

## **Town of Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting**

Monday, April 1, 2024

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 Naomi Miller (chair), Brad Peacock, and Martha Cornwell. Also present was interim town administrator David Kiernan.

### 2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda. Ms. Miller noted changes to the agenda: item 3, minutes, would be eliminated for lack of selectpersons present at the meetings covered by those minutes; the treasurer's report would be added after public comments; and item 9, enhanced energy plan, would be eliminated.

### ~~3. Minutes~~

### 4. Warrants

Check warrant # 38, \$90,941.98. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

### 5. Announcements

There were none.

### 6. Public Comments

Heather Bullock on Zoom said the Grandview neighbors are getting frustrated with lack of progress on the sidewalk project. Ms. Miller reassured her that a meeting will be held this spring. Mr. Kiernan said that the project's federal funding requires an additional final public hearing. He said securing funding for the project would take at least a year: grants will be sought and a bond vote will be taken.

### 7. Treasurer's Report

Melanie Dexter explained the cash flow report. One FY 25 tax payment came in early. Some water payments came in. The cash balance as of the end of March was \$855,329. As for reserve funds, some fire department funds were moved about. Ms. Dexter noted that tax bill information sufficient for filing one's homestead declaration is available online.

### 8. Town Health Officer Appointment

Ms. Cornwell moved to reappoint Jackie Myers as Town Health Officer. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

### 9. CAI – Tax Map Maintenance Contract

Ms. Cornwell moved to renew the annual maintenance contract. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

~~10. SB Hearing on EEC – Scheduling~~

11. DPW report

Mr. Kiernan said the DPW is reevaluating the capital plan as the cost of vehicles and maintenance have grown greatly. The DPW is thinking of replacing a tandem with a single axle and revising pick-up truck plans, among other items. Mr. Yannotti hopes to have a revised capital plan ready for presentation in May.

The barn on the community green lot will be auctioned off.

A pre-fab shed for Shelly Bordman at the transfer station has been ordered.

Repairs will be made to the bathroom structure in Howard Park. Various other projects – a dog park, resurfacing the tennis court, and others – are also underway or in the planning stage at the Park. Mr. Keirnan urged citizens to consider joining the Recreation Committee.

12. Agreement to move NEMRC data to cloud storage

Mr. Kiernan said NEMRC is the primary accounting system used by the Town as well as some public tax information. Ms. Cornwell moved to move NEMRC data to the cloud. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

13. Community Center Development Committee (CCDC) formation

This ad hoc committee will combine the former Cole Hall committee and the former Town Green committee. Ms. Miller suggested its membership comprise: two citizens (Marie Watson, in the audience, has already volunteered), one representative from the Recreation Committee, the Select Board vice-chair, a Planning Commission member, and as ex officio members the town administrator and the grants coordinator. Ms. Cornwell noted that this committee would make recommendations regarding several interconnected actions to the Select Board. Membership on the committee is to be formalized at the next Select Board meeting.

14. Other Business

Ms. Miller suggested that the Select Board appoint William “Bill” Christian to the new energy committee. Ms. Cornwell so moved. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion. Mr. Christian has served on the Norshaft energy committee and on the Regional Commission energy committee. He has spent a lifetime working in the renewable energy sector. He lives in North Bennington. The motion passed 3-0-0.

15. Review of Action Items

- The CCDC will be formally appointed at the next meeting.
- Mr. Kiernan will contact all those who have volunteered for the Cole Hall and Town Green committees regarding the new CCDC.
- Mr. Kiernan will reach out to Grandview sidewalk partners.
- The new town administrator Paula Iken will start work on May 1. An open house is in the works.

15. Adjournment

Ms. Corwell moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Peacock seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.