

Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

October 2, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:31 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Naomi Miller. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda. Mr. Whitman added to the agenda an executive session for a discussion of personnel issues.

3. Minutes

- Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the August 21, 2023 minutes. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- A special meeting devoted to an executive session. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the September 18, 2023 minutes. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-1 with Ms. Miller abstaining.

4. Warrants

- Check warrant #12, \$110,442.88. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Payroll warrant #5, \$28,035.61. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Payroll warrant #6, \$28,217.26. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.
- Check warrant report 1A, retirement, \$15,986.55. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

The select board is working on a statement, crafted with the Planning Commission, to send to the Public Utility Commission re the Shaftsbury Solar project. The board invites comment at the next board meeting, on October 16.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter reported that she hasn't closed either August or September budget reports. She reminded people that hadn't filed the homestead exemption that they have until about October 15 to do so. If questions, email treasurer@shaftsburyvt.gov.

She described in the cash flow report a bounced check and a fully paid water debt. She said the cash balance is where it should be for this time of year.

She asked residents needing to have their tax payment receipt stamped to check her hours as she will be away for a few days.

8. Chief Joe Vadakin – Fire Truck Purchase Proposal

Chief Vadakin shared a proposal to replace a fire apparatus. He was told the cost would be about \$500,000 but he guesses it will come to more than that. He expects to have the bid by November 2. He said a truck was replaced about three years ago; he seeks to replace a second now. (The existing truck, now sixteen years old, is beginning to be a maintenance problem.) The new truck will be ready in three years. He hopes to increase payments to the sinking fund in order to be able to acquire the truck. The new truck will be a tanker holding 2500 gallons of water. More water means fewer volunteers for that fire. He hopes to buy a Freightliner cab; the company is able to build the apparatus faster than International, which has been the supplier of all previous trucks.

He will send the bid documents out to about four companies.

He expects to be able to sell the old truck.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to send the truck bid documents out. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

9. Review of PC Bylaw Revisions

Ms. Miller noted that a public hearing was held on the revisions, which includes the rezoning of two parcels in South Shaftsbury to comply with the new municipal firearms ordinance; a clarification of a Development Review Board process; and a change to the road frontage requirements in rural zones that would help promote affordable housing while protecting against forest fragmentation.

Mr. Kiernan described the process for the board: schedule a public hearing; hold the hearing; place the revisions on the March 2024 ballot. Mr. Cichanowski moved to schedule a public hearing according to the state's requirements for warnings. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. Scheduled Tax Sale

Mr. Whitman noted the Merton Snow, town delinquent tax collector, passed away recently. Two delinquent tax parcels will be sold on October 3, 2023. Mr. Kiernan recommended that if the minimum bid is not met, the town should buy the parcel. Mr. Snow would ordinarily have requested this step. Mr. Cichanowski moved to authorize the Select Board chair to bid on any parcel for which the minimum bid is not received. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11. US 7 Proposed Work by State

Mr. Kiernan said the culverts to be replaced on Route 7 are located in Sunderland, but detours could impact Shaftsbury. (Up to 7800 cars could be routed from Route 7 to Route 7A through Shaftsbury.) He thought a better option would be closing down traffic one lane at a time and asked permission from the board to advocate for a detour solution that doesn't affect Shaftsbury. Mr. Cichanowski moved to oppose any arrangement that affects Shaftsbury and to authorize Mr. Kiernan to attend the VTRans hearing to advocate on that point for the town. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

12. EDC Event Proposal Town Green

Ms. Cornwell said the Economic Development Committee would like to hold a ribbon cutting event on Sunday November 12 to celebrate the incipient development of the Town Green. Mr. Cichanowski moved to hold a Town Green ribbon cutting event on November 12. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

13. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan said he didn't have an official report from the DPW foreman. He said the crew is doing the last grading before winter. The town is still waiting for Buck Hill paving to begin. He is concerned that the clock is ticking.

14. Other Business

There was none.

15. Review of Action Items

- Mr. Kiernan will testify to VTrans.
- Mr. Kiernan will issue the fifteen day notice for the PC hearing.
- Mr. Whitman will ensure the minimum bid will be met at the tax sale.
- Mr. Vadakin will issue the bids for the fire truck.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session for personnel issues. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16. Adjournment