

Town of Shaftsbury SelectBoard Meeting
Monday, February 15, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order remotely via the Zoom platform at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectmen Tim Scoggins (chair), Ken Harrington, Joe Barber, Tony Krulikowski, and Art Whitman. 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.

3. Minutes

Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the February 1 meeting minutes. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant #16, \$29,258.97. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #26, \$51,462.27. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Scoggins noted that there are expiring positions on the planning commission and development review board.

Mr. Scoggins noted that all town meeting votes will be taken via Australian ballot on Tuesday March 2. An informational meeting on the budget and other items will be held remotely on Sunday February 28 at 3 p.m. More information can be found on the town's website. There will be no regular in-person town meeting this year.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter described the cash flow report, which showed late tax payments still coming in as a result of very late changes. The cash balance now records accurately the funds available for the remainder of the fiscal year. Similarly, all funds have been returned to the reserve funds. The garage credit is a leftover from last year, a correction the auditors caught.

Delinquent taxes continue to look good.

8. FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Joe Vadakin explained that Paul Dansereau completed the onerous grant application admirably. It would cover the costs of purchasing a new self-contained breathing apparatus filling station. A match of about \$2000 is required for a \$39,000± grant. Mr. Whitman asked whether the Town should start a new sinking fund if the application is not approved. Mr. Vadakin said the grant comes out every year. Meanwhile, the existing system has been recently repaired. (It is about 35 years old. It is hard to find parts for it now. Were it to break down, the town could turn to Bennington for help. –as it did recently.)

Mr. Dansereau thought the application has a very good chance, as its request is a high priority one for FEMA.

Mr. Whitman moved to endorse the fire department's efforts to secure funding to replace the breathing apparatus filling station system. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

9. Town Moderator and Remote Informational Meeting

Mr. Kiernan said a webinar on Wednesday at 11 a.m. from VLCT and the AG's office will cast light on the role of the moderator this year. Mr. Daly, historically our moderator, did not file his election papers in a timely fashion in 2020. In case it should be allowed, Mr. Whitman moved to appoint Tom Daly as host/moderator for the informational meeting to be held Feb. 28. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

10. Hazard Mitigation Plan final

Mr. Harrington moved to approve the most recent draft of the revised hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

11. Transfer Station-Casella

Mr. Kiernan reported that a lowboy has been placed to temporarily replace the recycling feature. A final fix will be made in spring.

Mr. Kiernan said he hopes to schedule discussions with Casella beginning in March. The town's contract with the company expires June 30. The former TAM facility is closed. The North Road scale house is closed. A different cost structure is in the offing.

12. DPW report

The crew has been spending most of its time sanding and salting.

The board that would have met to decide upon the mower loan has not met, meaning the town does not have enough time to secure a new mower for the 2021-2022 field season. As a result, Mr. Kiernan has reserved rental equipment for that period. Mr. Kiernan worries that even if the town gets the loan, it might not be possible to have the new mower built by spring 2022.

Mr. Kiernan said the state is looking at raising state transportation aid by about \$21 million this year. VLCT will be making a presentation regarding the proposal this Friday. Mr. Kiernan will submit questions to VLCT regarding prices, match, grant cycles, and "what would we do if we didn't have to have any match this year?" Re the latter, Mr. Kiernan suggested the town could do a lot more paving.

The crew has clipped a couple of mailboxes inadvertently. The town will replace them after speaking with the property owners. The crew took down a telephone pole. No one was injured.

In general, a lot of small weather systems are killing the budget.

13. State Property valuation Certificate No Appeal or Suit Pending

Mr. Krulikowski moved that Mr. Scoggins sign a statement (testified to by the listers) that there are no appeals or suits pending related to the April 1 2020 grand list. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

14. Annual VT Certificate of Highway Mileage

Mr. Kiernan said there are no changes. Mr. Harrington moved to have Mr. Scoggins sign the certification that there are 86.279 miles of highway in the town. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

15. 2021 Liquor License renewals

Mr. Harrington moved to renew the second class liquor license for Paulins. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Whitman moved to approve a third class license for Thyme Tables. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Krulikowski moved to approve a first class license for Thyme Tables. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16. Update: correcting parcel ID'S on GIS mapping

Mr. Kiernan reported that the town entered into an agreement with CAI to correct the layout of the parcel numbers on the town mapping website, at a cost of \$800. CAI will also insert street addresses where they are absent.

17. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan reported that a local boy scout troop would like to erect a returnable bottles shed at the auto repair shop on the corner of Church and Route 7A. The troop has asked to have the \$25 fee waived. He said the planning commission chair thinks that because the town plan encourages recycling, the fee should be waived.

The planning commission chair suggested that the application be forwarded to the DRB. The DRB can impose conditions.

Mr. Whitman moved to waive the application fee for the boy scout's returnables shed. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Mr. Scoggins asked that the motion be voted down, and that he would instead donate the permit fee to avoid setting a precedent. The motion failed 0-0-5.

18. Review of Action Items

Mr. Whitman said Mr. Scoggins (whose last meeting this was) has brought the Select Board to a level of professionalism unseen before. He said he's done a great job for a flatlander. Mr. Harrington said he began his service thinking he and Mr. Scoggins would be at loggerheads but instead it all worked out, and he has been wonderful. Ms. Dexter said it has been a real pleasure working for him. He has been curious in the best way, and it has been great answering to him over the years. Mr. Barber said he has kept everything in order and his time management is excellent. He is going to be missed. Mr. Scoggins expressed gratitude to the board, saying it is a rare thing in this day and age for people to allow the facts to sway their opinions – as the board has done without exception.

Old:

The hazard mitigation plan was approved.
The GIS parcel data will be fixed.

New:

Mr. Kiernan will distribute the hazard mitigation plan.
Mr. Scoggins will pay the fee for the boy scout shed.
Mr. Kiernan and Mr. Scoggins will get back to the board re appointing Tom Daly
host/moderator.

19. Adjournment

Mr. Krulikowski moved to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.