

Shaftsbury Select Board
December 17, 2018
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Joe Barber. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.
- 2) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 3) Approval of minutes
Mr. Whitman moved to approve the December 3 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 4) Warrants
Check warrant #17, \$78,737. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. (The warrant included community appropriations. Mr. Kiernan said the Treasurer waits to pay the appropriations until enough taxes have been collected.)
Check warrant #16, \$67,034.47. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
For the next couple of months, Town boards and commissions will meet at the Shaftsbury Elementary School as renovations to Cole Hall are made.
Both the Planning Commission and Development Review Boards have openings. Interested citizens should submit a letter of interest to the Town Administrator.
- 6) Public comments
There were none.
- 7) Treasurer's report
Melanie Dexter said little is going on now. Water bills were due last week. The move of the Treasurer's office to the trailer went smoothly. A couple of delinquent tax payments came in. The Reserve Fund is high because a lot of garage money needs to be returned to the General Fund. About \$800,000 remains to be spent on the garage. Mr. Scoggins noted that the Economic Development Fund might be tapped to do a proposed broadband/cell phone coverage survey. Ms. Dexter said the number of delinquencies is stable year to year.
- 8) Roads report
Mr. Kiernan reported for the foreman that the crew has been brushing on White Creek Rd., and Greater Heights has been working on East Rd. Tree work will continue through the winter. The new sidewalk machine works well.
- 9) FY 2020 budget
Mr. Kiernan reported that \$3500 was added to the Planning Commission budget to cover work on the Town Plan by BCRC. The proposed FY 2020 budget is below the FY 2015 budget. A few personnel issues may require shifting monies around, but without impact to the overall budget.

Mr. Whitman indicated he'd like to discuss funding for Bennington Rescue, which went from a \$2000 appropriation three years ago to a proposed \$25,000 in FY 2020, but didn't want to do so without Tony Krulikowski present. Mr. Whitman suggested that as long as the number of calls made to Bennington Rescue does not go up radically, neither should the payment to them. He said the \$42,000 requested by the Squad represented not service costs but rather the sum needed to restore the Squad's endowment. This and other matters will be discussed at a budget meeting to be scheduled.

Mr. Kiernan said the gravel budget will go down, while the road crew concentrates on ditching and tree removal. Once those tasks are complete, the need for gravel will be less.

Mr. Kiernan said WBTN asked for an increased appropriation. He will ask them to present to the Select Board in January.

10) Cemetery mowing bid

One bid was received, which Mr. Scoggins opened. Sycamore Landscaping proposed \$25,000 per year, with work outside the contract at an hourly rate of \$65/hour. It was noted that Sycamore had the contract last year, for \$24,000, but that contract didn't include Grandview. The bid package included references, insurance certificates, and other items. Mr. Whitman moved to award Sycamore the contract. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. The contract will be for two years, with an option for a third year.

11) Town garage/Cole Hall update

The floor has been poured inside the garage. Aprons are to be poured this week. Heat has been installed. The transfer station road has been repaired but is not quite complete. Mr. Kiernan is going to speak with Russell Construction about altering the mechanical space in case a future POET system is required. The crew hopes to be able to spend the "shoulder" month of March setting things up at the new garage. The salt shed is completed. Two one-thousand propane tanks will be purchased by the Town and buried. The current garage probably won't be closed until April. Some sort of hut with salt will be left at Cole Hall for the sidewalk machine.

Work at Cole Hall began today. Framing is already done. We will probably need to use \$10,000 or so out of the General Fund to replace the front door, add railings, and re-finish the floor. Work should be completed no later than early February.

12) Other business

Mr. Kiernan requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

An autumn well test at a private well came in over threshold for one of five contaminants (one for which testing had never before been required). The Town is now providing bottled water to the landowner, and will install a POET system there. Mr. Harrington suggested the State should take responsibility for such costs. Mr. Scoggins agreed, but said despite legislative pressure and testimony it is clear the State is not so inclined.

13) Review of action items

- The Select Board will hold a budget discussion on Bennington Rescue.
- Mr. Kiernan said he is getting Sheriff reports on speeding. Mr. Scoggins said they'd requested that the Sheriff's staff change location more frequently. Mr. Whitman said he'd gotten complaints of speeders on West Mountain Road (after repairs were made to the road).
- Mr. Kiernan is waiting to hear about VTrans' contract for Glastenbury Road. (Shaftsbury hopes to add its portion of Glastenbury Road to that contract.)

- Mr. Kiernan said he has not approached the Town Attorney regarding various trust funds. Mr. Scoggins said the minutes of the former Grandview committee indicated their perpetual fund was to be dedicated to only Grandview, and that only interest may be spent. Mr. Kiernan will ask if that fund can be combined with another perpetual fund.
- Mr. Scoggins said three employers have agreed to support a grant application for Shires Housing.
- Mr. Kiernan said Paran Recreation would like the request for an additional \$1500 for playground equipment to be added to their community appropriation request.
- Information regarding discounts from FirstNet was shared with Chief Vadakin who shared that information with the volunteers.
- Re water fountains at Cleveland Park, an obstacle has arisen: the water line is located on the other side of Cleveland Ave. The fountain will cost more as a result.
- Mr. Scoggins said, in future, RFPs will be posted to the website. A problem with access to the website prevented him from posting recent RFPs.
- Mr. Scoggins said the Planning Commission will pursue a broadband/cell phone coverage survey. He said some expenses would be incurred for it which can come from the Economic Development Fund.
- Mr. Scoggins said that Shaftsbury is in consultation and in support with Bennington for a VOREC grant to improve recreational opportunities to benefit the economy.

Mr. Whitman moved to enter executive session at 7:35 pm. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

The board returned from executive session at 7:45 and moved unanimously to authorized Kiernan to hire Ed Legacy full time in the Public Works Dept.

14) Adjournment