

## **Town of Shaftsbury Select Board**

November 6, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1. Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, and Naomi Miller.

### 2. Conflict of interest

Mr. Whitman noted that an executive session would be called at the end of the meeting to address personnel and real estate. No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

### 3. Minutes

Ms. Miller moved to approve the October 2 minutes. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion. A typo was noted and corrected. The amended minutes passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the October 16 minutes. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

### 4. Warrants

Check warrant 19, \$291,910.42. Ms. Cornwell moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

### 5. Announcements

Ms. Cornwell noted that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Town Green will be held on Sunday November 12, 10a- 11 a.m.

### 6. Public announcement

Heather Bullock of Grandview Street asked about the status of the sidewalk project on Grandview St. Mr. Whitman said he wasn't sure what the schedule was and the town administrator, who has been managing the project, isn't here to answer the question. The question will be tabled until Mr. Kiernan is present.

### 7. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter reported that there were many complicated questions from tax payers recently, especially regarding filing the homestead exemption. She said she collected about \$500,000 in tax payments just today. About \$5 million has been collected so far.

She ran through the reserve fund report. There were no questions. The October cash flow reflected a state aid payment. Such payments have been issued more frequently since the summer flood. Taxes are due by 5 p.m. on Friday November 10. She will accept "postmarked" but asked that mailed payments be hand-cancelled.

### 8. Fire department bid opening

Chief Joe Vadakin said he received one bid. He sent out six. Several companies declined to bid; the truck is very specific as to type because of height limitations posed by the firehouses. He received

one bid from **VR Sales**. The bid was for \$669,978. Delivery will be three years out. (No Freightliners, the chassis the FD prefers, are available in 2024.) He said the last time the FD sought bids they received only two bids. Chief Vadakin said the bid was a little more than he thought it would be. He will review the bid and ask the vendor if there is anything to be done to reduce the price. Mr. Whitman noted that the Town does not have to accept the bid. Mr. Vadakin noted that the existing truck is twenty years old so the Town can't wait too long to purchase a new one. The next truck won't be tanker like this one and so won't have the unusual size requirements.

9. Cemetery mapping

Jen Holley, cemetery superintendent, reported that all graves are now registered in the Town's "Cemify" site, found on the Town website. When search names are entered, a map of the grave site, a photo of the grave, and many other items where available, will show up. Ms. Holley exhibited the use of the software. Betsy Habberfield, member of the Cemetery Committee, noted that Ms. Holley had researched a number of software products and had done an enormous amount of work to develop the records. Ms. Holley said eventually a person could access Cemify via a QR code on the grave. She said her daughter did all the drone footage photography, and compiled them into orthomosaic photos. Ms. Holley said when completed, it will be immeasurably easier to confidently sell plots.

10. Hearing on proposed bylaw changes

Ms. Miller described a revision which would reduce road frontages in some cases, thereby allowing smaller lots while protecting against forest fragmentation. Another revision would clarify how the Development Board shall review an application for a use not referenced in the bylaw. The third would rezone two parcels now in the Village Residential zone to the Rural 40 zone, to align the parcel locations with the new Village firearms ordinance, coverage of which is restricted to the Village Residential and Village Center zones.

11. Errors and omissions report approval

Mr. Whitman said the value of the lot behind Cole Hall would be valued downward by about \$60,700. It was agreed to table the matter until the Town administrator can be present to explain it.

12. DPW report

Ms. Holley reported on Mr. Yannotti's behalf that Mr. Yannotti's crew is readying equipment for winter. For the next several days they will help the cemetery superintendent fix and repair headstones. The Buck Hill paving project is completed.

13. Other business

There was none.

14. Action items

Errors and omissions will be tabled.

Chief Vadakin will get back to the Select Board.

Ms. Holley will put the proposed bylaw revisions on the website.

15. Executive session

Ms. Cornwell moved to enter executive session at 7:21 p.m. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. The board entered executive session.