

Shaftsbury Select Board Special Meeting

January 18, 2024

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1) Call to order

The meeting came to order at 4.03 p.m. Present were chair Art Whitman, Mike Cichanowski, and Matha Cornwell. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

2) Conflict of interest

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda. Mr. Whitman noted that the last meeting was not legally warned and that, therefore, all votes taken at the previous meeting on January 16 would need to be re-cast.

3) Warrants

- Check warrant #27, \$28,627.04. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- Check warrant #28, \$463.25 (a 25% deposit for repairs to the roof). Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- VMERS warrant #3A, \$15,008.56. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- Payroll warrant #13, \$29,349.31. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- Payroll warrant #14, \$26,394.09. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

4) Public Comments

There were none.

5) Host Town Agreement

Mr. Whitman asked for a motion to take from the table an earlier motion regarding the host town agreement with Shaftsbury Solar DBA Freepoint Solar LLC. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the motion. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Intervenor Michael Albus asked for a summary of the changes discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Whitman reported that language regarding which town roads might be used (East Road only, south of Holy Smoke Road), and that the town agrees that the proposal complies with the Town Plan. Neighbors may therefore pursue any avenue they wish. Intervenor Kit Ausschnitt also spoke. Mr. Cichanowski said the Town's counsel advised the Select Board to pursue the course reflected in the host town agreement. Mr. Cichanowski noted that the host town agreement has little to do with the PUC process, which has yet to unfold. On a roll call vote, the motion passed as follows: Mr. Cichanowski, aye; Ms. Cornwell, aye; Mr. Whitman, aye.

6) Appointments

Mr. Cichanowski moved to appoint Emily Cowperthwaite to the Planning Commission. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0. Ms. Cornwell moved to appoint Shari Miller to the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

7) Other business; Bookkeeping

Mr. Cichanowski moved to hire Toni Roan for \$850 monthly for bookkeeping services. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Other business: Grange Hall tax exemption

Mr. Kiernan said the Grange members have not secured sufficient signatures to maintain their tax exemption, so he recommends the Select Board place on the ballot a measure ensuring the Grange is tax-exempt. Ms. Cornwell moved to place on the ballot the item: the Taconic Community Grange shall be exempt from the payment of tax for five years. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

8) Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.