

Town of Shaftsbury  
Selectboard Meeting  
May 15, 2017

1. Call to order  
The meeting came to order at 6:30 pm. Present were board members Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Art Whitman, and Joe Barber. Mr. Krulikowski was absent. Town administrator David Kiernan was also present.
2. Conflict of Interest Statement  
Board members reported no conflicts of interest.
3. Approval of Minutes  
There were no minutes to approve.
4. Warrants  
Check warrant # 35, \$2,302.00. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the motion. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.  
Water warrant # 2, \$522.00. Mr. Whitman moved to approve the motion. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.  
Payroll warrant # 2, \$18,576.66: Mr. Whitman moved to approve the motion. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.  
Check warrant # 35, \$40,646.18: Mr. Whitman moved to approve the motion. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
5. Announcements  
Mitch Race reported that the Ordinary Hero celebration will be held May 20, Galusha Homestead, 2 pm.  
Mr. Scoggins urged citizens to serve on the Development Review Board or the Planning Commission, both of which need additional members.  
Big Truck Night, 5:30-7:30, SES, honoring fire department volunteers, whose service ranges from 1 to 69 years.  
Household Hazardous Waste Day is Saturday May 20, at the Bennington Transfer Station.  
Cemetery Committee announced that it is time to clean up cemeteries. Artificial plants and trees and shrubs are not permitted. Vigil lights and temporary seasonal decorations are allowed.
6. Public Comments  
Curt Merrow, Buck Hill Road, hopes to expand the existing community solar array on his farm. The Public Service Board's new regulation requires that solar arrays be placed on "preferred sites," as defined in state statutes; and that letters of support for the array be provided by the regional commission and the municipality. Mr. Merrow shared copies of the information he shared and said he'd be back with a proposed letter of support for the Select Board to sign.  
Ed Corey presented an estimate of the price of repairs to Corey Drive, totaling about \$14,000. He requested that a certain contractor be hired to do the work.
7. Treasurer's report  
Ms. Dexter called the board's attention to the school reconciliation. The only thing it does is make the cash situation a little better. The Town will probably need a tax anticipation note in July or August. Water payments are coming in. She cautioned that if a customer must pay in cash and wants a receipt, that person must come in during the treasurer's regular hours. (Cash can be left in two lock boxes as well.)
8. Road Foreman report

Mr. Kiernan reported for Mr. Washburn. East Road, Myers Road, and others were prepped for major work in the near future, but the supplier provided material deficient in fines – which led to severe washboarding. The supplier will replace the material, and the town is having discussions with the supplier regarding the hours wasted putting down deficient material.

The East Road paving grant application was denied. Mr. Kiernan is certain the Town will get the grant next year. The structures grant request for a culvert on Shaftsbury Hollow was also denied, but again, it is likely it will be approved next year. Funds in the paving reserve fund which would have been used as match for these activities will be left there.

Birch Hill must be replaced, at a cost of about \$150,000. There are no grants for that work. Money will be set aside for that work in hopes of doing it in FY 2019.

The Town got the Better Road grant for the upper Shaftsbury Hollow work – ditching, road work, improved drainage. A Better Roads grant was also awarded to do a road erosion and culvert assessment. BCRC will do the work.

#### 9. Chamber of Commerce

Matt Harrington (Executive Director) and Jonah Spivak (president) presented. The Chamber will become a regional Chamber, both South-and Northshire towns within three years. Will have three nodes – Bennington, the Welcome Center, and Manchester. They hope to get 50 new members from the Northshire this year.

The Chamber has expanded from serving the tourist industry to offering a number of other business services.

Mr. Spivak said one goal is to attract millennials (a group that is larger than the baby boom generation), in part by better communicating how great a place ours is to live in.

In response to a question from Mr. Harrington, Mr. Spivak said big box stores, and much of retail in general, are an increasingly risky investment, in large part because of Amazon.

Matt Harrington said the key is selling experiences – a hike, great cheeses, unusual jewelry, a safe haven, peace. Mr. Barber said we need industry. Matt Harrington said that a southern Vermont economic development initiative will be more competitive for federal grant monies. Our local brand is “shires of Vermont.” Mr. Spivak said Shaftsbury and Arlington are the heart of the Shires and will benefit from activities to the north and south.

Matt Harrington said the Chamber is not supported by taxes and is not going to ask for towns to help finance their efforts.

#### 10. Bennington Rescue

Forrest Weyan from Bennington Rescue Squad presented on EMS week, which is May 21-May 27. He asked the Select Board to issue a proclamation in support of this initiative, and read the proclamation. Mr. Whitman moved to accept the proclamation for EMS Week. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. He said Mr. Krulikowski had joined the board and would receive orientation this week. Saturday June 24 will be a fun day for kids. He said the Squad would be making an exciting announcement at 11 am on Monday May 22.

#### 11. Proposed New Town Garage and Transfer Station – updates

The North Road buildings will be torn down between May 18 and May 26. The RFPs have been advertised. The hope is to go to bid by September.

#### 12. Liquor permit 599 West Town Line Road

A wedding catered by JCs in Bennington. They expect 150 people. One other permit was issued for a similar use in 2015. Mr. Whitman moved to grant a liquor license for a one-time event, a wedding, on May 20. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

#### 13. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan said he'd received notice that part of an estate had been left to the Town, specifically to the Fire Department. The board expressed no objection to letting Mr. Kiernan sign the necessary paper work.

14. Review of Action Items

At next water board meeting a vote will be taken on water board regulations.

Mr. Kiernan and the water superintendent are working on the water budget. They will probably have it for the second meeting in June. He suggested moving the first regular July meeting a week forward to avoid the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

Re site distance at 7A and Buck Hill: Mr. Kiernan is waiting to get more information. He hopes to integrate potential new sidewalk development with changing parking setbacks at this intersection.

LEOP plan was to have been distributed. Mr. Kiernan will see that it is.

15. Executive Session Personnel

Mr. Whitman moved to enter executive session for a personnel issue. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Whitman made the motion to leave executive session, seconded by Mr. Harrington. Passed 4-0-0

16. Adjournment

Mr. Whitman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Harrington at 8:44 PM. Motion passed 4-0-0