

Shaftsbury Select Board

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:31 p.m. Present were Tim Scoggins (chair), Art Whitman, Tony Krulikowski, Ken Harrington, 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.

3. Minutes

No minutes were circulated.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #7, \$22,416.39. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0-0.

Check warrant #12, \$121,179.64. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0-0

5. Announcements

Mr. Whitman reported that the Sheriff has been hired to control traffic for Halloween.

Mr. Scoggins noted that in-person voting on Nov. 3 will take place at the new town garage. He urged everyone who could to vote by absentee ballot. A drop box is located outside Cole Hall.

6. Public Comments

Representative David Durfee reported that this year, several people have commented to him that the town roads are much improved. Mr. Scoggins seconded the thought and congratulated DPW foreman Mike Yannotti for the accomplishment.

7. Treasurers Report

Melanie Dexter elaborated on the cash flow report. She noted lots of back and forth activity because of the sale of the fire truck. Almost \$600,000 in taxes were received in September – about 11% of the total due -- much like 2019 even though the bills went out later in 2020. Expenditures are slightly below last year's.

In the Reserve account, the fire truck was the major activity. The balance is now much lower, because funds to used purchase the truck had been accumulating for a long time.

Ms. Dexter asked that citizens drop off or mail in tax payments if possible.

8. Development Review Board appointment

Mr. Krulikowski moved to appoint Tedd Habberfield to an open position on the Development Review Board. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Scoggins noted that there are still open slots on the DRB and on the Planning Commission.

9. Planning Commission appointment

Martha Cornwell volunteered to serve on the PC. She said she grew up in Shaftsbury and went to SES. After leaving for medical school, she returned to practice family medicine in town and to do Alzheimer's research. She also works for Clearbrook Farm. She considers herself a good listener.

Mr. Whitman asked that she keep an open mind about balancing economic development and the rural quality of life in the town. She said she would do so.

Tom Huncharek said he and his wife have known Ms. Cornwell for many years. He said Martha has the "caring gene." As a physician's assistant, she will bring a plethora of transferrable skills to the work of the commission. They include being empathetic, a good listener, an attention to detail, and interpersonal skills.

Naomi Miller said she is a neighbor of Ms. Cornwell's. As a member of the commission herself, she is acutely attuned to the importance of economic development to the town. Ms. Miller said Ms. Cornwell is bursting with ideas to improve the town's economic situation.

Jeri Schoof voiced support for Ms. Cornwell. She has seen in practice her interpersonal skills and is certain she would be an asset to the commission.

10. DPW Report, Mike Yannotti

Mr. Yannotti reported that all the trucks have had load-cover tarps installed. The crew will be switching gears to getting the trucks ready for winter next week. First, a couple of issues will be addressed, on East Rd. and Trumbull Hill, and a few roads will be graded.

- Proposed purchase of roadside mower

Mr. Yannotti said he thought it would be much more effective if the crew were able to do the mowing itself. He'd like to purchase a 22' rotary mower with a side mid-mount system. Attachments such as a sweeper, a berm disk and others are available. He mainly wants to use the equipment to mow at least three times annually. Cost of the tractor with rotary mower: \$162,380.

Mr. Scoggins noted that it can be purchased for about the same monies that are now going to rental payments.

- Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund

Relatedly, Mr. Kiernan said that buying the tractor and mower with use of a \$110,000 2% loan from the loan fund would enable the town to begin saving money in about six years. About \$116,000 has been brought in by the sale of unused equipment, which can be used in part as a down payment. He described how the reserve fund balance was affected by increased road expenditures in FY 2019. Mr. Harrington said he'd done some research, and that in the first year, the machine would lose about 40% of its value. For that reason, he urged Mr. Yannotti to seek to purchase a used machine. Mr. Harrington expressed deep reluctance to take out a loan to purchase equipment. Mr. Whitman said he believes the transmission on the new machine is perfect for the job. Mr. Yannotti said he believes the tractor will hold the value for a long time; it's the attachments that will lose value quickly. He said it is very hard to find a used mower with the right transmission. And warranties have expired on used mowers. Mr. Yannotti will seek a five-year warranty. Mr. Kiernan explained that this is an exceptional case when taking out a loan makes sense. Mr. Yannotti described the difference between flail and rotary mowers, and said that after regular mowing the Town could use a flail on some roads.

Mr. Kiernan explained that he is simply seeking board authority at this time to seek the \$100,000 loan from the Municipal Equipment Loan Fund. Any purchase would come later. Mr. Whitman moved to approve Mr. Kieran's applying for a loan for \$110,000. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan said he is not aware of any grants for equipment.

- Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid

The State has set aside \$21,500 with a \$5375 match for the Town, should the Town wish to pursue such a grant. The match would be provided by the road crew's time. The project would improve drainage on West Mountain Road at the orchard. The crew will do the work in the spring. Mr. Whitman

moved to authorize Mr. Scoggins to sign the Grants-in-Aid program grant application for \$21,500 with a \$5375 match to improve drainage on West Mountain Road. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Whitman said that now that the roads are in great shape, speeding is becoming an issue. He asked Mr. Kiernan to reach out to the Sheriff to enforce the speed limit, which Mr. Kiernan will do. Mr. Yannotti suggested the Sheriff might park somewhere other than Potter Montgomery Road. Mr. Scoggins asked citizens to observe the speed limit, if for no other reason than to keep dust levels lower.

11. Other Business

•Demolition of old Town Garage and Salt Shed

Mr. Kiernan said he was approached by Auctions International, which has had success posting such actions on its bid site, to bid off the demolition of the garage. The slab would have to be removed later, at the Town's expense. The road crew will take down the salt shed at their convenience. Mr. Kiernan suggested that the auction be placed on the website, with a two week review period. If no acceptable bid is received, the original plan to put the demolition out to bid will be put in place. There were no objections to Mr. Kiernan's plan.

12. Cole Hall – Custodial contract

Our cleaner resigned to move to California. EFX, a local business with many references, has come in with a bid of \$6240 annually, to clean Cole Hall and office and lunch room spaces at the garage, including supplies. It is slightly more than the previous contract. Mr. Harrington moved to approve hiring EFX. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Whitman asked to schedule a water board meeting before the bills go out in early November. Mr. Kiernan will add that item to the next Select Board agenda on Oct. 19. Mr. Whitman asked that legal counsel be available at that meeting.

13. Review of Action Items

- The water board will meet at 5:30 on Oct. 19.
- Mr. Scoggins asked whether anyone wanted to comment on Zoom versus GoToMeeting. There were no opinions one way or the other.
- Mr. Kiernan will ask the Sheriff to patrol roads that might be sped upon.

14. The board went into executive session to discuss the appointment of a new planning commission member.

15. Upon returning from executive session the meeting adjourned.