

## **Town of Shaftsbury Select Board**

Monday October 16, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Naomi Miller, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan. Mr. Whitman noted that item 17 will include personnel and real estate.

### 2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

### 3. Minutes

There were none.

### 4. Warrants

Payroll warrant \$31,521.56. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #13, \$124,527.71. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

### 5. Announcements

Mr. Kiernan noted that it is fall cleanup time at the Town of Shaftsbury cemeteries. Any materials not removed by November 1 will be respectfully disposed of. Perennials may be trimmed for the winter.

### 6. Public Comments – Shaftsbury Solar Project

Mr. Whitman asked for comments on the project, each no more than five minutes long.

Rich Jorgensen of Bank St. said he would like to resubmit his March statement in support of the solar project. He said he also supports the recommendations of the Planning Commission issued in July. He noted that there will be a tax development from the property. He said the project can work here.

Robert Sargis of Trumbull Hill Road said he is strongly in favor of the project.

Barbara Sargis said she too is in full support of the project.

Michael Albus asked about the letter from the Planning Commission to the Select Board and in particular about the attachment, a map. He said there was a circle just south of the Pooles, and another left of the barn. He said the map advised against installing panels in those areas but that the letter didn't. It was clarified that the "most northerly groups" i.e., those circled and those closest to Holy Smoke, should be deleted from the project. He said he thought this would be a good starting point for negotiations.

Mr. Kiernan said the Town would appear before the PUC in 2024. Mr. Whitman said the Town would be making a statement before that time.

### 7. Public Comments

There were none.

8. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter said this month more than \$500,000 has been taken in in taxes.

She noted a payment made by a state agency to assist a resident with a water bill.

The cash balance is \$108K+. It is as high as it is because tax bills haven't yet been paid to the state.

In the reserve fund, water line, all our CDs were cashed in and put in the reserve account.

Today is the last day to get one's homestead declaration in.

9. Appoint Holly Behan as Delinquent Tax Collector until March Town Meeting

Mr. Whitman noted that Mert Snow, delinquent tax collector, passed away just before a scheduled tax sale. Documents from the sale must be signed within 30 days of the sale. In the meantime, Holly Behan has agreed to serve as delinquent tax collector and to therefore close out that tax sale. Mr. Krulikowski moved to appoint Ms. Behan as interim delinquent tax collector until the March 2024 election. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. Sewer Study Bond Approval 0% Interest 0%Administrative fee.

There is no repayment schedule for this loan. The loan principle and the loan forgiveness are equal.

Mr. Whitman asked that the funding method be approved to fund a study of sewers for the Village.

Mr. Kiernan said these are essentially documents for the bond bank, which is borrowing money from the state. Ms. Miller moved to sign the document. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Board members signed the document. Mr. Whitman signed a separate document in his role as chair.

11. Purchase of two portable Evolis Vision Radar systems (\$6800.00) using ARPA funds.

Mr. Whitman said the town has looked into buying speed recording systems and recommends these.

Mr. Kiernan said these units are battery-operated (lasting seven to ten days) and can therefore be moved frequently. He said he checked and learned that they are allowed expenditures of ARPA funds. Mr. Cichanowski moved to use \$6800 in ARPA funds to purchase two units. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman asked that the town administrator rather than the road crew be in charge of deciding where the units are to be placed. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

12. US 7 Proposed Work by State update

Mr. Whitman said a culvert on Route 7 south of the Arlington exit is to be replaced. Detours in both directions are under consideration by VTrans. Mr. Kiernan attended a public meeting in Sunderland to voice the town's opposition to the proposed detour, which would produce 8500 vehicles through Shaftsbury daily. He asked the agency when hearings are to be held in Manchester and Shaftsbury. Mr. Kiernan offered suggestions regarding dealing with oversized loads. He asked that one-way traffic be instituted instead for the duration of the detour. Mr. Kiernan suggested that Rep. David Durfee be asked to contact the decision makers at the state about the state's proposals. Mr. Kiernan will craft the letter. He and Mr. Whitman will meet with Mr. Durfee this week. Ms. Miller suggested reaching out to our senators as well.

13. Goldstone/MSK proposal Shaftsbury Common Space (ARPA Funds)

Mr. Kiernan said this basic concept of planning for the outside environs of Cole Hall is an add-on to existing contracts with Goldstone and MSK. Mr. Cichanowski moved to authorize Mr. Kiernan to sign the

additional contract for the Town green/Cole Hall projects. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

14. DPW Report

Buck Hill paving is scheduled to begin October 17 and should be completed in three to four days.

15. Other Business

Ms. Cornwell asked about another meeting in October. Is it needed? All agreed on a Zoom meeting on October 30 at 6 p.m.

Mr. Whitman reported to the public that Mr. Kiernan has announced that he would like to retire. Mr. Whitman said he wishes to address the issue of community appropriations before Mr. Kiernan leaves. Mr. Kiernan noted that asking that appropriations be re-petitioned would be unworkable (it will take a number of years to avoid petition-fatigue on the part of petition signers). He said Stowe has a formula which results in a smaller total than Shaftsbury's. Mr. Whitman said he wants to support the libraries and suggested a line item for them. Mr. Kiernan said if the libraries were line items they would still amount to about \$44,000. Ms. Cornwell said some towns require that groups come before the board. Mr. Kiernan said Shaftsbury has done that in the past, and the appropriations recently went up. He wondered if the libraries should be addressed separately. Board members will study the list of appropriations and try to come up with ideas.

16. Review of Action Items

Send a letter to the State through our representatives.

Ms. Behan will be appointed on October 17.

Mr. Kiernan will order radar signs.

17. Executive session personnel and real estate

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

18. Adjournment