

Shaftsbury Select Board
April 4, 2022

1) Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6:31 p.m. Present were select persons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

2) Conflict of interest

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

3) Minutes

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the March 21, 2022 minutes. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4) Warrants

Check warrant 31, \$4,050. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant 19, \$31,919.49. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant 20, \$26,697.00. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Retirement warrant 3, \$15,749.48. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant 30, \$78,084.51. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5) Announcements

Mr. Whitman suggested that the economic development committee reconvene. He asked for volunteers. He said the committee would likely meet for some time.

Mr. Whitman said the town has been advised by state and our professional accountants to decline to establish a fund for Ukraine donations, and therefore will not establish such a fund.

Mr. Kiernan said the cemetery committee has asked that all cemetery decorations be removed by May 1 (or they will be discarded).

6) Public comments

There were none.

7) Treasurer's report

Melanie Dexter described the cash flow report. Delinquent taxes and dog license payments have come in. Revenues as a percent of budget are a little higher than at this time last year; expenditures as a percent of budget are also a little higher. Ms. Dexter explained that reserve funds are higher in the report than in fact by virtue of an accounting issue unique to fund accounting. When a check is written, its amount immediately comes out of the general fund; the appropriate reserve fund is later reduced accordingly with an accounting entry.

8) DPW report

Mr. Kiernan said there are some soft spots, but the roads are in good shape compared to years past. Crews are busy grading and laying gravel, including, today, on Paran Road. He presented for acceptance by the board a report to VTrans, required annually, breaking down town-funded highway expenses by season (winter expenses are about \$642,000; non-winter expenses around \$526,000.) Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the letter. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion which was approved by board consent.

9) ARPA Funds – Motion to elect standard allowance

Mr. Kiernan described a statement recommended by VLCT that, if adopted, would permit the town to spend ARPA funds essentially as the town wishes (with some exceptions) without having to get approval for each discreet project. He will ask at the next meeting that a motion be made to make a one-time irrevocable decision to elect the standard allowance for an ARPA award of \$1.1 million to be spent on provision of government services.

10) ARPA funds, Discussion of possible topics

Mr. Kiernan said VLCT has suggested that a committee be established to set the framework to discuss with the community at large how to spend ARPA funds. (The committee would bring back recommendations to the select board.) VLCT suggests the committee consist of five members -- from the general community, the business community and the nonprofit sector. A member of the select board and of another town board (Mr. Kiernan suggested the Planning Commission) should also be added to the committee. The money must be obligated by the end of calendar year 2024. Various deadlines for the committee's recommendations were discussed. Mr. Barber noted that prices will continue to go up the longer the committee delays. Mr. Cichanowski suggested and the board agreed to November 1 2022 as a deadline (extendable). A vote will be taken on establishing the committee at the next SB meeting. The following and additional topics will be studied by the committee.

- Economic development study
- Sewer Study
- Cole Hall accessibility
- Water main replacement
- Highway improvements

11) Policy and ordinance review

Speed limits are under review. Proposed speeds are shown on the town websites. They are either 25 mph or 35 mph.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to discard the town's standard road policy, as it has been supplanted by the State's. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12) Other business

Mr. Krulikowski moved to appoint Jackie Myer as town health officer. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to appoint Jim White as tree warden. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Cornwell reported that Shaftsbury Medical is closing (on June 30). Several citizens have asked her whether the Town might recognize the center and say "thank you" – perhaps with a ceremony, or maybe a state-sponsored resolution?

Mr. Kiernan said the fire department is going to buy a new ATV. The FD would like as an attachment a "forest-fighting skid unit" at a cost of \$4750 which will be covered by their budget. Mr. Cichanowski wondered if the FD has a litter that can be attached to an ATV.

13) Review of action items

14) Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.