

Shaftsbury Select Board Special Meeting
July 20, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Selectmen Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, Joe Barber and Art Whitman. Also present were town administrator David Kiernan and treasurer Melanie Dexter. Various citizens were also present.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

By roll call, it was confirmed that no one present had a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

By unanimous vote, the following minutes were approved:

2020.06.01 Water Board
2020.06.15 Water Board
2020.06.15 Selectboard
2020.07.06 Water Board
2020.07.06 Selectboard

4. Warrants

Check warrant #2, \$29,238.72. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote was approved 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant #1, \$23,436.65. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote was approved 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins reminded listeners that voting will take place at the town garage, not at the firehouse. He suggested that voters vote by mail-in ballot, which can be requested at the Town website or the state website.

6. Public Comments—by teleconference

Ms. Mellinger asked about the new shed for the transfer station. Mr. Kiernan said the attendant would probably have a new shed by mid-autumn. Mr. Kiernan said the Casella contract expires in summer 2021.

7. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter reported that the first quarterly highway state aid payment was received. The first draw on the line of credit was made.

Ms. Dexter requested a discussion on waiving the penalty for a late homestead filing. Mr. Scoggins said a penalty puts a paperwork burden on the treasurer. Ms. Dexter said the penalty creates a good deal of confusion, especially for those who make use of escrow accounts. The penalty doesn't bring in substantial sums for the town. Mr. Harrington moved to waive the fee for a late homestead filing. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman moved to postpone the question. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote passed 5-0-0.

8. Emergency Management Report

Mr. Dansereau was unable to attend. Mr. Scoggins noted that an outbreak has apparently not occurred in the Manchester/Londonderry area.

The group discussed adopting an emergency order to wear face coverings. The Select Board has the authority to order that citizens wear a face mask in indoor public spaces. Mr. Scoggins summarized a draft order, becoming effective July 21 and in effect until rescinded by the Select Board or upon the cancellation of the governor's emergency order. Mr. Whitman moved to adopt the order. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman reported that Bob Paulin is desperate for a reason to tell customers they must wear a mask to enter. Mr. Scoggins said the order would be about providing back up to retailers. Board members shared their opinions – some for and some against the order. Members of the public shared their opinions. Common themes were how important it is to keep the community safe, to protect the common good, to respect others. Mr. Whitman moved to amend the motion that the sign to be provided businesses come in two forms – one with the penalty information and one without, to be used at the owner's discretion. Mr. Scoggins seconded the motion. Mr. Kiernan said he has many questions about the penalties and their relationship to the state's emergency order, on which the town order is built. He asked that he be given time to explore the penalty question. Upon roll call vote, the sign amendment failed 0-0-5. Mr. Scoggins asked that the vote be taken on whether the order should be adopted effective July 21. Upon roll call vote, the face mask order passed 5-0-0.

9. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that work will continue on the flats on Murphy Hill near Sally Gannon. Mowing will continue. Regravelling will be undertaken. A ponding issue will be addressed at Myers at Tinkham. Grading will continue as needed.

- Contract award Shaftsbury Hollow Culvert

Mr. Kiernan said the project could be funded using FY 21 and FY 22 Class 3 Road funds (totalling \$200,000), the original \$175,000 grant, and some monies in the culvert reserve fund. That could still leave \$320,000 for construction and maintenance for FY 21, and \$380,000 in FY 22. The paving and culvert reserve funds would also be available. Mr. Scoggins wondered if that would leave the town vulnerable to bigger issues, and could the town borrow money for a big unexpected project as easily as it could borrow for the Shaftsbury Hollow culvert. Mr. Kiernan said that in a bind, the town could borrow monies for emergency work. The board agreed to pursue Mr. Kiernan's suggested method of paying for the project.

Mr. Kiernan said Chris Ponessi, the original engineer, and Josh Carvajal, the state's ANR engineer, reviewed the Weaver proposal and found it satisfactory. Mr. Whitman moved to award the bid for the culvert to Weaver Construction for \$386,312.50 over a period beginning no later than the end of June 2121 and ending no earlier than July or August of FY 22, with possible extension if needed. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman clarified that Mr. Weaver knows the project is not to start until next summer. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0-0.

- Expansion of width of Cold Spring Road.

The road does not meet MRGP standards. Trees will need to be removed from the ROW.

- On Line auction surplus equipment

Mr. Kiernan said he would use an on-line organization house and expect to clear \$15,000 to \$20,000. North Bennington has used the company. Items to be sold include the Caterpillar track loader, Ford 550, 1995 International, 2002 John Deere 4100, the old pickup in the weeds, a heavy duty utility body, and miscellaneous office items. There were no objections to proceeding.

- Bid proposal removal of old Town garage Buck Hill Road

Mr. Kiernan had forgotten that the building must first be tested for asbestos. He will contract with Catamount of Wilmington, for about \$2000. There was no objection to hiring Catamount.

Norshaft Lions has volunteered labor for repairs and maintenance to the pavilion at Howard Park. The question was raised as to reimbursing them for materials. Mr. Whitman said that Norshaft has funds enough to advance the cost of the Howard Park invoices.

10. Iberia Mo. offer to purchase fire truck

An offer of \$110,000 from Iberia Rural Fire of Iberia MO has been made for the Fire Department's 2006 International pumper truck. The Town was asking for \$115,000. The truck will be sold to that entity. A \$5000 deposit has been sent. Mr. Whitman moved to sell the fire truck to the Iberia MO folks for \$110,000. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 5-0-0.

11. Other Business

Mr. Whitman moved to amend the cemetery mowing contract with Sycamore Landscaping to require WC coverage as recommended by the Town's insurer at a cost of about \$1200. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman moved to amend the motion to read that the contract amount will be adjusted by the cost of that insurance. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0-0. A roll call vote was called on the original motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12. Action items

Old

- Mr. Kiernan's review of the stop sign on Tinkham Hill. He said the crew is waiting for a Yield sign on Laclair (the former sign was stolen) and will then take down the Stop sign. It is a difficult location and needs to be addressed by the new traffic ordinance.
- Granger Hollow street sign is indeed in the wrong place and will be relocated.
- Yannotti and Ponessi reviewed the bid for the Shaftsbury Hollow culvert.
- Mr. Whitman had a conversation with Chris Williams about what the Select Board wanted regarding RC.
- Mr. Kiernan asked Bennington why the coin drop request was denied. The police department regularly denies such applications. Upon learning what the state's guidelines are, the group rescinded its proposal.

New

- Ms. Dexter will create a list of pros and cons re waiving the late penalty for the homestead exemption.
- Mr. Kiernan will explore putting language re penalties for not wearing masks on signs to be distributed to businesses around town.
- A plan for widening Cold Spring Rd. will be pursued.
- Mr. Kiernan will hire a firm to assess the presence of asbestos in the old garage.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Whitman moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which upon roll call vote passed 5-0-0.