

Shaftsbury Select Board
December 16, 2019
6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Art Whitman, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan and residents Peter Levin and Charlie Hall.
- 2) Conflict of interest statement
No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
- 3) Minutes
Minutes were postponed to the next meeting.
- 4) Warrants
Payroll warrant # 11: \$21,339.25. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Barber seconded. The motion was approved 4-0-0.
Check warrant #15: \$135,725.22. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Barber seconded. The motion was approved 4-0-0.
- 5) Announcements
Mr. Scoggins reported that the following town officer positions will be open as of March 2020: two Select Board positions; an open and one expiring position on the Planning Commission; an open position and an alternative position on the Development Review Board.
- 6) Public comments
Mr. Levin submitted a letter to the Water Board and the Select Board. He summarized it as: there is an ongoing problem with his water bill, going back two years. He believes that his water meter has failed (that air has gotten into his line) and he is owed back payments, penalties, and payment for stress.
- 7) Treasurer's report
Melanie Dexter reported on the November cash flow, which included tax receipts. Expenses are normal for the period and essentially right on target. The December cash flow includes all education spending, and leaves about a million dollars to carry the Town through the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Dexter is working on responses to the external audit.
- 8) Budget Session
 - Recreation Committee. Deena Ruege reported that a grant from the state paid for a playground, recycling bins, and other items at Howard Park. Improvements will be made to a drainage system at the Park. State aid will help. Ms. Ruege said funds are needed for water pipes and other infrastructure and to hire a contractor to shut down and restart the water system each year. Mr. Kiernan said a year-round portapotty is an additional cost. There is some thought about expanding the pavilion. The girls' bathroom door will be replaced in spring 2020. Mr. Kiernan said he would be looking into seeking bids to install the ice rink at Cleveland Avenue. There are some funds in the budget. A bequest to the Park will pay for a new sign at the entrance to Howard Park.

- Planning Commission. Chris Williams said the Select Board should expect to see something from the Planning Commission in the near future regarding a trail to the Town forest. He suggested the zoning administrator might receive a pay raise. (Mr. Kiernan said an increase is already built into the budget.)

- Shaftsbury Fire Department. Mr. Joe Vadakan reported that about five years ago the department moved funds from the equipment fund to the facilities fund. Facilities are now in good shape, so the department would like to return to budgets of about five years ago, when most of the budget was dedicated to equipment. For example, the pagers are now seventeen years old. They must be replaced, maybe three or four at a time. (A pager costs about \$550.) Pagers are necessary because cell coverage is somewhat spotty. The new truck will require a new mobile radio. Some members need new gear. Some hose needs replacing. But the budget will remain essentially level funded, as these funds are simply being moved from facilities to equipment.

Mr. Vadakan said the chassis for the new truck has been built. It should be delivered autumn 2020. The carpet in the firehouse upstairs is being removed and the floor will be refinished.

- DPW: Mr. Kiernan described a graphic illustrating where the \$900,000 DPW budget goes: the vast majority goes to wages and benefits; the next largest chunk goes to construction and maintenance; the third chunk to equipment maintenance; the remainder is devoted to parks, streets, lights, and the garage.

The significant changes to the budget include an additional \$2500 for tree work and \$2000 for operating supplies. Dust control is up \$10,000. Rental fees will go up. Maintenance costs will go up to about \$38,000 for nineteen vehicles (an increase of \$10,000). \$1500 will be added to the garage well and water testing and treatment program. For reserve funds, \$10,000 more will be set aside for equipment; \$10,000 more for paving; the culvert reserve will be doubled to \$10,000; the Class 3 road fund will go up \$6,000. Mr. Kiernan described a few culverts that are to be replaced. The overall increase in non-administrative highway funding will be \$75,000, 84% of the entire budget increase.

Several tens of thousands of dollars are already promised in state grants for FY 2021.

9) Road report

The Town will seek an extension for the culvert/bridge grant at Hollow Hideaway. Meanwhile, it will be stabilized.

The DPW will replace the 2009 single axle dump truck. An RFP will be going out shortly. Funds will come from the reserve fund and trade-ins. It will also try to sell the traxscavator.

10) Award Water Pipeline Engineering Bid

Bids were received from Otter Creek, Dubois & King, and Dufresne. All three were interviewed and all three were found to be highly qualified. Mr. Scoggins, Mr. Whitman, and Mr. Kiernan recommend Dufresne, because it is local, because the chief engineer works often with VTrans here, and because the company has experience with replacing concrete asbestos by bursting the pipe. Their bid was \$16,000, with a \$1300 add-on to coordinate with the lender and engineers. Mr. Whitman moved to award the study to Dufresne. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0,

11) Award Hazard Mitigation Study Bid

One bid was received, from BCRC, for \$10,100. Because the town already has a grant to help fund the study, the town's share will be about \$2500. Mr. Whitman moved to accept the bid from BCRC. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

12) Internet: CUD on March Ballot

Mr. Scoggins described the Southern Vermont Communication Union District (CUD), which is like a water district, with the goal of extending Internet service to under-served areas of Bennington County. There is no downside for voting “yes” to joining a CUD. No taxes can ever be levied for a CUD, by state law. Many of the surrounding towns have agreed to participate, and others will be approached.

13) Other Business

14) Review of Action Items

When the budget has settled, it will be put up on the website.

Mr. Whitman moved to enter executive session to discuss a contract. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

15) Adjournment