

Town of Shaftsbury

Special Select Board Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Joe Barber and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was Town Administrator David Kiernan.

Mr. Whitman noted that a couple of license issues and a contract with BCRC to produce an enhanced energy plan would be added to the agenda after “public comments.”

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Minutes

Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the February 20 minutes. Mr. Barber seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman noted that although the minutes identified him as chair, vice-chair Krulikowski presided over the meeting in person while Mr. Whitman attended via Zoom. The amended minutes were approved 4-0-1.

4. Warrants

- Payroll warrant #17, \$29,377.66. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Check warrant #29, \$40,855.22. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Ms. Cornwell noted that Town Meeting is to be held on March 6 beginning at 5 p.m. with a potluck and at meeting at 6 p.m., at the Elementary School. Voting will take place on March 7 at the Town garage, 7 a.m. -7 p.m.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

Additional agenda items:

A license for tobacco and liquor sales for Buck North LLC (the new owners of Paulin’s) has been requested. Mr. Barber moved to approve the request. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Whitman noted that at a recent meeting the Select Board said it would fund an enhanced energy plan, to be produced by the BCRC. The cost would be \$11,800. Mr. Cichanowski moved to enter into such a contract with the BCRC. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion. She said the Planning Commission hopes to begin the plan beginning in May and ending in October. Ms. Cornwell said an enhanced energy plan would be an addendum to the Town Plan. It would allow the Town to secure “substantial deference” from the Public Utility Commission in their deliberations on any applications that come before the PUC, while at the same time complying with state policies regarding energy. The plan could have sections on preferred sites and on screening. There would be three or more public

meetings and/or hearings. The plan could be approved by the Select Board. The plan would have no impact on energy proposals already on the table. The motion passed 5-0-0.

7. SB Statement on Solar Project

Mr. Whitman said a Select Board statement has been drafted and shared. Ms. Cornwell had comments and made some edits which she shared earlier. Mr. Whitman said the statement was for the benefit of the general public. Mr. Cichanowski said he liked the original statement. Mr. Krulikowski said he liked the statement. The original draft was brought up on the screen for discussion. Ms. Cornwell responded with her suggested changes. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the concept of Ms. Cornwell's statement. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion.

Members of the public shared their thoughts. Members of the Select Board shared their thoughts. There was no consensus among the selectpersons. Ms. Cornwell wondered whether the Select Board statement might include comments regarding the size of the project, the use of herbicide, forest fragmentation and other items. Mr. Kiernan said he thought the citizens want the Select Board to repeat their comments in a statement to the PUC. Ms. Cornwell agreed to try to draft another statement. Mr. Krulikowski commented that it might be better to wait to hear from the citizens at Town Meeting and incorporate that information in the statement.

8. Other Business

There was none.

9. Review of Action Items

There were none.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.