

Shaftsbury Select Board  
March 18, 2019

- 1) David Kiernan, town administrator, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins, Ken Harrington, and Joe Barber. Mr. Harrington nominated Mr. Scoggins for Board chair. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0. Mr. Harrington nominated Art Whitman for Board vice-chair. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Scoggins continued with the annual reorganization tasks. Mr. Harrington moved to adopt the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. as the regular meeting schedule. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Harrington moved to keep the previous Select Board liaison assignments. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Harrington moved to make the following appointments, which Mr. Barber seconded: Tracy Mulligan, animal control officer; BCRC commissioner Ken Harrington; Jerry Mattison, emergency coordinator; Ben Hulett, energy coordinator; Jackie Myers, health officer; Tracy Mulligan, deputy health officer; Jackie Myers, town service officer; Jim White, tree warden. The motion passed 3-0-0.

- 2) Conflict of interest statement

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

Mr. Scoggins noted several agenda omissions which were adopted without objection.

- 3) Approval of minutes

The task was postponed.

- 4) Announcements

- Mr. Scoggins thanked the public for their patience with the roads, and Mr. Harrington and Mr. Kiernan for responding to citizen calls about the road.
- Mr. Scoggins noted that a citizen internet survey is underway, and urged citizens to complete it on line or get a paper copy at the Town Clerk's office.
- An open house to celebrate the renovated upstairs at Cole Hall will be held on Monday April 1, 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

- 5) Warrants

- Payroll warrant #18, \$25,280.74: Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- Check warrant #27, \$165,030.78: Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

- 6) DRB Member Candidates: Lon McClintock, Mike Day

The board asked Mr. McClintock why he wants to serve? Mr. McClintock said he enjoyed the hearing process, thought the chair ran a solid meeting and likes the people who are running it now, hasn't been involved in town business for a few years, has done a lot of zoning hearings with various towns as an attorney but plans to not accept any future Shaftsbury DRB clients (and will not serve in any way as the "lawyer for the board"), thinks he can help the DRB make the applicants know that they have been heard and considered, and the time is right. Mr. Scoggins said Mr. Huncharek, the DRB chair, has endorsed Mr. McClintock. Mr. Harrington moved to

appoint Mr. McClintock to a three year term on the DRB. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0. Mr. Harrington moved to re-appoint Michael Day to a three year term on the DRB. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

7) Treasurer's report

Melanie Dexter reviewed her monthly reports for February and March. An interfund transfer was made to cover garage costs. All loan funds have been expended. Future garage expenses will come out of the reserve fund established years ago for the garage. A lot of checks were cut in February. Expenses and revenue are a little ahead of last year. An unusually large number of delinquent tax checks have come in. Outstanding water bills are as low as Ms. Dexter has seen them. Some carry a balance and consistently pay penalties. March is all about sending people tax bills. (They returned the entire bill rather than simply the tear-off sheet on the bottom of the bill.)

8) Road report

Mr. Kiernan thanked the public for their patience with last week's mud event and with the inability of school buses to traverse some roads. He said the crew will begin to fill the holes beginning this week. Everyone who called or emailed has been put on the to-do list. More moisture is expected over the weekend. If need be, additional gravel will be secured. The new garage facility will have space for additional gravel storage. Future major repairs will be designed by state engineers and contracted out. This will include activities on Shaftsbury Hollow Road. (This will dovetail with work on the Hollow culvert.)

9) Personnel Policy Amendment – Cellular Phone Usage

The discussion on this issue was postponed.

10) Cole Hall/Garage Update

The upstairs renovation is finished. Goldstone Architects have been contracted to provide designs for the exterior landscape and to review handicapped access options.

The garage will probably get a partial certificate of occupancy on Tuesday this week. The power is on. A POET system is being installed because of metals in the new well water. The new garage doors (not white) have been put on. We have about three weeks of site work left (our road crew will lay down the gravel topcoat), at which time the crew will begin to move into the building. The budget for the entire project was for \$1.5 million. It looks like the town will spend \$1.4 million. In May, we will auction off unneeded equipment and parts from the existing garage. A shed will be built at Cole Hall to store the sidewalk machine. Mr. Kiernan will work to put up signs at the transfer station. He intends to speak with the operator about assisting transfer station users. (The Town's responsibility is limited to selling tickets.)

11) MHG Solar Proposal – Solar Net Metering Credit

Mr. Kiernan has learned that three-phase equipment is needed to place a solar array on the landfill. The nearest three-phase is on Route 7A. MHG will visit with the Select Board about selling the Town energy credits which would save the Town about \$35,000 over 20 years. The town would essentially buy a subscription for solar arrays placed on shale quarries elsewhere in the state. The whole process would take about 400 houses off the grid. The board agreed to hear the group.

12) Mr. Scoggins would like to apply for USDA grants for rural connectivity improvements. The application is due April 15. He would like to apply for a \$300,000 grant, with a \$45,000 match to be supplied by the Town. Mr. Scoggins reported some results from an internet/cell survey the Town is promoting: people see internet and cell service as equally important; 80% of respondents (90% of whom already have internet service) indicate citizens would support efforts by the Town to expand such services. The survey indicates that VTel seems to be underperforming in the west side of town. Mr. Harrington said he's the last person to want to raise taxes, but thinks this is a great deal and the only way to attract business to the town. Mr. Harrington moved to pursue said grant application. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Scoggins mentioned that internet and cell coverage will be treated in the new Town Plan. He said a fellow from Public Service had figured out a way to document where coverage is offered by driving around with cell phones on. With state representative David Durfee's help, Mr. Scoggins has been able to borrow those phones, and will be driving the town's roads to collect that information. That data can be incorporated in the Plan. (Mr. Scoggins will check to see if anyone else in the county would like to borrow this equipment.)

13) Other business

Mr. Kiernan: we need to replace furniture. The best price (for cherry veneer over pressed board) is offered by the VT Dept of Corrections, which supplies state buildings and many schools. Two six-foot sections for the meeting area would cost \$1200. A wing desk for the Administrator and Treasurer would cost \$874 each; a new bookkeeper's desk would cost about \$600. Total cost about \$4000. We can use the Hawkins fund and what's left of the Cole Hall fund. When Mr. Kiernan has a final total the board will entertain a motion.

Myrtle Corey made a \$6636 bequest to the fire department through the Town. Bequest wording is somewhat odd, so we could ask the FD to submit bills to the Town and draw down the sum, or send the sum to the FD. Mr. Harrington moved to move the \$6636 funds given to the Town for the FD be transferred to the FD for their use. Mr. Barber seconded the motion.

14) Review of action items

- Open house announcement will put on line and refreshments will be arranged.
- Mr. Scoggins will work on the USDA grant.
- Mr. Kiernan will get quotes for furniture.

15) Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.