements. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12. DPW Report

The crew has been working on Buck Hill nearly all the time. More culverts were needed than they realized. Trees have been taken down. Ditches have been dug. They should be finished within a week or so.

The town was notified that the cross walk for the school has faded away. It will be repainted. Mr. Kiernan said mid-block crossings might require flashing lights and caution signs on the approaches. The school could if it wished hire a crossing guard.

Mr. Kiernan has no news on the core samples taken on White Creek Rd.

13. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan said the fire department would like to purchase a number of items this year, including: a new hose, new nozzles (for \$3,044), new reels, more foam, and telescoping lights for engine 3 (for \$3000). All items are within their budget. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the purchase of the requested equipment. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

14. Review of Action Items

- Produce a speed study for Cleveland Avenue.
- Ask the sheriff to monitor Cross Hill Rd.
- Submit letters to Trustees requesting the transfer of fund.
- Initiate the sale of the parking lot opposite Cole Hall.
- Get the word out to the community that vandalism is a problem at Howard Park (for example, the entrance sign was recently stolen and the newly resurfaced Tilgner Trail has been torn up). Perhaps the Banner can be persuaded to carry an article.

15. Executive Session Legal

Ms. Cornwell moved to enter executive session for a legal matter. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16. Adjournment