

Shaftsbury Select Board

January 17, 2022

1. Call to Order
The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:33 p.m. Present were selectmen Art Whitman (chair), Joe Barber, Mike Cichanowski, and Ken Harrington. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan. (Mr. Krulikowski arrived during the discussion of the payroll warrant. Resident Martha Cornwell joined later by Zoom.) Mr. Whitman noted that the discussion of a new planning commission member would be postponed.
2. Conflict of Interest Statement
No one had any conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
3. Minutes
Mr. Harrington moved to approve the minutes for December 20. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Mr. Harrington moved to approve Water Board minutes for October 4, October 15, November 1, November 8, December 6, and December 20. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
4. Warrants
Check warrant #23, \$45,302.62. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
Payroll warrant #22, \$29,731.81. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Barber seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. (Mr. Krulikowski had arrived and voted.)
5. Announcements
There were none.
6. Public Comments
There were none.
7. Treasurers report
Mr. Kiernan shared Ms. Dexter's reports. The cash balance as of December 31 was \$1,007,788.41. It included several delinquent tax payments. The cash balance as of January 17 was \$927,252.78, which included a \$9000+ check to TAM to replace a check from November lost in the mail. The reserve fund included \$512,782 in ARPA funds.
8. Final Public Hearing- VCDP Implementation Grant 2018 – Lake Paran Village
Stephanie Lane from Shires Housing gave a presentation on the Lake Paran Village project. The Town of Shaftsbury had earlier received \$350,000 from VHCD to hold on behalf of Shires Housing. She described and illustrated the features of the development which include full accessibility, and green design and infrastructure. The units were rented within 45 days of opening, a record. Shires has partnered with Paran Recreation. Rents range from \$665 to \$1050 monthly. Mr. Kiernan noted that the Select Board approved the pass-through arrangements years ago. A warrant for those funds held in escrow for Shires Housing will be signed at a later meeting.
9. PC appointment Erin Cross (postponed)
10. DPW Report
The report was postponed as Mr. Yannotti was absent.

Mr. Kiernan requested that the board approve a bid package for a new truck with a stainless steel body and a Cummings engine. Mr. Krulikowski moved to give Mr. Yannotti approval to release the bid package. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11. Remote Hearings – PC-DRB-Selectboard

Mr. Kiernan reported that a bill was passed by the legislature last Friday to allow all-remote meetings. (No one need also be present at a public location to run the meeting, as is now required.) He said the Select Board could move to go entirely remote, or to leave the situation as it is now. No vote was taken.

12. Remote Town Meeting discussion

Mr. Kiernan reported that the legislature has authorized going fully remote with Australian balloting on all items including the budget. Mr. Harrington moved to hold the Town meeting in person as in the pre-covid days. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Whitman noted that many Vermonters hold the in-person town meeting dear, that by early March the covid peak might have passed, and that holding the meeting in the school or the garage would allow people to keep socially distant. On the other hand, a public meeting could become a super-spreader event. Mr. Harrington and Mr. Cichanowski thought an in-person meeting could be safely held. Mr. Krulikowski was concerned that the town clerk has enough time to respond to requests for absentee ballots. (Mr. Whitman said he'd asked the Town Clerk about it. She responded that there wouldn't be much difference in effort between either option.) Ms. Cornwell noted relatively few people in the area have been boosted. Mr. Kiernan noted an informational meeting could be held, with the budget voted on by Australian budget, but that if town meeting were held in person, it could be that only a very few people would appear to vote the budget up or down. Mr. Kiernan noted that the board could postpone the decision up to a week. Mr. Krulikowski moved to table the motion. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan reported that a special meeting to sign warrants and to hold a brief water board meeting would need to be held the next week.

13. FY23 Budget

Mr. Kiernan projected the proposed budget, of which the DPW comprised about 39%. Mr. Harrington suggested that more should be budgeted for fuel this year. Mr. Kiernan said the town will need to raise tax revenues of \$1.9 million, requiring a rate of 0.48, or an increase of \$22.80 per \$100,000 assessed value. Mr. Kiernan went through the budget department by department. Mr. Harrington moved to present the budget presented by Mr. Kiernan for FY 2023 to the citizens for approval. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

14. Town Meeting vote – elimination of Listers Office – contract professional assessor.

Mr. Kiernan reminded the board that an item would be placed on the ballot to eliminate the office of listers and replace that office with an assessor's assistance. NEMRC would continue to be the town's contracted professional assessor.

15. Board Term expirations 2022 – SB / PC/ DRB

Mr. Kiernan reported that the terms of Day and McCintock on the DRB and Foley on the Planning Commission will expire this year and that each entity has at least one additional vacancy. Those and new individuals can be reappointed. On the Select Board, the terms of Whitman and Harrington are expiring; the term of Michael Cassin, public auditor, is expiring; and the term of Barry Mayer, trustee of public funds, is expiring. Those individuals can run for re-election.

16. Other Business

There was none.

17. Review of Action Items

18. Adjournment

Mr. Harrington moved to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.