

Shaftsbury Selectboard
Nov. 1 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were selectmen Art Whitman (chair), Ken Harrington, Tony Krulikowski, Mike Cichanowski, 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.

Mr. Whitman asked to delete item 11 on the agenda (cemetery rules) as the cemetery committee would like to review them further.

3. Minutes

No minutes were distributed.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #9, \$22,422.02. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #13, \$43,825.40. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman announced that November 2 is election day. A vote to reconstruct Spinelli Field at MAUHS at a cost of \$3.5 million will be held at Cole Hall, except for those who reside in district 1, who will vote at the N. Bennington train station. Polls are open 10a-7p. He urged citizens to vote on this controversial matter.

For those on the Board of Civil Authority (Justices of the Peace, selectmen, and the town clerk), a meeting regarding redistricting in Shaftsbury will be held at Cole Hall on November 6 (this Thursday), at 6:30 p.m.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter reported that one third of the total taxes due were received as of last Thursday. The quarterly highway state aid check came in, and some Covid funds. She will be working 9a-5p this week. She reminded people to use the drop box outside the Cole Hall entrance if they wish. Or, on line payment costs only \$1.50 on ECheck payments (available at the website). She cautioned against dropping checks off in USPS outdoor mailboxes; it appears that the Shaftsbury Post Office was recently broken into. Taxes are due by November 10.

She and Mr. Kiernan are looking into the possibility of having a fraud audit done, which will alert her to additional steps she can take to protect town accounts and citizens.

8. DPW report

Mr. Kiernan reported that the crews are grading and getting equipment ready for winter. The roads are generally in good shape. At the next Select Board meeting the DPW will propose buying a new dump truck, paving Buck Hill Road, and replacing a culvert at the intersection of Bouplon Hollow and Shaftsbury Hollow Roads in FY 2023.

9. SB review of proposed 2022 Bylaw Revisions – move to hold public hearing 12-6

Chris Williams, chair of the planning commission, presented the planning commissions proposed revisions to the town's bylaws. Those revisions include:

- A new section on boundary line adjustments
- A new bylaw regarding kennels (a concept not at all covered in the current bylaw). The goal was to set up guardrails which at once allow the use but at the same time protect neighbors from its impacts.
- The resolution of a conflict in the bylaw regarding swimming pools
- The prohibition of private landing strips and helipads
- The extension of grandfathering of nonconforming commercial uses from one year to two years.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the bylaw on December 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Once approved by the Select Board, the matters will go to ballot at town meeting in March. Mr. Kiernan suggested that the Board can decide to array each issue as a separate ballot item, giving voters the maximum number of voting options, at the time of the public hearing.

10. Request to Board Public Trustees – GW Hawkins Fund – Server Replacement

Mr. Kiernan said the town's server had to be replaced at a cost of \$14,000. The replacement wasn't in the budget. He asked the Board to move to withdraw \$10,000 from the GW Hawkins Fund to cover the larger portion of that cost, the remainder of which has been covered with funds found elsewhere. Mr. Krulikowski moved to request the Board of Public Trustees to withdraw \$10,000 from the GW Hawkins fund to cover part of the cost of a new server. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan will craft the letter. The Board of Public Trustees will consider the request at their next meeting.

11. Shaftsbury Cemeteries Rules – Minor correction
Tabled.

12. Review of Action Items

- Mr. Kiernan will get warnings regarding the hearing on bylaw revisions to the Bennington Banner.
- Mr. Kiernan will craft a letter re requesting \$10,000 from the Hawkins Fund.
- Mr. Kiernan said he hopes to craft a RFP for a LULA-like elevator system for Cole Hall. He said there are grant programs that can assist in renovating Cole Hall.
- A warning re a Water Board matter will be posted after hearing from counsel.

13. Adjournment

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