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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

Town of Shaftsbury Special Select Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: Monday April 7, 2025, at 6:00pm, in person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting came to order at 6:00 PM. Present were selectpersons Naomi Miller (chair), Zoe Contros Kearn (Vice-Chair), Mike Cichanowski, Tony Krulikowski, and Brad Peacock. Town Administrator Paula Iken, Treasurer Melanie Dexter, Road Foreman Mike Yannotti and Jay Coonrad of Sycamore Landscaping were also present.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement:

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

3. Minutes

Ms. Iken noted that the board minutes were behind and that the 3 needing review and approval would be available at the next meeting.

4. Announcements

There were no announcements.

5. Warrants

Payroll warrant #21, \$3,422.42. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve; Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion which passed 4-0-0. (Ms. Contros Kearn had not yet arrived.) Ms. Iken noted that a lot of stipends were included in that check.

Check warrant #25025 for \$80,234.90. Mr. Peacock moved to approve; Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion which passed 4-0-0.

Items over \$1,00.00:

- A & K Agri Services \$1,502.48 for gravel
- AFLAC \$1,498.26 Supplemental insurance
- BCRC \$9,041.00 2nd Quarter payment and \$8001.00 Task agreement. Ms. Iken stated that she thought the task was related to solid waste. She will confirm this.
- Bennington County Sheriff's Dept. \$6960 March fee
- Bove Fuels \$2412.00 and \$1399.00
- Green Mountain Power Multiple amounts, no amounts or total stated.
- Crosby Getty \$600 Cleaning service for Cole Hall and DPW.
- Innovative Surface Solutions \$5,211.00 Road deicers
- LHS Associates \$1,402.00 Printing of March ballots.
- Peckham Industries \$1,475.00, \$1,675.00, \$1,844.00. \$3,176.00, and \$1,894.00 Gravel
- RCS Consulting \$1,640 Network maintenance

- Suburban Propane \$1,401.00 Filling tank at new municipal building
- Sycamore Landscaping \$3,208 Cemetery maintenance.
- Wallingford Crushed Stone \$12,742.00 Crushed stone.

The items passed 5-0-0.

6. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

7. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Dexter reported on the cash flow for March 2025 and a cash balance of \$480,178.30 as of March 31, 2025. Ms. Dexter noted that the largest number was the delinquent tax amount of \$36,829.45 and that the delinquent tax collector, Holly Bahan, was bringing the balance due down significantly. This will show up next month. Ms. Dexter reviewed the revenues and expenditures, noting that the town needed to keep a close eye on them. Ms. Dexter then went over the Interest Allocation, specifically calling out State funding to help with reappraisal. She then reminded everyone to file the HS 122 by April 15th.

8. DPW Report

Mr. Yannotti asked that the mowing bids be opened before he presented the DPW report as he had a lot to talk about. The board agreed. See #10 below for details. Mr. Yannotti presented the board with costs of equipment and repairs to propose a different replacement plan for town equipment. He detailed the significant amount of money that is going into repairs of aging equipment and noted the inconvenience and stress of frequent breakdowns during use. Mr. Yannotti asked for the board's approval to finance replacement of the town backhoe at a cost of approximately \$174,000.00 with trade-in and special financing from Caterpillar. Payments on the backhoe would be approximately \$33,933.00/year for 5 years. He also asked for approval to finance the truck ordered in 2024 to replace Truck 4 instead of paying for it in total. Payments on the truck would be approximately \$60,000.00/year for 5 years. His last item was approval of using \$50,000.00 of the sinking fund to replace the dump body on Truck 3. The reserve fund is \$216,000.00. It would normally be used to purchase replacement vehicles but is not enough to cover replacements needed. The proposal is to use the fund to make payments on financed equipment instead of waiting for the fund to grow enough to cover replacement costs. Ms. Contros Kearl summarized the requests and Mr. Yannotti stated that the summary was correct. He thanked Tiffany, for creating the spreadsheets. Ms. Miller asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Contros Kearl moved that the 3 items: backhoe financing, truck financing, and payment for dump body be approved. Mr. Cichanowski asked for clarification on the reserve fund. Mr. Yannotti explained details. Ms. Contros Kearl repeated the motion, Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion which was approved 5-0-0.

9. Discussion of grant availability

There are questions about grant availability due to possible federal funding cutbacks that would affect Shaftsbury. The town may face choices between raising taxes and cutting services. The Select Board would like the townspeople to consider these balances and provide feedback.

10. Opening of Town Mowing Bids

There was only 1 bid, from Sycamore Landscaping, for \$19,200.00 for each of 3 seasons. Mr. Yannotti broke the contract into 3 years. He recommended Sycamore Landscaping based on their work at the town cemeteries. Ms. Miller asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve, and Mr. Peacock seconded the motion which passed 5-0-0.

11. Discussion of upcoming PFAS meeting

The PFAS meeting is on Monday, April 14th in Cole Hall at 6:00 PM. This is an informational meeting. Discussion will center on contaminated wells off East Road and in the Furnace Brook, Red Clover Lane,

Lucas Lane, and Lower East Road areas. VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation will be showing where wells are being monitored, levels of contamination, and mitigation practices. Townspeople with PFAS in their wells are encouraged to attend, either in person or on Zoom.

12. Other Business

None.

13. Review of Action Items

Ms. Iken will be signing paperwork for equipment purchase.

The Select Board moved into executive session to discuss legal considerations of the town's response to a Vermont Agency of Education mandate to the SVSU and other issues around the state. The Select board came out of executive session and Ms. Miller read a proposed statement from the Shaftsbury Select board and asked for a motion to approve it.

"In adherence to the constitution of the State of Vermont and to the town of Shaftsbury's declaration of inclusion we urge the Southern Vermont Supervisory Union superintendent to join other Vermont superintendents in refusing the Vermont Agency of Education's request to sign a certification of compliance that would make us complicit with a potentially unconstitutional directive from the executive branch. And further. we call on the superintendent to call on the Secretary of Education, Zoie Saunders to join our neighboring states in refusing this executive branch directive."

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve, and Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion which passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Miller then asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Contros Kearl moved to adjourn, Mr. Cichanowski seconded, the meeting was adjourned 5-0-0.