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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM, 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 Zoe Kearl (Chair), Mike Cichanowski, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present were Town Administrator Paula Iken, and Treasurer Melanie Dexter.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

There were no conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

Minutes could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

4. Announcements and Updates

Ms. Iken gave an update on the new town office building: Construction of the vault area is finished and waiting for the vault, which will come the week of October 6th. The town clerk area is also framed. There is a little more demolition to do on floors. The floors have been measured and a flooring estimate should come in this week.

5. Warrants

CWR #20007 for \$132,403.16.

Items over \$1,000:

AFLAC \$1,557.08 Employee Supplemental Insurance

BCRC \$1,500.00 Highway grant work

Beaudoin Paving \$36,300.00 Paving at the fire station (Monies from the Mercer Fund)

Bennington County Sheriff's Dept. \$6,480.00 Monthly payment for coverage

Bennington Rescue Squad \$1,190.00 AEDs for the Fire Dept. and new building (special price)

G. A. Bove Fuels \$1,753.00 fuel

Casella Waste Systems \$11,103.27 Transfer station

? Four Seasons \$3,900.00 Operating supplies for DPW

H.L. Gage \$3,747.40 DPW truck number one, parts and repair

MVP Healthcare \$16,507.41 Employee healthcare

NEMRC \$7,750.00 Reappraisal monthly fee

Northeast Municipal LLC \$1,019.69 DPW Traffic cones, tire rings etc.

Peckham Industries \$5,345.34 Gravel

Salem Farm Supply, \$1,475.98 DPW equipment.

Sullivan, Power & Co. \$12,306. Professional audit

Sycamore Landscaping \$1,600.00 and \$3,208.00 Town buildings and cemeteries mowing and landscaping

Tyler's Turf \$1,500.00 and \$3,500.00 Demolition in new town building

Ms. Kearl called for a motion to approve CWR #20007 for \$132,403.16. ?? moved to approve. ?? seconded. Warrant approved 3-0-0.

Ms. Kearl called for a motion to approve payroll warrant PR #06: \$21,266.74. Mr. Krulikowski moved; Mr. Cichanowski seconded. PR #06 approved 3-0-0.

6. Public Comments

Mr. Whitman spoke on behalf of Josh Tobe, a Shaftsbury resident who would like to see a tractor parade in Shaftsbury. There is a survey on the Town website to which 27 people responded. 7 people said they would help. There aren't a lot of big tractors left in Shaftsbury, more garden tractors and ATVs. Ms. Holley said she would repost the survey asking who would like to put tractors etc. in the parade.

6.5 Treasurer's Report

Ms. Dexter said she hadn't written a treasurer's report as mid-month ones are not very informative, and she was too busy doing her job to document doing her job. She did want to discuss tax bills again. She printed out the tax bills with the due date revision and is removing them as people call or email saying, "don't send me another bill". So far these people have saved the town about \$100.00. Ms. Dexter asked that people keep calls and emails coming so tax bills aren't remailed to people who already intend to pay. She is also removing people as they pay. About 120 tax bills have already been paid and the Town is in fine shape with cash right now. Ms. Dexter continued that she thinks that the error was a blessing in disguise because she pulled from the stack everybody who filed a homestead declaration last year, but did not file one this year, on the assumption that some of them had unintentionally missed filing their homestead declaration. She sent out those bills, with "this is what you're paying, is that intentional?" and this week alone people have been saved around \$15,000 in payment taxes of unnecessary taxes.

7. Twitchell Hill Speed Limit Change

Ms. Kearl gave an update on the Twitchell Hill Road speed limit change. She stated that, under Vermont Statute 2313-1007, the legislative body of a city, in this case the Town of Shaftsbury Select Board, may establish, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a speed limit on all or part of any state highway or road other than a limited access highway within its jurisdiction, which is not more than 50 miles per hour, or is not less than 25 miles per hour. Following the conclusion of the speed study conducted by the Bennington County Regional Commission, the Town of Shaftsbury Select Board is proposing to reduce the speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. If the Select Board moves to make that change and vote upon it, it requests that the Highway Department to replace all relevant speed markers as soon as they're able to do so. Ms. Kearl then called for a motion to reduce the speed limit on Twitchell Hill Road from 35 MPH to 25 MPH, following the speed study and public comments. Mr. Cichanowski moved. Mr. Krulikowski seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

8. Feral Cat Colony Update

Ms. Iken said she had called West Mountain Animal Hospital again, left a message asking Dr. Bergman to call her but hadn't heard back. She will be at the clinic the following day and will talk to the cat vet. Mr. Krulikowski noted that feral cats are a problem in Bennington. All agreed that curtailing the feral cat issue in Shaftsbury while it remains at the current level is imperative.

9. Other Business

Ms. Iken said that several weeks ago Marie and Mike Watson had expressed interest in buying a piece of town adjacent to their property. Cornerstone, the developer who will potentially develop the property, said that they only need a 30 foot easement. Ms. Iken said she would like to call a realtor to get an assessment of property and investigate next steps. Ms. Kearl said that Ms. Iken can investigate and if any action is going to take place, the Select Board would be involved. Ms. Iken will check to see if the Town attorney had sent any information on the process.

Mr. Cichanowski brought up cardboard compaction at the transfer station. There was discussion about the amount of cardboard and how quickly the container fills without compaction and cardboard being throw away when the container is full. He wants to keep the conversation going.

Ms. Kearl said that the Energy Committee needs another member, somebody who knows something about energy, and would want to participate in considering how to meet State and Town goals. There are also vacancies on other committees. Check the Town website.

10. Review of Action Items

Ms. Iken will check for emails from the attorney and investigate a possible land sale.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 after an executive session.