

Shaftsbury Water Board and Select Board
Monday, April 3, 2017

6:30PM Regular meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Select Board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber. Town Administrator David Kiernan was also present.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No conflicts were reported.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the minutes of Town meeting, held March 6. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the March 20 minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

An executive session to address a personnel issue was added to the agenda.

4. Warrants

Check warrant #30 for \$43,603.88: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #21, for \$42.00: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #23, for \$50,274.00: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Retirement warrant #19, for \$8916.02: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Payroll warrant #19, for \$20,545.41: Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Open Appointed Positions: there are several, include the planning commission

6. Public Comments

Mr. Corey commented on the need to clean up the yard in the lot adjacent to the entrance to the transfer station. Mr. Kiernan said they are waiting for permission from the state to demolish the buildings. When received, they will dispose of all the trash, including that in the front yard, in a cost-efficient fashion.

Mr. Corey asked about testing for PFOA. Mr. Scoggins reported that it had been decided that the Town will work with the state to choose which wells to test.

A resident of Shaftsbury Hollow Road reported that the road is still as impassible during mud season now as it was 37 years ago. He said the geotextile is exposed in some locations because not enough gravel was put down initially. It is the only access to the neighborhood.

7. Treasurers Report

Melanie Dexter explained the March 31 cash flow and balances report. A lot of delinquent taxes have come in. Many receipts are pass-along funds and don't impact the Town balance. We've spent 84.2% of this year's budget, vs. last year's 75% at this time, a reflection that this year we're actually having a winter. Revenues are pretty much the same as last year's.

8. Road Foreman Report

Mr. Kiernan reported on Mr. Washburn's behalf. Mr. Kiernan submitted the application for a grant to redo the Hollow bridge. If approved it can be expended over three years (giving the Town more time to make the needed match). Projects this year could include 1400' fabric on East Rd., 1450' of fabric on Myers Rd., an additional 760' on Myers Rd.; and additional gravel at 18" depth on West Mtn. Rd.,

Myers Rd., and the Hollow (with much improved drainage), and several French drains – all depending on funding. Some funds remain in last year’s highway budget. No comp time was taken this year, so a full crew can be deployed. It might be possible to run three graders for a while (by borrowing from N. Bennington).

9. Planning Commission Candidate Interview: Michael Cichanowski

Mr. Cichanowski said he grew up in Bennington and returned to the area about 4 years ago. After getting his sea legs, he feels like he can make a contribution. He’s a graphic artist. He could help with the Town report. Mr. Krulikowski moved to appoint Mr. Cichanowski to a two year term on the Planning Commission. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. State PFOA Testing Request

Mr. Kiernan reported the State has not responded to the Town’s recent letter.

11. Proposed New Town Garage and Transfer Station

MSK has submitted estimates for design work and permitting for the site, at a cost of \$47,000, less than the original budget. MSK will also provide an estimate to create a bid package from the Morton phase 1 specs and act as the project leader. The Board will discuss this and related topics at a later meeting.

We are waiting on environmental reports on the two houses. Mr. Whitman reminded the Board that there are valuable generators and other materials stored in the gray building at the transfer station.

The financing paperwork will be submitted by the end of the month.

12. Parking RTE 7A Buck Hill Road south

Mr. Harrington said he’d noticed that a car parked regularly on Rt. 7A makes it very hard to see to make a left turn onto Rt. 7A. He would like to have that space removed. Mr. Harrington moved to have Mr. Kiernan approach the state about limiting parking on the SE corner of Rt 7A and Buck Hill to improve sight distance. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

13. Trailer for Parks Dept.

Mr. Kiernan shared an estimate for a trailer for the Parks Department for \$6400 (made possible by the municipal discount). Everything needed to work in the two parks, including the new mower, can fit in the trailer and be moved from park to park. Mr. Whitman moved to purchase the trailer for the Parks Department, using \$6500 funds from the equipment fund. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

14. Job Description, Cemetery Administrative Assistant

Former clerk Judy Stratton had formerly done many of these tasks – deed work, old paperwork, etc. This new employee would be interviewed by the cemetery committee, chosen by Ken Coonradt, and appointed by the Select Board. Mr. Kiernan will post the job description.

15. Report on Economic Development Workshop

Mr. Scoggins highlighted some of the materials he’d been most impressed with (his presentation is incorporated in these minutes by reference).

- The Vermont Future’s Project reports that VT is #36 in state fiscal condition. Flat population growth, aging population, a shortfall in productivity, companies that don’t provide for future growth.
- A presentation on why development is not working: project cost = \$300/sf; project value = \$100/sf. Therefore, civic-minded investment for the benefit of the community is required.
- The proposed redevelopment of Bennington’s Putnam Block is a case in point – a public (state and town)/private partnership. A TIF assumes that new development increases the grand list, and that increase finances the new development.

16. Other Business

Mr. Harrington moved to allow the Town Clerk to approve use licenses for Bennington College and Thyme Tables. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

A motion was made to approve a cooperative agreement between two federal entities that supports a trailer used to fight woodland fires by Mr. Krulikowski. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Eric Bushee has been nominated to be VT Deputy Town Forest Fire warden. Mr. Krulikowski moved to appoint Eric Bushee to this post. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

17. Review of Action Items

Old: apply for grant for Shaftsbury Hollow culvert (done); explore costs for site plan design and permitting (done); A Town representative will try to attend the upcoming rabies clinic (done).

New: Jim McGinnis needs time to review modifications to water department regulations and the preliminary budget. Mr. Kiernan will reach out to VTrans re the sight distance at 7A.

Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:36 pm. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.