

**MINUTES OF THE SHAFTSBURY SELECT BOARD
SEPTEMBER 29, 2008
COLE HALL
SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT**

Board Present: **Lon McClintock (Chairman), Cinda Morse, Bill Pennebaker, Wynn Metcalfe, Karen Mellinger**

Others Present: **Larry Johnson, Joe Vadakin (Fire Chief), Michael Taylor (Fire Department), Peter Cross, Iris Olmstead, Mike Gleason (Bennington Banner), Aaron Chrostowsky (Town Administrator), Susan Swasta (Recording Secretary)**

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Lon McClintock called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Announcements:

Chairman McClintock congratulated Shaftsbury resident Aaron Barrett on becoming an Eagle Scout.

Chairman McClintock reported that he had received a letter from Buzz Surwilo of the Vermont Solid Waste Management Program. The letter acknowledges Bill Pennebaker's civic-minded efforts and hard work on methane remediation. Chairman McClintock thanked and congratulated Mr. Pennebaker.

Wynn Metcalfe recognized TAM, Inc. for a recent incident in which a Shaftsbury resident lost three rings in the trash. TAM shut down operations and had employees go through the dumpsters until the rings were found.

Karen Mellinger acknowledged the Fire Department for their terrific response to recent incidents.

Bill Pennebaker announced that the Planning Commission has completed the first draft of a revised Town Plan. All are invited to comment on it tomorrow night.

Aaron Chrostowsky announced new transfer station access sticker and brush disposal fees, and gave information on upcoming Hazardous Waste and Free Tire Day. Ms. Mellinger noted that metal disposal is now free all of the time.

3. Conflict of Interest Statement:

Chairman McClintock asked if any Board member has a conflict of interest with any topic on tonight's agenda. None did.

4. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

5. Water System Public Improvement Project:

Chairman McClintock stated that the Select Board needs to approve the water project bond vote warning for the November 4 ballot. Ms. Mellinger, Water Board Chairperson, read the warning. She explained that they are seeking a bond now because money is available from the state at 3% interest. The improvements to the water system are state-mandated, and if the bond vote does not pass, the requirements will remain. The state requires eight-inch mains for hydrants, so the Town's four-inch and six-inch mains must be replaced. Low cost loan money will probably not be available again in the near future. The cost of the twenty year loan will be borne by water users

only, but must be voted on by the whole Town because the Town is the entity taking on the loan.

The Water Department has come up with a flat charge to water users based on average residential use, which constitutes a unit. A typical household would be one unit, and a larger institution like the school would be charged for multiple units. Ms. Mellinger stated that anyone with questions may call her or Water Superintendent Joe Herrmann. There will be an informational meeting on the evening of November 3.

Shaftsbury resident Peter Cross asked what will happen if the bond is voted down. Mr. Chrostowsky replied that they would probably put it on the ballot again in March, since it could be voted on twice in one year. Chairman McClintock noted that the cost to the typical water user would be about \$7 per month.

Ms. Morse made motion to approve the water project bond vote warning as presented. Mr. Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Chrostowsky said that the Board needs to approve the final design construction application for the water project tonight. Mr. Pennebaker suggested that the application be circulated so that they can look at it before voting. Ms. Mellinger asked Board members to look at the newsletter on the project. She wants their approval before it goes out this week.

6. Village Center Designation:

Chairman McClintock stated that discussion of the Village Center Designation will be postponed until the next meeting because the final map is not ready yet.

7. Dust Control Plan:

Chairman McClintock said that Board members have all received Road Foreman Ron Daniels' map of heavy-traffic road sections to be treated with calcium chloride. Mr. Chrostowsky stated that the estimated mileage is 23.52. At a cost of 88 cents per gallon, application of a 16% chloride concentration on these sections will cost \$10,348.80.

Ms. Mellinger asked if any chloride has been put down since the last meeting, given that there has been lots of rain. Mr. Chrostowsky replied that he is not aware of any chloride treatment having been done. Ms. Mellinger asked if it is too late in the season to grade and apply chloride to all of this road mileage. She asked if it would be better to wait until spring. Chairman McClintock said that they have to trust Mr. Daniels' judgment on this, and Mr. Chrostowsky added that he is not certain that no roads have been treated. After further discussion, Chairman McClintock said he will talk to Mr. Daniels about this at their Wednesday morning meeting. He noted that the Board has already approved \$7,000 for chloride. Ms. Morse suggested that they discuss the remaining \$3,500 after the budget discussion. All agreed.

8. Current Budget Adjustment Plan:

Chairman McClintock stated that Head Lister Angie Abbatello is OK with the freeze on \$5000 of reappraisal funds as long as the freeze is across the board for all departments, does not take the full amount budgeted, and is subject to being put back if conditions improve. Mr. Chrostowsky reported that Development Review Board (DRB) Chairperson Phylis Porio is OK with the \$1,000 freeze on professional services funds, but hasn't discussed it with her whole board.

Fire Chief Joe Vadakin came to the table to discuss the proposed freeze on fire department funds. He preceded the discussion by announcing that the fire department's work in the Brownell salvage yard fire had been given a cover photo in Firehouse magazine, and they had been awarded a plaque. He passed the magazine around.

Chief Vadakin reported that he had just found out today that they have to replace a pump on an eight-year-old truck, at a cost of \$10,000. He hopes it is under warranty. In addition, the engine of one of the other trucks began to smoke yesterday, and will probably need a new head gasket, which will be a major repair. There is only \$8,000 in the equipment fund, so they will have to come up from \$2,000 from somewhere else. Chief Vadakin went over other necessary expenditures on breathing devices, air bottles, and extrication tools inspection. Given these circumstances, he does not see how \$4,000 can be frozen from the equipment fund.

