

**MINUTES OF THE SHAFTSBURY SELECT BOARD  
DECEMBER 4, 2006  
COLE HALL  
SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT**

**Board Present:** Wynn Metcalfe, Chairman, Cinda Morse, Bill Pennebaker, Karen Mellinger, Jim Mead  
**Others Present:** Mike Gleason (Bennington Banner), Eric Pero (Bennington Banner),  
Susan Swasta (Recording Secretary)

**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Wynn Metcalfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. Conflict of Interest:**

Chairman Metcalfe asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest with any of the issues on tonight's agenda. None did.

**3. Announcements:**

Karen Mellinger reported on the town tree-lighting event. She recognized Audrey Jones, Ken Coonradt, the Garden Club, the Girl Scouts, and the band for making this a terrific event. Cole Hall was packed, with many children there to see Santa. She thanked everyone involved.

**4. Warrants:**

The following warrants were presented for approval:

- PR#22 - \$ 7,714.89 Payroll Warrant
- Transfer Warrant# - \$ 138,000.00 To reserve fund
- AP#26 - \$ 34,331.81 General Warrant (transfer station, Thompson's Garage, Blue Cross/Blue Shield)

Cinda Morse made motion to pay warrants. Ms. Mellinger seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**5. Minutes:**

November 27, 2006 Budget Committee Minutes:

Ms. Morse made motion to approve minutes. Ms. Mellinger seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. (Jim Mead abstained because he had not attended that meeting.)

November 27, 2006 Minutes:

Ms. Morse made motion to approve minutes. Bill Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. (Jim Mead abstained because he had not attended that meeting.)

November 20, 2006 Minutes:

Ms. Morse made motion to approve minutes. Ms. Mellinger seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**6. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**7. Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Enforcement Project:**

Ms. Mellinger reported on the Solid Waste Committee's ideas for a project. She thought they had come up with some great ideas, but noted that most of them were not well received by ANR. The Committee had suggested a pathway project from North Bennington to Shaftsbury, photovoltaic cells on the school roof, and a methane capturing system at the landfill. The ANR representative had indicated that the project needs to be connected to solid waste because it was a solid waste violation.

A swap shed at the transfer station may be a possibility, but will require a detailed plan and must be done through a 501 organization. Ms. Mellinger said that the ANR representative will get together with others at the agency to discuss ideas. ANR prefers projects with a statewide focus, such as training solid waste operators, but Ms. Mellinger prefers to push projects that will benefit this area. She stated that there is no time pressure as yet because the court has not prepared a final agreement. The next step is to hear from ANR on their ideas and on the time frame.

Ms. Morse asked if a swap shed could be regional, noting that it might be more attractive to ANR if it were expanded. Ms. Mellinger said she will pursue the swap shed idea a little more.

**8. Landfill Gas Remediation Project Bid Opening:**

Chairman Metcalfe opened the single bid on the gas remediation project, from Burgess Brothers. The bid totaled \$42,000 for equipment, materials, and labor. Because this is so high, Board members decided to hold off on a decision until next week. In the meantime, Aaron Chrostowsky and Highway Foreman Ron Daniels will discuss the project.

Mr. Pennebaker noted that there will have to be some adjustments to the design. Ms. Mellinger questioned Burgess Brothers' equipment costs, and Chairman Metcalfe replied that an excavator might cost \$130 an hour, and there would also be trucking and bulldozer costs.

**9. Health Insurance Plan Conversion:**

Chairman Metcalfe stated that Dave Newell, the regional Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) representative, is working up figures on coverage. Ms. Mellinger reported that she and Mr. Chrostowsky had attended the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) regional workshop, and that CIGNA representatives had been there. She said that if the town were to maintain CIGNA coverage similar to the present plan, costs would increase about 14%. Other less expensive plans would involve differences in co-pays and other areas. So far only Bennington has decided to switch to BC/BS.

Ms. Mellinger stated that a VLCT representative will be here on Friday to go over the CIGNA plan with employees. She thinks it makes sense to stick with VLCT because Shaftsbury employees don't have a close relationship with the BC/BS representatives and would not be negatively affected by a switch to CIGNA. If the town drops VLCT coverage, it must stay out for two years. Chairman Metcalfe supported staying with VLCT, saying that they have been super to the town.

**10. Other Business:**

Chairman Metcalfe stated that there are people who still need to come in to talk about the budget. He suggested scheduling meetings with them for next Monday, and sending notes to them saying that if they don't attend they will be level-funded for next year. Others agreed. They will meet next Monday, and then decide on a separate night to start putting the budget together.

Ms. Mellinger put in a plug for the Grange, noting that Mert Snow is selling raffle tickets to support the Grange. People can contact him to buy tickets.

Ms. Morse reported that the sewer survey has been sent to all property owners. She asked that all complete and return it.

**Mr. Mead advised residents to call the state police if trees are down and in contact with power or telephone lines. The road crew won't touch trees that are in contact with lines. Ms. Mellinger thanked the road crew for putting out warning cones for downed trees during the last storm.**

**11. Executive Session**

**Ms. Morse made motion to go into Executive Session (Personnel). Ms. Mellinger seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Board went into Executive Session (Personnel) at 7:32 PM.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Susan M. Swasta**