

DRAFT

Shaftsbury Select Board

October 1, 2018

6:30 pm

- 1) Call to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board chairman Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Joe Barber, and Tony Krulikowski. 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) Approval of minutes  
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the 9/17/18 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman requested that it be made clear that the referenced road crew accidents occurred off-duty. He also corrected that the proposed bylaw on motel conversions allows for annual inspection by the town health officer or ~~and that~~ the fire safety officer, ~~reports to not~~ the zoning administrator. The minutes as changed were approved 5-0-0.  
Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the amended minutes of the hearing on April 11 on the Shires Housing project. (The amended minutes included direct transcriptions of public comments at the hearing.) Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- 4) Warrants  
Check warrant #8, \$124,746.42. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.  
Retirement warrant #9, \$8,032.99. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the motion. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.  
Payroll warrant # 6, 21,042.86. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the motion. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.
- 5) Announcements  
There were none.
- 6) Public comments  
A member of the public asked about a farm dog issue brought up at the last meeting. Mr. Kiernan said he'd heard nothing yet from the state, but suggested that the citizen and his neighbors could file a complaint when the dogs bark at their family or guests; it is not protecting livestock but is harassing citizens.
- 7) Treasurer's report  
About \$300,000 in taxes have come in so far. We won't have to increase our line of credit. (Mr. Scoggins mentioned that water department delinquencies are under \$4000 for the first time in years, thanks to the efforts of superintendent Jim McGinnis.) Some tax bills have come back as undeliverable; nonetheless, those taxes are still due the Town.
- 8) Roads report  
Mr. Yanotti was away; Mr. Kiernan reported for him. Recycled asphalt shingle project has been delayed. East Road surface is ready for paving. Ditching and grading continues as weather permits. A temporary worker starts work on October 2. Two employees remain on leave

following off-site-duty accidents. Myers Rd. is on the to-do list. For \$14,500, the road crew recommends purchasing a sidewalk machine. (Some additional repairs will be needed to make the machine useable, which will be made by the seller.) Mr. Whitman moved to purchase a sidewalk machine for \$14,500. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Whitman suggested that VTrans repair the cracks in Route 7A, which cause increasingly noisier truck traffic. Mr. Kiernan will reach out to VTrans. Mr. Whitman moved to express to VTrans that the Select Board has concerns about the condition of Route 7A through the center of the town, that it is affecting living conditions here. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan said he and Mr. Yanotti had agreed to ask David Hosley to continue mowing in 2019 while the road crew explores other mowing options.

9) Town Plan update – Planning Commission

Chris Williams said the town has applied for a Municipal Planning Grant to help update the plan. (The grant would help cover the costs of BCRC's assistance during the process.) The Commission is now in the information-gathering stage; Mr. Williams asked the Select Board for its suggestions for the Plan. Mr. Scoggins said it is too early to provide specific recommendations for roads. Over the next twenty years, all the water mains in town will be replaced.

Mr. Williams described as a priority in the new plan the concept of "social capital" and the organizations that further its creation – grange, community club, and so on – the entities that make the government "go" outside the government, the glue that makes our community governable. A second priority is economic development, as the pall of the great recession still hangs over the community. Mr. Whitman noted that Norshaft Lions took in and gave away \$82,000 last year. Mr. Scoggins asked what the Plan would recommend the town do in terms of economic development. He mentioned the Brattleboro plan as one focusing on actions Scoggins asked the PC to organize the plan like Brattleboro's, which lists policies and recommendations at the beginning of each section. Mr. Williams noted that the proposed bylaw change re short term housing would allow citizens to reap additional income from their properties. Affordable housing is an economic development driver – being open to that kind of development would therefore encourage economic growth. Mr. Whitman noted that Poulin Grain, while the plant is in North Bennington, drives the agricultural economy locally. Mr. Harrington suggested making a deal with Bennington to use their treatment plant. Mr. Scoggins said right now it's hard to justify a sewer system because it isn't affecting development. When it does, it will be easier to argue for its creation. Mr. Williams asked the board about the likelihood that school consolidation will be required. Mr. Whitman said he hoped consolidation will slow the increase in school spending. Mr. Krulikowski mentioned internet connectivity and cell service, lack of which turns away many would-be entrepreneurs who would otherwise like to work in a rural area such as ours. Mr. Scoggins described a non-profit, EC Fiber, which successfully created a communications district and a company to serve it.

10) Renewal TAM Transfer Station Contract

Most of the contract is staying as it was. TAM is raising its fees for some items such as tires and white goods. The Town will keep its current rate structure while the new system is getting up and running. Recycling costs are going up, but for the time being no fee will be charged by the town for recycling. Organics are included in the new contract. Mr. Whitman moved to enter into the new waste management contract with TAM for three years. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11) Renewal VLCT PACIF Municipal Insurance

This expense has already been approved, but PACIF is on a calendar year basis rather than fiscal year basis. There were no objections to permitting Mr. Kiernan to continue this contract.

12) Cole Hall Window Replacement – Lower Level

Mr. Kiernan reported that as part of the renovation of the second floor, windows on the first floor would be repaired, and that some additional plumbing will be needed upstairs. Mr. Kiernan asked that \$10,000 be moved from the reserve fund to the Cole Hall fund to accomplish these purposes. Mr. Whitman moved to move \$10,000 from the reserve fund to the Cole Hall fund for windows and plumbing. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

13) Town garage/transfer station project

There have been a couple of weather-related delays, including site preparation. Back-up plans are being laid in case the crew can't move in in December. However, Mr. Kiernan doesn't expect any more change orders.

14) Review of action items

Water fountain: we will purchase a fountain that can also fill a water bottle. It will go in in spring. ~~Cameras require some follow up.~~

The fire department was able to buy discounted windows; the board had no objection to the purchase.

Mr. Kiernan has not received a legal opinion on the farm dog issue.

The current address of a delinquent water department customer will be confirmed.

Mr. Kiernan will express the Board's concern about the state of Route 7A through the Village.

Mr. Kiernan will contact the contract mower to try to hire him for the spring 2019 season, and will ask if he is interested in mowing in fall 2019.

Mr. Whitman will find out what is the issue with the park cameras.

15) Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 8:05 pm. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16) Adjournment