

Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting

February 1, 2021

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), Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, Art Whitman, and Joe Barber, and town administrator David Kiernan. Mr. Scoggins adjusted the agenda.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one had a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins noted that terms are ending on the Planning Commission and Development Review Board. Interested parties should let Mr. Kiernan or Mr. Scoggins know.

Mr. Scoggins noted that no votes will be taken by a floor vote at this year's Town Meeting, but rather by Australian ballot on the Tuesday after the first Monday in March. A remote informational meeting will be held the Sunday before the vote. More information about Town Meeting can be found on the Town website.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Minutes

Mr. Harrington moved to approve the January 18 minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

6. Warrants

Payroll warrant #15, \$26,294.98. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #25, \$77,424.53. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter described the cash flow report. She called attention to the civil fines, \$2.50, which represent the Town's share of traffic tickets. She reminded the board that the cash balance is what is left to spend in the fiscal year. It is much more than last year, thanks to the sale of many items including the town garage.

She said it appears we're having a normal delinquent tax year.

Expenditures are "just like" last year's.

Regarding the reserve funds, Ms. Dexter said there was nothing much to note. Mr. Scoggins asked about interest on the reserve funds, which it turns out is a fraction of a percent.

8. Hazard Mitigation Plan final –Mike Batcher BCRC

Mr. Batcher reported that since the Select Board initiated the hazard mitigation planning effort in April 2020, the planning team has held six meetings and drafted a plan. He described the plan as an effort to identify measures the Town can take to proactively address natural hazards (in contrast, for example, to responding to emergencies).

The hazards are for the most part those identified by the state hazard mitigation plan.

Responses to hazards might include education and outreach, implementing stormwater master plan recommendations, and others. Such responses are not required, but can in many cases be funded by state and federal funding programs when needed.

Other towns in the county have received funding for generators, road improvements, and others.

The process developed by the state and FEMA requires that the Town share the plan with neighboring communities, by email and by posting prominently on the website. Any comments can be addressed, either by the Select Board or by Mr. Batcher.

Mr. Scoggins asked for more time to review the plan, and said that without objection the Select Board will approve the Plan at the next meeting. Mr. Batcher need not attend that meeting. Mr. Batcher will make some very minor changes he'd noticed in a final review and send that draft to Mr. Scoggins.

Mr. Scoggins asked if any glaring needs came up in the planning process and Mr. Batcher and Mr. Kiernan said none arose.

9. Transfer Station-Casella

Citizens have recently made complaints about conditions at the station, including a Casella employee and citizens not wearing masks. Mr. Scoggins noted other issues, including a poorly designed recycling bin access.

Mr. Kiernan said a container will be delivered this week that will obviate the issue with recycling access. He said Casella plans to remove the scale, with unknown consequences at this time. He said the Casella employee's shed has been moved, making it easier to find the employee when needed. It is Casella's policy that employees wear masks.

The Town's contract with Casella expires in about three months. Mr. Scoggins said he is concerned that Casella has a monopoly in the County. He asked Mr. Batcher if a county-wide contract with Casella might be a possibility. Mr. Batcher said Stu Hurd of Bennington had broached the idea. Mr. Batcher thought it needed the attention of the Towns to move forward. Mr. Batcher noted that there are other haulers. Mr. Kiernan noted those haulers would be more expensive for the towns. He said there are many options for both Casella and the towns, that we need to make disposal more efficient, while keeping it affordable for citizens. Mr. Batcher suggested the towns do an economic analysis of what would be needed, what would be desirable, and at what cost. Mr. Kiernan said a solid waste district would have much more bargaining power, but it would get pushback because it would be another government entity.

10. DPW report

Mr. Kiernan said the update is: snow, in small and large amounts. The crew has had to be out a lot in the last couple of weeks, plowing and sanding. Mr. Barber said the crew has done a great job on Cleveland Avenue.

11. CAI mapping annual contract renewal

Mr. Kiernan said we pay CAI \$2000 annually to maintain the mapping program. Mr. Scoggins asked about the disconnect between Grand List parcel numbers and CAI parcel numbers. Mr. Kiernan said he would get an update for the board.

Mr. Harrington moved to renew the annual contract for \$2000 with CAI. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. (It was noted that the mapping program is a public service available to all.) The motion passed 5-0-0.

12. Annual VT State weight limit road and bridge request

Mr. Kiernan noted that he is required to ask the board every year if they wish to file a weight limit request with the state. Mr. Harrington moved to take no action regarding weight limits on roads. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

13. Other Business

There was none.

14. Review of Action Items

Mr. Scoggins will review the hazard mitigation plan, place it on the website, and the board will vote on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Kiernan will clarify the parcel number issue.

15. Executive session-pending legal issues

At about 7:28 p.m. Mr. Harrington moved to enter executive session to address a legal matter. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Scoggins noted that the meeting would be adjourned upon leaving executive session.

16. The board returned from executive session at 7:42p and adjourned.