

Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

November 2, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:30 p.m. Present were select board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Tony Krulikowski, Ken Harrington, Joe Barber, and Art Whitman. 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

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes for October 19. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan added to "other business" a discussion of the garage auction.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #8, \$22,643.94. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #14, \$61,753.39. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins noted that the polling place for the November 3 election is the new garage. Mr. Whitman asked that those coming to the polls bring the ballot sent them in the mail to avoid having to sign an affidavit regarding it.

Mr. Scoggins noted that there are openings on the DRB and PC. Interested persons should contact Mr. Scoggins or the town administrator David Kiernan.

6. Public Comments

A citizen asked if the bins at the recycling center could be made more accessible. She said the small, high windows make it hard to deposit materials in the bin. Mr. Kiernan said he has spoken with the Casella employee who works there, but hasn't gotten much response to this and other questions he's asked. The layout of the operation is not as originally designed and could be altered for greater efficiency. He said discussions will need to be completed soon as the contract expires May 1, 2021. There are no vendors other than Casella available to the Town.

7. Treasurers Report

Melanie Dexter said it is now taxes all the time. In the last two days she has processed \$1.3 million in taxes. All receipts are in the mail. Please remember to stamp your return envelope. She tries to check the payment drop box three times daily.

8. DPW report

The crew replaced a culvert at Airport and Cider Mill this morning. It became a problem over the weekend. The crew will continue grading throughout the town. Brush cutting will happen on Trumbull Hill. The crew is beginning to haul sand for winter storage at the garage. Mr. Barber discovered in his notes that the crew had 160 tons in storage at the end of the winter this year. Mr. Kiernan said the town goes back and forth between Pete's Tires and Bennington Tire. He wasn't sure why a recent purchase

chose Pete's over Bennington Tire. Mr. Whitman said he hoped the town could shop locally as much as possible. Mr. Harrington asked how much salt was saved by storing it inside.

9. Dog Kennel bylaw

Mr. Scoggins reported that the Planning Commission, at the request of the Select Board, has proposed a kennel bylaw. Mr. Scoggins outlined its major provisions: conditional use, 5-acre lot minimum, and 100' setback. In order to place the item on the March 2021 ballot, hearings by the Planning Commission and Select Board will be held as required by law. Mr. Krulikowski noted that the genesis of the request was a proposal to open a kennel/veterans rehabilitation facility on Myers Road. Mr. Whitman moved to inform the Planning Commission that the Select Board is in favor of proceeding. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. Other Business

Rick Kobik, a principal at the Community House, has inquired whether a petition to place on the ballot a tax exemption for the House would be required. It would be more difficult to secure petition signatures in this time of COVID. Mr. Kobik said such a petition had been submitted five years ago. The measure would expire in 2021. He noted that a fee is sometimes required for use of the Community House, even by members. Mr. Whitman moved to place the exemption on the ballot without requiring a petition. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Mr. Kiernan confirmed by reading the text of the law that an exemption of up to five years is allowed. Mr. Kiernan said Mr. Kobik should prepare a text of the question for incorporation in the ballot, and submit it to the Town Clerk. No signature is required. The motion to place on the ballot in March a tax exemption for the Community House passed 5-0-0.

A form PM1, which authorizes Mr. Kiernan to have about \$400,000 from the state passed through the town to Shires Housing and to close out the grant for Lake Paran Village, must be signed. Mr. Krulikowski moved to sign the PM1 agreement to send the final money to Shires Housing for the Lake Paran Village. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

It is time to renew the \$2400 contract for annual maintenance on the town's on line mapping program. Mr. Whitman moved to renew the contract with CAI Technologies for \$2400. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan asked that petitions for community appropriations be waived this year. Mr. Krulikowski moved that the requirement that any new request for a community appropriation be accompanied by a petition be waived, and that instead a representative of the organization appear before the Select Board at a remote meeting to describe the request. Mr. Whitman moved that any request for an increase in an existing appropriation be similarly treated. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. The amendment passed 5-0-0. The amended motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Kiernan reported that the old garage was put up for bid on the web on Auctions International. The listing got over 4000 views and 61 bids. The high bid was \$5100. Mr. Kiernan has contacted that company, which is out of Rutland, and he and the DPW foreman are vetting the company. The company has visited the building twice. Mr. Kiernan and the town attorney wrote up an addendum to the standard agreement which will ensure that anyone who starts will indeed finish the task. The award must be made by November 30. The contract would specify that everything but the pad be removed. The company would pay up front. Standard commercial liability insurance would be required. Mr. Whitman moved to accept the bid from Nat Miller LLC pending fulfillment of the bid requirements. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Harrington said he'd been trying to get hold of someone at BCRC to get help to keep the Stanley Tools complex operating in some way. Mr. Scoggins will arrange to have someone get back to Mr. Harrington.

11. Public Comments

There were none.

12. Review of Action Items

- Mr. Kiernan will continue to work with Casella to re-jigger the layout of the recycling containers.
- Mr. Kiernan will find out how much the town has saved on salt by keeping it inside the salt shed.
- A request for tax exemption for the Community House will be submitted by Rick Kobik to the town clerk for inclusion on the March ballot.
- Mr. Scoggins will ensure that the appropriate person from BCRC gets back to Mr. Harrington about the old Stanley Tools facility.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.