

Shaftsbury Select Board
May 20, 2019
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. 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. Krulikowski moved to approve the April 29, 2019 minutes. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- 4) Warrants
Check warrant #35, \$115,460.51. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Payroll warrant #23, \$19,338.18. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
The Memorial Day parade starts at 9 am in North Bennington.
Mr. Scoggins reported that the Town is hiring a full-time public works employee.
Mr. Scoggins reported there are openings on the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board.
- 6) Public comments
There were none.
- 7) Treasurer's report
Ms. Dexter reported that we don't have to worry about our cash flow. We received about \$15K from the State Education fund. She described some back and forths between restricted funds and the general fund. Mr. Whitman wondered if cash reserves could be borrowed against, rather than taking out a short term loan. Ms. Dexter will pursue.
- 8) Roads report
Two bids for work on the upper end of Shaftsbury Hollow Road were opened. Matt Morse Excavating bid \$29,250. Weaver Excavation bid \$25,000. Mr. Yanotti said he hosted a pre-bid meeting for three contractors. The work the two contractors propose is identical. The work must be done by June 30. Mr. Whitman moved to award the grant to Weaver Excavating. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Mr. Yanotti said five projects have been completed using grant funds this spring. They include the intersection of Murphy Hill with Sally Gannon; Horton Hill; a section on Cold Spring; West Mountain at the old Propagation Piece orchard; Cider Mill Rd. near Maple Hill. When the Shaftsbury Hollow work is done, all FY 2019 grant projects will have been completed. Some additional work outside the Better Roads program was done, using Class 3 road funds.

Mr. Yanotti said stone-lined ditches no longer have fabric put down first; it's been discovered that the stones slide on the fabric. Mr. Yanotti answered a question about cleaning out stone-lined ditches; some may never require clearing; some can be cleared with a blower; some will need to be re-constructed altogether. They are required only on steeper slopes. (Vegetated ditches can be used elsewhere.) In some cases, check dams are replacing stone-lined ditches.

The town crew is completely ditching Town Line Road and has replaced one culvert. All work there will be completed in a day or two.

Both graders are at work when weather permits.

Contracted work for FY 2020 will include a section on Myers Rd.; a site near the orchard on West Mtn. Rd.; and a site on Shaftsbury Hollow about 800' long. The town crew will place an underdrain on Trumbull Hill and on West Mtn. Rd. near Charlie Hall's property. Mr. Yanotti met with a VTrans engineer re the White Creek depression. VTrans will bore down 60' and with that information will design a solution. At least one and possibly two borings will be required. That work will be charged to the State Revolving Fund which will then bill the Town. Meanwhile, the town will shim the depression as a temporary fix.

Mr. Yanotti will put in for a Better Roads grant on Cross Hill Rd., with the project to be completed in FY 2020.

The crew will replace two pavement aprons – on North Rd. and Myers Rd. It will do some shimming on Buck Hill and on East Rd.

The paving grant applications were not approved.

Mr. Harrington reported two large potholes on Hidden Valley.

In the new fiscal year, the Town will buy its allotment of culverts and will install as many as can be done.

Mr. Yanotti will let Mr. Scoggins know about a week out when projects will take place. Mr. Scoggins will post the work schedules on the website.

Mr. Yanotti will be purchasing signage.

Mr. Whitman asked why Shaftsbury has so many potholes. Mr. Yanotti thinks it is base material and sheer number of miles of road.

Mr. Scoggins said most people he's talked with are fully in support of spending more money on the roads. He asked Mr. Yanotti how he'd spend more money. The group discussed drainage improvements. Mr. Kiernan said more money is needed to continue as we are doing – hiring contractors while the road crew does regular maintenance. And many of the twenty miles of paved roads also need expensive treatments.

- 9) Mr. Mert Snow reported that he brought in about \$10,000 in delinquent taxes in seven weeks and then about \$10,000 again in two days. He is about \$6700 ahead of last year, when this year's arrears were larger than last's. The law requires him to get Select Board permission to put a property up for tax sale.

- 10) Preferred solar site applications – Power Guru LLC

The board discussed an application for a 150 kw array for T&M Solar, on State Line Road; and a 500kw array off Stevens Lane off Buck Hill Road. Mr. Chris Williams from the audience said he thought it wouldn't be easily visible except from across the valley. Mr. Scoggins reminded that board that they had in the past agreed to not restrict solar development more than any other development. Mr. Williams said both the Select Board and the Planning Commission would need to designate the sites as "preferred sites." Mr. Whitman moved to designate the

proposed project at 326 Rt. 7A as a preferred site. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11) Howard Park playground construction proposal

Deena Ruge from the Recreation Committee appeared before the board. She presented materials on proposed equipment for a new playground. Cost: about \$28,000 total for the equipment, with free shipping. The site will need to be prepared and surface materials will be laid down. That sum includes payment to the vendor may have to assemble the equipment. This may be necessary to protect the warranty. The Town has a \$10,000 grant in hand for the equipment already. Mr. Barber asked if there were any local suppliers. Mr. Whitman moved to accept the quote from the vendor Alpine for playground equipment and installation at a cost of \$28,607. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

The water fountain is back-ordered. It will be placed in the snack bar building rather than the bathroom building, as the piping is more accessible there. It should arrive next week. It will be installed by Northeast.

Mr. Kiernan reported that water on the site will have to be addressed, and the existing bridge replaced with something that can be used by emergency vehicles.

12) Personnel Policy Amendment – Cellular Phone Usage

The discussion was postponed.

13) Cole Hall/Garage Update

The drive and access road at the garage are finished. About \$60,000 remains to be paid to Russell, after final sign-off. The garage is essentially ready to go, though the crew hasn't moved in yet. Just how to control the contents of the swap shed is still to be decided. (It is not the responsibility of the Town employee there.) Perhaps it should be smaller, and made part of the attendant's office.

The furniture for Cole Hall should arrive shortly.

Mr. Krulikowski noted that the wait for hazardous waste day was longer than two hours. Mr. Kiernan said there had been complaints about that vendor and that they probably won't be used again. The location also had issues.

14) Other business

Mr. Scoggins said Tyler Resch asked if the Town might pick up the \$75 entry fee for his attendance at the SVED summit to be held May 23. The Board agreed to cover his cost, if he would write about it afterward.

15) Review of action items

A meeting with Trustees has been scheduled for May 28. Merging of funds will be discussed.

Big Truck Night went well. Eric Bushee received a ten-year honorary mug. The board uniformly expressed gratitude for the service of the members of the fire department.

Mr. Harrington suggested a go-slow approach to road rebuilding, and instead use French drains and other low-tech solutions where possible. They work.

16) Adjournment

Mr. Whitman moved to adjourn at 8:31 pm. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.