

Shaftsbury Select Board Meeting

Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

May 16, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Martha Cornwell, Tony Krulikowski, and Joe Barber. 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

The minutes were tabled.

4. Warrants

Water board warrant, \$396.12. A motion was made and seconded to approve the warrant, which passed 5-0-0.

Check warrant #34, \$48,506.92. A motion was made and seconded to approve the warrant, which passed 5-0-0.

5. Announcements

There were none.

6. Public Comments

State Rep. David Durfee gave a brief report on the end of the 2022 legislative session in Montpelier. New legislation provides incentives to assist municipalities with planning and purchasing energy efficient heating systems, and allows the town to appoint non-residents to boards and commissions if they choose to. The state will be lowering the average statewide education property tax by 14 cents, providing school districts with more funding so that there is less of a burden on local property taxpayers. A new child tax credit will pay families with children under 5 \$1000 annually, and there are also new or expanded tax credits for child and dependent care, student loan interest, social security, and military retirement pay. The state budget includes big investments in housing and workforce development, including scholarships and loan repayment for healthcare workers.

7. Treasurers report

Ms. Dexter said the state continues to help with delinquent utility payments. A link to the state program is on the town website. Water payments are the only activity shown in the reserve fund statement. Ms. Dexter said people could pay on line. In the cash flow report, primarily transfer station money and clerk fees are coming in. She said she'd be away from the office on May 23 and 24; those needing receipts for water payments should note that she won't be available to issue them.

8. NorShaft Energy Committee – Rob Costantino

Mr. Costantino said he had come to update the Board on his committee's efforts. He reported that his group has kicked off the Window Dressers program, in which inserts for leaky windows are built, early this year. He explained that the program is a non-profit organized in Maine. He said he is a window measurer, and that his group needs more measurers. (Securing accurate measures is the first step in the process of creating a window insert.) A grant that covers the costs of the inserts for low income

residents runs out this June. He said he hopes to serve as many people as possible before the money runs out. Without the grant, the insert would cost about \$45 each.

Mr. Costantino also shared information on rebates for heat pumps.

9. Traffic Speed Ordinance review

Mr. Kiernan thanked people who submitted a petition re reducing the speed in the Old Depot Road/Maple Hill neighborhood and comments re Hidden Valley, Potter Montgomery, and others. He urged any others wishing to comment to do so. He said when all comments have been received he will draft an ordinance. A public hearing will be held, and the select board will sign off on the ordinance. Similarly, an ordinance will be crafted regarding the question of closing off the Dexter Road/Hickory Hill trail.

10. ARPA Advisory Board

After discussion Ms. Cornwell moved that the ARPA Advisory Board be formed, and that the members be Tony Krulikowski (Select Board representative), Naomi Miller (PC representative), and from the town at large Andrea Bacchi, Betsy Habberfield, and Rick Bennett. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Krulikowski abstaining. Mr. Kiernan suggested organizing the ARPA board meetings as Zoom meetings; he will reach out to the five for a consensus as to a date for an organizational meeting and set it up.

11. Shaftsbury Media Advisory Committee

Mr. Kiernan said the webmaster would be part of the group, it will have 4 members, and will meet quarterly. Anyone interested in serving should contact Mr. Kiernan. The Town has already moved onto Facebook, and Front Porch Forum.

12. Sidewalk Scoping – recommendations by committee

Mr. Kiernan reported that because federal funds are involved, a formal vote to accept the committee's recommendations re engineers is needed. Mr. Krulikowski moved that the Select Board approve the retention of Dufresne Engineering for the sidewalk scoping project. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

13. PC Re-Appointments

Mr. Kiernan asked that the Board approve the appointment to the Planning Commission of Naomi Miller to a three year term ending in March 2024 and Chris Williams to a three year term ending in March 2023. Mr. Cichanowski moved to so appoint Ms. Miller and Mr. Williams. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0. Mr. Kiernan noted that both are long-term members of the PC and that their terms had expired through an oversight.

14. DPW Report

Mr. Kiernan reported that the crew has taken the winter equipment off the trucks. Grading continues. Ditching continues on Birch Hill and Cold Spring. A \$46,000 state grant was received today for work on Murphy Hill near Sally Gannon. The new mower has arrived. The Town borrowed funds for the purchase from the state treasurer's office at a rate of 2%. (The cost of renting the mowing had gone up.) Mr. Barber noted that a very bad pothole has developed on Church near 7A. Mr. Kiernan said it will be hot-patched shortly. (The original patch was a cold patch and didn't last long.)

15. Other Business

Ms. Cornwell asked about sending a letter to Victor Harwood and Home Depot for the new flags. Mr. Kiernan said it will be done.

Ms. Cornwell said that Shaftsbury Medical is closing on June 30. She thought the town should recognize their long-time service. Ms. Cornwell will write such a resolution and bring it to the Select Board.

Mr. Kiernan said he'd like to contract with MSK to survey the Cole Hall property. We aren't sure where we border Mr. Cross's property, and a right of way on the west side of the building needs to be relocated – all in preparation for the greening of the area and the construction of handicapped access and at a cost of \$3500. Mr. Cichanowski moved to hire MSK to survey the Cole Hall property. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

16. Review of Action Items

- Items from the NorShaft energy committee will be placed on the website.
- Mr. Kiernan will contact the ARPA board members and initiate the first meeting.
- Ms. Cornwell will draft a resolution regarding Shaftsbury Medical.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.