



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices

Meeting Minutes

PO Box 409
677 Vermont RTE 7A
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

Select Board

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on Monday, Monday September 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Town Offices at 677 VT Rte. 7A and on Zoom. Present were Select Board members Zoe Kearl (Chair), Mike Cichanowski, Marlene Hall, and Eamon Mulligan. Also present were Town Administrator Carlyn Mickle, Town Treasurer Melanie Dexter, and Interim DPW Foreman Tim Gulley.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

There were no conflicts of interest with items on the agenda.

3. Minutes

The minutes for the September 16, 2026, Select Board meeting were reviewed and approved without amendment 3-0-1. Mr. Mulligan abstained. The minutes for the September 10, 2026, Select Board meeting were tabled until October 5th due to lack of quorum.

4. Warrants

Ms. Kearl called for a motion to consider CWR27008 in the amount of \$197,218.84. Ms. Hall moved. Mr. Cichanowski seconded. Ms. Kearl read all items over \$2,500.00 and some random smaller items. CWR27008 was approved 4-0-0.

Ms. Kearl called for a motion to consider PR07 in the amount of \$33,671.96. Ms. Hall moved. Mr. Mulligan seconded. PR07 was approved 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

Ms. Mickle announced that the DPW had pulled the speed station from White Creek Rd. and borrowed another from North Bennington to place at Church St. and Buck Hill Rd. to slow traffic at that intersection during the detour on Rt. 7A.

Ms. Kearl announced that there has been a class action suit filed on behalf of Shaftsbury and Bennington residents affected by PFAS in their water. It has not been determined if Shaftsbury will also be part of a separate suit.

Ms. Kearl announced that quarterly committee meetings will start on November 2nd. Chairs of all boards and committees will put together letters about what their board/committee has done during the past quarter. This is to improve communication between the different groups. Details will be discussed at the October 5th select board meeting.

Ms. Hall asked if the Town Offices would be closed on Thursday, September 24th. Ms. Mickle said that the office would be closed except for Ms. Dexter who will be available to take tax payments. The rest of the office personnel will be moving the remainder of items from Cole Hall to close it.

Ms. Hall announced that ballots for the November election will be in the mail soon. If residents don't have a ballot by the end of the first week of October, or need to vote earlier, see the Town Clerk.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. DPW Report

Mr. Gulley reported that road grading was done on multiple roads until a grader broke. It has been taken to Springfield for repair. The crew was mowing until the mower broke down. It has been fixed and mowing continues.

8. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Kearl started by apologizing to Ms. Dexter for comments made publicly about her role as town treasurer. Ms. Kearl said that personnel related matters should be discussed in executive session. Ms. Dexter discussed the Town's cash flow, noting about \$320,000.00 received in taxes, bringing the total to about \$700,000.00 which is around 10% of taxes. She is not seeing changes in payment patterns and expects many payments in November.

Ms. Dexter reminded residents that the last date to file a 2025 Homestead Declaration and have it benefit them is October 15, 2026. She stressed the importance of filing the Homestead Declaration to qualify for lower taxes. She continued that the cash balance showing payment for the new fire truck will be presented at the October 5th select board meeting. She also feels confident that the new billing structure for water bills will make things look better quickly.

9. Casella Presentation/ Compactor

Joseph Maguire of Casella Wastes Systems presented information on the benefits of switching recycling from 2 separate containers to 1 single stream recycling compactor. The number of hauls will decrease from around 159 to 26, saving about \$27,000 per year. New electric required will cost between \$1500 - \$1800 and rental will increase from \$500 - \$900 per month (\$4800 annual increase) with a 2 year extension on the contract. There will be further discussion at the October 5th select board meeting.

10. Budget Committee App Review

Ms. Kearl said there were 6 applicants for the budget committee's 5 spaces. She thought it appropriate to discuss them openly, assigning numbers for privacy. Board members had letters of interest and resumes and discussed the qualifications of each applicant. Ms. Kearl said it would be good to create the committee quickly to allow time for establishment.

Mr. Cichanowski noted that 5 of the candidates had deep roots in the community and 1 did not. Ms. Kearl suggested that they discuss the candidates further in executive session.

11. SESTF Committee Update

Ms. Kearl said that the Southshire EMS Stabilization Task Force had been meeting for a few months to address regional emergency medical services sustainability issues. There is a proposal for Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, and Woodford to have emergency services provided by a Union Municipal District, created by voters via town meeting ballot article after a series of public conversations. Ms. Kearl noted that this will be a significant budget expense because Shaftsbury has

historically been underpaying. She also noted that not all of Shaftsbury is covered by the Bennington Rescue Squad, the northern part of Shaftsbury is serviced by the Arlington Rescue Squad. The region of service will be discussed. If the proposal is voted down, areas of Shaftsbury would not have emergency services. The SESTF report will be posted on the Town website.

12. 677 Alterations Request

Ms. Mickle said that storage is an issue in the town office building and the basement needs work before it can be used. She asked the Select Board for approval to make several alterations to the town office building: added shelving, clear brochure holders, and a counter for display and storage. She noted that there would be no expense involved as all shelving and counter would be moved from Cole Hall and installed by volunteers. Ms. Kearl asked for a motion to approve the alterations. Mr. Cichanowski moved. Mr. Mulligan seconded. The alteration request was approved 4-0-0.

13. Other Business

Ms. Kearl announced that the Planning Commission has put together proposed bylaw changes and had its public meeting. The Select Board must have 2 meetings within 120 days to discuss the proposed changes. These meetings are opportunities for the public to comment. Dates proposed were select board meetings on October 19th and December 7th. The proposed changes will be posted on the Town website and meetings will be warned as usual.

Ms. Mickle went over an errors and omissions certificate related to a sale of property to the State. Board members, except Ms. Hall who will notarize it in her role as Town Clerk, signed the form. Ms. Mickle then opened a discussion of a quote from Eastern Salt Co. of \$99.84 per ton for road salt, up from \$92.50 last year. Average use has been 600 tons per season, a total of \$59,904 projected for this season. Ms. Kearl called for a motion to approve the quote. There was a brief discussion of other possible sources, but it was noted that when other companies ran out of salt last year Eastern Salt did not, and that the Town has a good relationship with them. Ms. Hall moved. Mr. Mulligan seconded. Motion to approve the quote passed 4-0-0.

14. Review of Action Items

Post proposed changes to bylaws on the Town website

Post SESTF report

Notify chairs of committees and boards about the November 2nd meeting and writing reports

Contact Budget Committee candidates

15. Executive Session: Personnel, Legal- Trumbull Hill

Ms. Kearl called for a motion to enter executive session to discuss the DPW Foreman position, candidates for the Budget Committee, and legal issues at Trumbull Hill. Ms. Hall moved. Mr. Mulligan seconded. The board entered executive session at 7:01 PM.

The board came out of executive session at 8:00 PM. Ms. Kearl said the board had discussed and selected members of the Budget Committee. Ms. Mickle will contact the candidates.

Ms. Kearl continued that after review of 3 candidates for the DPW Foreman position the board had selected Interim DPW Foreman Tim Gulley. Ms. Kearl asked for a motion to approve and offer Mr. Gulley the position. Ms. Hall moved. Mr. Mulligan seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Ms. Kearl said it appears that Trumbull Hill Rd. falls under the pervuew of Shaftsbury as a legal trail. There have been discussions with the Town's legal team, but no decisions have been made. Interested parties will be informed if any decisions are made prior to the board's next meeting on October 5th.

16. Adjournment

Ms. Kearl called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hall moved. Mr. Mulligan seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.