

Town of Shaftsbury Special Select Board Meeting

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

Monday January 29, 2024

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair and presiding, via Zoom), Tony Krulikowski (via Zoom), Martha Cornwell, Mike Cichanowski, and beginning at 6:40 p.m., Naomi Miller. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles and citizen Michael Albus.

Mr. Whitman announced he wished to add under “other business” the approval of an amended town meeting warning, the approval and signing of the screening ordinance, and an executive session to discuss personnel.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Announcements

Mr. Whitman reminded viewers that members were needed for the town green, economic development, and sewer feasibility study committees. More information can be found at www.shaftsburyvt.gov.

4. Public Comments

Mr. Albus said he’d spoken with Ms. Miller and that there seems to be some confusion about what comments the Select Board intends to share with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) regarding the solar project. Mr. Whitman said the Select Board has been in touch with the town counsel regarding the matter and should have more information at the next meeting.

5. Warrants

Check warrant #30: \$65,697.24. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant #31: \$750, to Prudential. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passes 4-0-0.

6. Other Business

Town meeting warning, amended.

Mr. Whitman noted that although the Select Board voted to put before the voters the question: Shall the Town vote to exempt Taconic Community Grange from payment of property taxes for a period of five years?,” that item was omitted from the warning document voted on at the last Select Board meeting. It has since been added. Mr. Cichanowski moved to adopt the warning as amended. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Screening ordinance, amended

Ms. Miller noted that, as agreed upon, the final version of the solar screening ordinance has been amended by the addition of the sentence “The five-person panel shall render an opinion to the PUC on the adequacy of the proposed screening no later than ninety days from the date of the panel having been convened by the Select Board.” to the end of section B(5). Mr. Krulikowski moved to un-table the motion regarding that change made at the last meeting. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. The motion then passed 5-0-0. Discussion of the ordinance adoption timetable will be placed on the agenda for February 5. Selectpersons will familiarize themselves with the rules meanwhile.

Mr. Mance, sewer feasibility committee

Ms. Cornwell moved to appoint David Mance II (who’d earlier volunteered) to the sewer feasibility study committee. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Ms. Stiles will notify Mr. Mance of his appointment.

Grant opportunity, electric vehicle charging stations

The matter will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Krulikowski wondered whether those stations and the stations to be erected by Shaftsbury Solar should their project go forward would charge the user for the electricity.

Town meeting update

Mr. Krulikowski reported that school arrangements have been made. The potluck will start at 5 p.m. Karen Mellinger is in charge, with help from Norshaft Lions and another organization. The town will need to cover the costs of silverware, plates and the like. He will double check that the audio equipment is to be made available.

Executive session

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session for a personnel matter at 6:54 p.m. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

The board left executive session at 7:31 p.m.

7. Adjournment