

**Town of Shaftsbury  
Selectboard Special Meeting  
Minutes  
November 25, 2013**

Members Present: Karen Mellinger, Carl Korman, Ken Harrington, Mitchell Race, Tim Scoggins

Others Present: Ken Moriarty, Road crew; Terry Stacy, Ron Jennings, Dave Worthington; Shawn Sterling (Recording Secretary); Margy Becker, Town Administrator;

**1. Call to Order**

Called to order by Karen Mellinger at 5:00P.M.

**2. Conflict of Interest** - No Conflict to report.

**3. Approval of Warrants**

**Motion to approve Check Warrant #17 in the amount of \$214,184.31. Moved by Carl Korman/Mitchell Race 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.** \$200,603.06 of this warrant is to pay back the tax anticipation note from July.

**Motion to approve Payroll Warrant #10 in the amount of \$15,938.62. Moved by Carl Korman/Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

**4. Announcements** - There were none.

**5. Public Comments** - There were none.

**6. FY15 Budget Workshop – Highways**

Health Care options were discussed, as members of the Highway Crew inquired about differences between the Gold and Platinum Insurance Plans that were being offered.

Road Foreman Terry Stacy discussed his trouble with understanding the out-of-pocket costs associated with the Health Care plans that were being offered. According to Stacy the information was vague and left him with more questions. Margy Becker noted that assistance was available to ‘navigate’ the different insurance options offered on the VT Health Exchange.

The Selectboard explained to the Highway Crew that it chose the Gold Blue For You Plan as a ‘benchmark’ plan, as premium expense was cheaper and the Selectboard was able to

offer the same HRA funds as last year to cover deductible expenses in the amounts of \$2,000 for an individual plan and \$4,000 for a 2-person or family plan.

The Selectboard discussed new options for enrollment, due to the continued malfunction of VT Health Connect website. **Motion to extend the current Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance coverage for employees through March 31, 2014. Moved by Tim Scoggins/Korman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.**

The Selectboard and Road Foreman Terry Stacy reviewed the Highway Budget. The Selectboard noted that the budget line items in relation to the Town Garage will be revised once the December 3<sup>rd</sup> vote has taken place.

The Highway crew detailed issues with the tractor's transmission. The Highway Crew also reported a broken mower. Roadside mowing has been the subject of public complaints, due to equipment breakdowns. Terry Stacy offered a preliminary estimate to replace the tractor and mower at \$60,000. No action was taken.

The Selectboard noted that Supplemental Grant funding has been received for the Village sidewalk project. The grant amendment will be signed at the next meeting.

Terry Stacy noted that a request for a Hydraulic Study on the culvert at the bottom of Hollow Hideaway Road has been submitted to VTRANS. The Town is still awaiting word on when the study will be conducted. This information is needed to solicit bids for the construction budget.

The Selectboard noted recalculations made to the salt budget and also added that the price per ton was currently \$53.00 per ton and that 620 tons were approximately used last year.

The Selectboard noted paving grants may be more available in the coming fiscal year.

Tim Scoggins asked Terry Stacy about the Sidewalk Plow and whether or not replacement parts were available. Terry Stacy replied that the model is outdated and that replacement parts have been difficult to find.

Terry Stacy indicated a tractor/mower should be at the top of the list for equipment purchase, in order to maintain a mowing program all summer and fall. He mentioned that it was currently a buyers' market, as there is ample supply of summer equipment during winter months. Ken Harrington requested figures in reference to the cost to fix the tractor/mower the Town currently owns that is deemed inoperable. He is looking for estimates to evaluate the pros and cons of purchasing a tractor/mower.

## **7. Used Oil Removal Proposal review/action**

The Selectboard reviewed the ongoing issue regarding removal of PCB-tainted oil from the Town Transfer Station. The Selectboard reviewed two proposals, and noted the process for removing the contaminated oil and tank. Clean Harbors gave an estimate of

approximately \$5,178.00 for removal. ENPRO quoted the cleanup to cost the Town approximately \$10,150. It was noted that the Town ended up getting proposals that were seemingly different in format and had to be analyzed in further detail to clarify which rate was the better overall rate.

**Motion to accept Clean Harbors bid to dispose of used oil and tank at Transfer Station not to exceed \$10,000. Moved by Carl Korman/Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Tim Scoggins pointed out there was still a discrepancy with the two proposals. After further discussion, Carl Korman withdrew his motion and Ken Harrington withdrew his second. No formal action taken. The topic will be scheduled for discussion again at a future meeting.

### **8. Other Business**

Carl Korman submitted to the Selectboard a letter to be voted on and forwarded to the Bennington Banner describing the Selectboard position and decision in asking the Town for a new Highway Garage. The letter addressed the inadequacies of the current building being used by the Highway Department and also detailed how the costs to maintain the current Highway Garage is considered to be almost cost prohibitive.

**Motion to submit to the Bennington Banner a letter stating the Selectboard's support for the Shaftsbury Town Garage proposal. Moved by Carl Korman/Tim Scoggins 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 4-1-0. Ken Harrington voted against the motion.**

It was noted that the Webmaster in charge of the Town of Shaftsbury website would be asked to adjust homepage information to include information on the Bond Informational Meeting on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 starting at 7PM. It was noted that Margy Becker had submitted a Community Calendar notice to the Bennington Banner regarding the Bond Informational Meeting and vote.

### **9. Executive Session – Personnel**

**Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 9:00PM. Moved by Carl Korman; Ken Harrington 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried 5-0-0. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:20PM.**

### **10. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Carl Korman at 9:20PM. Motion seconded by Mitch Race. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Prepared By:**

**Shawn M. Sterling**

**ATTACHMENT****Letter printed in the Bennington Banner**

Our town needs to address the inadequacies of our 45 old Town Garage. It is known to be structurally insufficient and incapable of being renovated at a reasonable cost. It is excessively expensive to heat and too small to protect and maintain the Town's \$1.4 million worth of equipment. Further, we need to ensure that our road equipment will last as long as possible. To achieve this our road crew requires an adequate facility for less time repairing weathered vehicles in order to spend more time maintaining the roads. These simple facts are both undisputed and undeniable - Shaftsbury need a new Garage facility.

Town residents, your neighbors, have worked hard as a committee for the past nine months developing the Garage plan now being proposed for your vote on December 3rd. Their plan will meet Shaftsbury's minimum needs, at the lowest cost possible. We know that interest rates and material costs have already begun to rise. Further delays will only result in higher costs and additional taxes for the same project.

The Select Board believes that building a new Garage now would be in the best interests of our community and will serve our needs, as well as the needs of our children's children. The proposed facility will be located at the transfer station, on property already owned by the Town. The plan is very modest, compared to the design previously rejected by the Town. It will include a 6 bay, 8,000 sq. ft. garage, salt/sand shed, well, septic and a 1,000 ft. access road. This location intentionally removes the Town's industrial activities away from the village center and the school, resulting in safer street traffic for our children and easier access to Cole Hall.

The cost for this proposal will be less than 70 cents a week to the average Shaftsbury taxpayer, or less than a cup of coffee a week. We believe this is a small price for a project that is undeniably necessary for the effective operations of our roads and daily lives.

For these reasons, we most sincerely request your support and vote "Yes" on December 3rd.

**SHAFTSBURY SELECT BOARD**

By vote of the Select Board on Nov. 25