

Shaftsbury Select Board
August 19, 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 and treasurer Melanie Dexter. Charlie Hall as in the audience.
- 2) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 3) Warrants
Payroll warrant #3, \$22,731.47. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Check warrant #4, \$114,832.73. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- 4) Minutes
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the July 1 minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the July 15 minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting held July 25. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-2, with Mr. Barber and Mr. Harrington abstaining.
Mr. Harrington moved to approve the August 5 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-2, with Mr. Krulikowski and Mr. Whitman abstaining.
- 5) Announcements
Mr. Scoggins reported that the Planning Commission has completed the drafting of the new Town Plan, a copy of which is available on the town website. The Planning Commission hearing will be held September 24, after which the Select Board will schedule two hearings.
There are openings on the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board.
Mr. Kiernan said the Town would place announcements re the closing of North Road (the week of August 19) and West Mountain Rd. (the week of August 26) in the Banner. Myers Road will be closed the week of September 2.
The next regular meeting of the Select Board will be held on Tuesday September 3.
- 6) Public comments
There were none.
- 7) Treasurer's report: adoption of tax rate for FY 2020
Ms. Dexter explained how the tax rate is set. The spreadsheet she prepared is included below. In summary, the rate is the grand list divided by the budget as adjusted by additions and subtractions.
Mr. Whitman moved to adopt the tax rate for FY 2020 of \$.4256/\$100 valuation. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan said the budget could be moved from a floor vote to Australian ballot by voter approval. Mr. Harrington had expressed to him in an earlier conversation his concern about a small number of people attending the floor vote having outsized authority to change the budget. In the past, many residents had expressed satisfaction with the floor vote, a form of participatory democracy typical of Vermont.

8) Bid openings

- a. Cross Hill Road project for underdrains, ditching and culverts. Matt Morse, Weaver Excavating, and Kurtz Excavating were received. Morse bid \$25,900; Weaver bid \$20,700; Kurtz bid \$36,800. The bids will be passed along to the highway foreman for his review.
- b. Trumble Hill project. Morse bid \$7900; Weaver bid \$8000; Kurtz bid \$11,000. Mr. Kiernan suggested voting on this bid as there is a time limit on the funding source. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the Matt Morse bid, the low bid. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

9) Roads report

The replacing of the apron on North Rd became a bigger project, including removing trees and installing guard rails.

Underdrains on West Mtn. will be installed beginning the week of August 26. The road will be closed.

Myers Road will be closed from 7A up the hill beginning the week of Sept. 2. French drains will also be installed on Myers.

Ongoing projects are grading around town and maintenance projects.

The old garage won't be taken down until winter, or into spring 2020. The pile will be moved to the new salt shed. Non-functioning vehicles will be stored in the old garage until auction.

The roller is working well.

Mr. Whitman said he and Mr. Harrington would like to suggest that the road foreman replace the Dodge which has had a lot of problems and look at whether the Volvo should be replaced with a smaller excavator.

10) Broadband internet

Mr. Scoggins reported on Chesterfield, NH's partnership with Consolidated Communications to provide broadband fiber internet to everyone in town. The town has assumed \$2 million in bond debt to cover the costs of installing the cable. It will be paid off by a monthly user fee. Mr. Scoggins estimates that just about everybody in town would need to sign up for Shaftsbury to be able to afford this (contrary to his original guess that only a couple of hundred people would need to enroll).

Mr. Scoggins said he'd talked with Corey Chase at PUC re getting a grant to explore the feasibility of various options for Shaftsbury. Mr. Scoggins suggested pursuing such a grant. He will look into it a little more and come back to the Select Board with more information. Mr. Charlie Hall, in the audience, asked if the Town had looked into doing something similar with Comcast. Mr. Scoggins said he had not.

11) Other business

Mr. Kiernan reported that the listers recommend, with cause, reducing the appraised value of a residence at span # 57318010256 from \$191,600 to \$136,500. Mr. Krulikowski moved to so reduce the value. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Krulikowski reported the Shaftsbury fire department won an award at the Battle Day Parade.

12) Review of action items

The consolidation of the reserve funds is still under review by the town attorney, who has been away.

The road foreman will review the bids for the Cross Hill Rd. project.

Mr. Scoggins and Mr. Kiernan will look into applying for a grant to explore the feasibility of a broadband initiative.

13) Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 7:23 pm. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY
TAX RATES FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2020
Rate Adopted by Select Board August 19,
2019

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES AS VOTED AT TOWN MEETING		<u>\$1,701,804</u>		
GRAND LIST VALUE		<u>4,041,151</u>		
RATE BASED ON GRAND LIST PER \$100		0.4211		
LOCAL AGREEMENT ADJUSTMENTS				
	GRAND LIST VALUE	STATE EDUCATION RATE	EDUCATION TAXES TO BE RECOVERED	
TOWN 180				
RESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTIONS	5,100	1.2941	6,599.91	
NONRESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTION	1,200	1.4828	1,779.36	
TOWN 254				
RESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTIONS	600	1.3960	837.60	
NONRESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTION	-	1.4987	-	
TOTAL VETERANS' EXEMPTION			9,216.87	0.0023
GRANGE HALL EXEMPTION (Expires 2018)	3,559	1.4828	5,277.29	0.0013
SHAFTSBURY COMMUNITY HALL	1,113	1.4828	1,650.36	0.0004
PROVISION FOR POSSIBLE ABATEMENTS			2,000.00	0.0005
LOCAL AGREEMENT TOTAL			18,144.51	<u>0.0045</u>
TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX RATE				<u>0.4256</u>
Rate Adopted by Select Board August 19, 2019				<u>0.4256</u>

COMBINED MUNICIPAL AND EDUCATION RATES PRE \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE

		MUNICIPAL RATE	EDUCATION RATE	TOTAL RATE
DISTRICT 180 RATE -SHAFTSBURY				
RESIDENT	Shaftsbury	0.4256	1.2941	1.7197
NONRESIDENT	Shaftsbury	0.4256	1.4828	1.9084
DISTRICT 254 RATE - NORTH BENNINGTON				
RESIDENT	North Bennington	0.4256	1.3960	1.8216
NONRESIDENT	North Bennington	0.4256	1.4987	1.9243

RATE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Amount to be raised by taxes		1,701,804
Veteran's exemption		9,216.87
Grange and Community Center exemption		6,927.64
Possible Abatement		2,000.00
Total to be raised by taxes		1,719,949
Grand list * rate i.e.	0.4256	1,719,914
Difference		\$35

Submitted by:

Melanie Dexter