There was a discussion of the pump which must be replaced, and Chief Vadakin explained that it is due to the corrosion from foam residue. He said that maintenance was performed correctly, but this was a design flaw that has since been corrected by the manufacturer with protective rods. He said there may be a recall down the road, but they can't count on it. There was further discussion of the repair, and Chief Vadakin said he will have more information at the end of the week, since this just happened.

Chairman McClintock said that they may need to take the amount saved on the Fire Department insurance and bond and put it back in the budget to cover truck repair. Mr. Metcalfe asked about the status of reimbursement to the fire department for their work on the recent accident on Rte. 7A. Chief Vadakin replied that paperwork had been submitted, but they have been applying for reimbursement for incidents all summer, and have yet to receive anything. There was discussion of the reimbursement issue.

Ms. Mellinger asked whether it might be a good idea to get the Town's state representative involved, in order to try to get a state statute so that towns may submit bills to insurance companies. Mr. Chrostowsky noted that Rep. Alice Miller had said that if they draft language, she will pursue it.

Chairman McClintock asked Chief Vadakin to get back to them when he knows more. Chief Vadakin said he will take \$7,000 from the fire truck fund and probably \$3,000 from the equipment fund. Mr. Chrostowsky suggested using money from the reserve fund, since this is a major expenditure to an active truck that will last more than one fiscal year. Chief Vadakin reviewed the expenditures from the equipment fund and the communication fund. He will report back to the Board this week. Chairman McClintock thanked him for coming out.

Chairman McClintock went over the budget amounts that are still subject to the budget freeze: \$5,000 from the reappraisal fund, \$1,000 from DRB professional services, \$1,000 from the tree warden, \$1,500 from the landfill cap payment, \$2,000 from highway subcontracting, \$4,000 from tub grinding of brush, and \$11,500 from calcium chloride. The chloride amount may be adjusted when they hear back from Mr. Daniels.

Ms. Morse made motion to approve the budget freeze amounts as listed. Mr. Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

9. Review and Approve Minutes:

September 22, 2008 Select Board minutes

Ms. Morse made motion to approve September 22, 2008 minutes. Ms. Mellinger seconded.

The following correction to the September 22, 2008 minutes was requested:

On page 2, Item 5 (Dust Control), last paragraph, in the first sentence: "Cooper" is changed to "Cowper."

Motion to approve September 22, 2008 minutes as amended carried 5-0-0.

10. Review and Approve Meeting Warrants:

The following warrants were presented for approval:

Payroll Warrant PR#13: \$ 9,471.32

Ms. Morse made motion to pay PR Warrant #13. Ms. Mellinger seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

General Warrant AP#12: \$ 16,023.20 (diesel fuel, gravel, shelving for Swap Shed, electrical work)

Ms. Morse made motion to pay AP Warrant #12. Mr. Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

11. Town Administrator Update:

Mr. Chrostowsky reported that the worker's compensation premium adjustment has been submitted, and he is waiting to hear back from the insurance company. Insurance agent Dave Newell thinks they will get some money back.

Mr. Chrostowsky reported good progress on landfill cap mowing. He suggested fixing the shed at the landfill to store the mower. There was discussion of putting a larger door on the methane remediation shed that is not being used. Mr. Metcalfe asked what happened to the tin shed it had been stored in, and Mr. Chrostowsky replied that it's easier to leave the mower at the landfill. Mr. Metcalfe said that they should be putting the mower under cover every night in the tin shed, and that it is not that hard to bring it down from the landfill.

Mr. Chrostowsky reported that the swap shed is being painted and having shelves put in. New fees have been posted at the transfer station. Access stickers are being sold there and at Cole Hall. It was decided that a constable is not needed to enforce the new sticker policy. This will be handled by the attendant and by Solid Waste Committee members.

Mr. Chrostowsky reported that the trench has been dug and the conduit installed for methane remediation. Electrical work will be finished soon. Mr. Chrostowsky asked Board members to sign up for Hazardous Waste Day. He reported on sidewalk project progress and said that he is working on a historic preservation grant with Chuck Putney.

Chairman McClintock asked if they have received bids for Cole Hall roof repair. Mr. Chrostowsky replied that he is waiting for a bid from Doxsee. There was a brief discussion of budget changes. Ms. Morse said it would be useful to get this information ahead of time so they can look at it in advance. There was discussion of the possibility of separating highway and fire department fuel accounts, which are currently both under the highway department. Mr. Metcalfe suggested putting a clipboard at the pump to record amounts and department whenever a truck is refueled. All agreed that this is a good idea. Chairman McClintock and Mr. Chrostowsky will follow up on it.

12. Other Business:

Chairman McClintock stated that they received a letter from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns concerning the Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Chrostowsky fills one slot on the committee, and there is a vacancy for another member. Mr. Pennebaker said he will ask Planning Commission members about it, and Ms. Morse said she will be glad to do it if they are not interested. The committee determines regional highway projects.

Mr. Metcalfe asked that they get back to the plan of having each Board member bring his or her department or committee liaison to a meeting. Ms. Morse noted that recent agendas have been full, and said that her scheduled discussion of the village center designation will involve her

liaison, the Economic Development Committee.

The vote on the water project construction application, postponed earlier in the meeting, was taken now.

Ms. Mellinger made motion to approve the construction application for the water system improvement project. Ms. Morse seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Chairman McClintock stated that Mr. Chrostowsky has submitted an application for a better backroads program grant. This would be used for road drainage work,

The Board decided to meet next Monday.

Ms. Morse made motion to go into Executive Session (Personnel). Ms. Mellinger seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:45 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Swasta**