

Shaftsbury Select Board
November 4, 2019
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:35 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, and 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) Minutes were postponed to a later meeting.
- 4) Warrants
Payroll warrant #8, \$21,814.84. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Payroll warrant #9, \$22,572.78. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Check warrant #11, \$118,075.71. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
None.
- 6) Public comments
None.
- 7) Treasurer's report
Melanie Dexter reviewed the cash flow report. \$600,000 in tax income was processed on November 4 alone. She recommended that tax payers review their tax bill immediately, and consider using local preparers, who are familiar with Vermont's homestead exemption. Tax bills must be paid at the town office by 5 pm November 8, postmarked no later than Nov. 8, or paid on line by midnight on November 8 or they will be considered delinquent.
- 8) Town Plan Hearing
At 7:02 pm, a hearing on Shaftsbury's Town Plan was called to order. Mr. Scoggins introduced the plan and the process. Every eight years towns are required to prepare and adopt a plan. This year's plan adopted a new document organization, focusing on goals, policies and actions. Mr. Scoggins highlighted some of those objectives, including attracting more people to the area; internet; encouraging community involvement; streamlining the zoning bylaw to help fast track economic development; engaging in regional economic efforts; encouraging arts and eco-tourism; developing a capital improvements plan for road infrastructure; improving Cole Hall, especially the exterior and access; addressing the transfer station fee structure and receiving funds; replacing the water mains; improving broadband service; bring back an ice rink; develop a trail to the town forest; make use of trails on private lands with the permission of the landowner; and take no step to limit renewable energy development. Mr. Whitman moved to adjourn the hearing at 7:18 pm. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Scoggins then reviewed changes made by the Select Board and others suggested in a conversation with staff members of the regional commission. Some changes were made as a

result of that discussion. All changes were approved. Mr. Barber moved to adopt the revised draft. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

9) Road Reports

Mr. Kiernan said Myers Rd. would be finished on November 5. The crew is taking steps to get ready for winter. Installation of the guard rail on North Road is still scheduled. The new truck will be received no later than December. Three old trucks will be auctioned off as soon as possible. Power will be left on in the old garage through the winter (but not heat or water). The rented lot behind the old garage has been thoroughly neatened and has been returned to the owner.

10) Hazard Mitigation Grant

The Town has received a \$7250 grant to update the Hazard Mitigation plan. Mr. Kiernan will put the update out to bid.

11) FY 21 budget

Mr. Kiernan will add the ice rink and the swap shed to the budget. The Select Board received a request from the Town Clerk to increase the hours of her assistant. This will be dealt with at executive session.

12) Other Business

a) **Shires Housing** –ACCD Forms re Paran Acres Development. The Town acted as a pass-through partner for a relatively small grant that helped fund the project. Several pieces of paper work require signing to transfer all responsibility to Shires. (None pose any cost to the Town.) Those documents requiring signatures are Municipal Policies and Codes Agreement; Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan; Designation of Public Agency; Program Management Contract.

Mr. Whitman moved to sign form PM4. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Whitman moved to sign the program management form. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Whitman moved to sign form MP1 . Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Whitman moved to sign the anti-displacement and relocation plan . Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

b) **Water bid openings**

Operation and maintenance (not including billing, shutoffs, restarts or anything other than simple operation of the system): the town received one bid from ABTEC in Arlington, \$39,000 versus the less than \$25,000 paid to the water department presently.

Preliminary engineering to replace the water main: DuBois & King bid \$9000. AES Northeast out of Plattsburgh, NY bid \$13,950, which also didn't make sense. Dufresne Group of Manchester Center bid \$16,000. Otter Creek bid \$16,500.

Mr. Kiernan will get copies of all the bids out to each Select Board member.

c) **Should voters vote on the budget via Australian ballot** rather than by voice vote at town meeting? asked Mr. Harrington at the last meeting. Mr. Scoggins said the Secretary of State reports that 72%of the state's towns vote on the budget by Australian ballot. Mr. Whitman said he's against it at this point. Mr. Harrington noted that a small portion of the citizenry could cause the town much harm. Mr. Barber would like to give it more thought. Mr. Scoggins said the decision needs to be made soon, probably in the next month.

- d) Mr. Scoggins introduced an issue that had come up. Two proposals appeared before the zoning office recently – a dog kennel at Second Chance, and a veteran’s residential rehabilitation center making use of dogs as therapy located in a rural residential zone. Doesn’t the Town want to host such uses? And should the area around the Chocolate Barn and Clearbrook Farm be rezoned roadside commercial, to acknowledge facts on the ground? Mr. Scoggins asked the Select Board whether the Planning Commission should be charged with answering these questions. Mr. Whitman moved **to task the PC with expanding the roadside commercial zone to a larger portion of Route 7A, and with exploring whether kennels, especially therapy kennels, might be allowed in town.** Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- e) State AG asked that all towns join him in a **lawsuit against Purdue Pharma** and the Sackler family. We are part of it unless we opt out by late November. The board agreed to not opt out of the class action lawsuit.
- f) Mr. Kiernan would like to devote the next meeting to the **budget** and perhaps begin earlier with an executive session to discuss payroll.

13) Review of Action Items

- 14) Mr. Whitman moved to enter executive session at about 7:42 p.m. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
- 15) Mr. Whitman made a motion to return to regular session at 8:16 p,m, seconded by Mr, Harrington, motion passes 4-0-0.
- 16) Mr. Whitman makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Harrington Motion passes 4-0-0. Adjournment at 8:17 p.m.