

Shaftsbury Select Board
October 7, 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) Minutes
None were distributed for the meeting.
- 4) Warrants
Payroll Warrant #7, \$22,398.94: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
Check Warrant #9, \$175,286.75: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
There were none.
- 6) Public comments
A citizen said the crew cut at least a dozen trees on his property, and they were nice trees. The property is located on Shaftsbury Hollow Road near the construction project. Mr. Kiernan said the trees were in the right of way; their removal was necessary to construct the road improvement project. Mr. Kiernan promised to ask the road crew foreman to visit with the landowner the following day.
- 7) Treasurer's report
Melanie Dexter reported on September financial activities. About \$700,000 has been received in taxes. It was a normal month otherwise. The October 7 report shows more tax receipts, totaling about 13% to date.
Ms. Dexter reported an account in VT Digger on a phishing activity in a Vermont town that was successful and caused the town to lose many thousands of dollars. She recommended that the town develop a policy that wire transfers not happen except in person, never via email. She noted that everyone in the building will be taking a course re security. Mr. Kiernan said he'll be talking with the Town's IT company re beefing up security where necessary.
- 8) Road Reports
Mr. Kiernan reported that the project season is coming to an end. One more project will be done on Myers. The project west of the orchard on West Mountain will be postponed to next year. Shaftsbury Hollow will require a couple more weeks. The Paran Road water main project will need regrading, but the Town will not be responsible for the project. Guard rails on North Road will go in within two weeks of Columbus Day. Otherwise, the crew is starting to prepare for winter – ditching, mowing, grading, and so on.

Mr. Kiernan reported that Mr. Harrington and Mr. Yanotti recommend that the Town purchase a Chevy from Home Town/Ross Chevrolet for \$40,498, rather than a Dodge for about \$45,000. Mr. Harrington moved to purchase the said truck. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan reminded listeners that the funds would come from the equipment fund.

9) Revised Shaftsbury Town Plan

Mr. Scoggins reported that the Planning Commission has produced a new plan, which was formally presented to the Select Board on Sept. 25. The Select Board must hold two hearings beginning no later than 30 days after that date. Mr. Scoggins suggested holding a special meeting on Monday Oct. 14 to address changes. He also recommended that the Board set the hearing dates for November 4 and December 2, during the regular Select Board meetings. Mr. Whitman asked whether the hearing would be separated from the Town Plan hearing. All agreed to keep them separate. Mr. Scoggins outlined the remaining noticing, review and approval schedule. Mr. Whitman moved to hold hearings on the new town plan on Nov. 4 and Dec. 2. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. The next meeting will be held Oct. 14 at 6:30 pm and will be devoted to the town plan.

10) Municipal Phone Service

Mr. Kiernan said the FD is serviced by 4 accounts, the Cole Hall users by 2 accounts, and the garage by one account. Service provider BCN has been problematic and has offered poor customer service. He wishes to consolidate all with Comcast. Although the price will be slightly higher in the first year, in years two and three savings will go up. The current cost is about \$7200. The Town owns all the equipment. The new contract would start Dec. 1. Mr. Krulikowski moved to transfer all our various phone and internet services to Comcast. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11) Town Dog Ordinance

Mr. Kiernan has talked with various people, who have suggested 1) that we update the dog ordinance, 2) add in the sheriff as the enforcement agency, 3) add language regarding a sheriff visit; issuance of a summons; appearance before the judicial bureau; and applying a waiver fine. The cost could go up to more than one hundred dollars. Fifty or sixty families refuse to license their dogs. The re-write will be voted on at town meeting. The new contract with the sheriff will be separate from the town's usual contract with the sheriff. Mr. Kiernan said he wants the public to know that there will be consequences in the future.

12) Other Business

- Mr. Kiernan reported that it is time to renew the town insurance.
- The listers have reported an error or omission regarding Mr. Christopher Wright and Old First Church, which reduced the grand list by \$87,000. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the error and omission as described in the letter read by Mr. Kiernan. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Mr. Kiernan said two neighbors complained about Halloween night on Cleveland Ave. Mr. Barber said he loves it. Mr. Whitman moved to close down Cleveland Ave. for Halloween and hire three sheriffs for traffic control from 5pm to 9 pm. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.
- Mr. Harrington commended the road crew on their work on North Road.

13) Review of Action Items

- Waiting to hear from judge re consolidating reserve funds.
- Mr. Kiernan said discussions regarding details re water fund are to be postponed until contract for preliminary engineering has been issued; the engineer will be responsible for exploring financing.
- Mr. Whitman is waiting on information on securing truck loads.
- To do: warn a meeting for Monday Oct. 14 on Town Plan.

14) Executive session –personnel

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session at 7:36 pm. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

15) Adjournment