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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Town of Shaftsbury Water Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: Monday, August 4, 2025, at 7:00 PM, in person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting came to order at 7:00 PM. Present were board members Zoe Kearl (Chair), Tony Krulikowski, Brad Peacock, non-voting member Art Whitman, and Town Administrator Paula Iken.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement:

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

3. Minutes

Minutes from the July 21st meeting could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

4. Announcements

Ms. Iken announced that delinquent water bills will be going out this week. Town bookkeeper Tiffany Mays will now be working to collect delinquent water bills, so her name, email, and number will be on the letters and the delinquent water bills. If you need a payment plan, or if you have a special situation contact Ms. Mays.

5. Public Comments:

Corrine Levin, member of the public, brought up ongoing issues with chlorine in the town water at her house. Although the chlorine is at acceptable federal levels, tap water smells so strongly of chlorine that she buys drinking water for the people, animals, and plants in the household. She has contacted the water superintendent 3 times but has not yet received a reply. Mr. Peacock did not have updates. Ms. Kearl noted that the Shaftsbury Water Board had a meeting scheduled with the North Bennington Water Board and that the next step might be to discuss her concerns, and the concerns of others in neighboring streets, with the North Bennington Water Board. There was further discussion on health issues, the cost of bottled water and filters, and damage to bathroom fixtures. Ms. Kearl reiterated that the issue would be brought up with the North Bennington Water Board and that she will remind the Water Superintendent to reply to Corrine when he returned from vacation.

6. Discussion of Water Allocation Requests

Ms. Kearl again said that Shaftsbury Water Board is meeting with the North Bennington Water Board on the following Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be a discussion of the ongoing nature of Shaftsbury's request to increase its water allocation, as dictated to Shaftsbury by the State. She requested that as many of the Water Board members as were able attend. Ms. Kearl noted that the meeting would be an executive session, per Steve Goodrich of the North Bennington Water Board. A discussion of the legality of holding the meeting as an executive session will be part of this evening's Water Board executive session.

7. Discussion of Party Responsible for Water Bills.

Ms. Kearl said that there is some contention around who is responsible for payment of water bills. In the Town of Shaftsbury, the property owner is responsible, not tenants. Reimbursement from tenants is between the property owner and the tenant.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Review of Action Items

The Shaftsbury Water Board will discuss the chlorine levels in Corinne Levin's water, and the water of others in Shaftsbury, with the North Bennington Water Board.

The Shaftsbury Water Board will provide an update after the meeting with the North Bennington Water Board.

10. Executive Session

Ms. Contros Kearl called for a motion to enter executive session. Mr. Krulikowski moved; Mr. Peacock seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0. The Water Board entered executive session at approximately 7:20 PM.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Contros Kearl asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Krulikowski moved; Mr. Peacock seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.