

Shaftsbury Selectboard Meeting

Monday May 15, 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), Tony Krulikowski, Mike Cichanowski, and Naomi Miller. 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

Ms. Miller moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting on the sidewalk project held on April 27. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1.

4. Warrants

Payroll warrant # 22, \$26,222.01. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant # 37, \$24,614.22. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

There were none.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Bill Carmada – Bennington Rescue -EMS Week

Executive Director Carmada said this is the 60th year of service by Bennington Rescue. He offered to answer any questions.

He said recruitment is better than average, with 25 active employees and two part-time employees (about 80% of the staff they'd like to have). Training requirements are significant. Compensation to the squad isn't keeping up with inflation. They are seeking grants. Most of the grants can't be used for operational expenses but are targeted for specific projects.

Training for the public will be held on May 25, including CPR and how to stop bleedingg, and a celebration for the staff will be held on May 26.

Mr. Carmada suggested townsfolk could urge their state and federal representatives to fund EMS.

Mr. Whitman noted that Shaftsbury includes funding for the squad as a line item in the budget.

8. Treasurers Report

Ms. Dexter shared the cash flow report for April. She said we are where we'd like to be for this time of year.

The reserve fund contains one item in May – water bills.

The external audit will begin in late June.

She is still hoping the town won't have to take out a line of credit, but can't be sure at this time.

9. State Hearing Scheduled - No Parking Zone VT Route 7A and Church NW Corner

A Vtrans hearing will be held later this month in Barre regarding a new no parking designation for this busy corner. A remote hearing provision will be available and will be posted on the Town's website. After approval of the change, state employees will re-stripe the corner.

10. Grandview and Hawks Sidewalk Survey

Following the special meeting on the project in April, a survey was sent to all landowners on the two streets. Mr. Kiernan shared the results.

Hawks Avenue residents do not want sidewalks (8 no, 1 no preference), and by only a small majority want a speed table (6 yes, 5 no). Mr. Kiernan has asked BCRC to evaluate vehicle use on that street. Every respondent on Grandview wants a sidewalk (11 yes, 0 no) and the large majority want a speed table. These responses will be sent to the engineer to assist them in their designing efforts. Meanwhile, sheriffs will be newly monitoring speeding in the neighborhood. (The 25 mph signs are now up.) Naomi Bindman reported she'd done her own survey on Hawks Avenue and that the real problems on Hawk Ave. are speeding, heavy truck traffic, and lack of enforcement. Most agree that a one-way street or a cul-de-sac ending at Bank St. would both be desirable. Ann Pibal asked the Select Board to consider other kinds of projects, such as limiting truck traffic, or turning it into an east-to-west boulevard with more trees and green space. Darren Brundino said there is no weight limit sign. Mr. Whitman said the Town has no jurisdiction over weight limits on Hawk Avenue. That is a State function.

At the request of Ms. Bindman each selectperson weighed in on a speed table. Mr. Kiernan said there are still a lot of questions to be answered regarding the speed table. Mr. Krulikowski said he is unsure. Mr. Cichanowski said he is not opposed to it. Ms. Miller wondered where the desire to not install speed tables comes from, but that the decision should be guided to some extent by what the residents want. Mr. Yannotti said he's had not experience with speed tables, but has talked with towns which have had them. They are effective at slowing traffic down, but deteriorate very quickly because of our wintertime conditions.

Ms. Pibal asked if the engineers could examine other options mentioned by residents of Hawk Avenue. Mr. Kiernan said he would review the grant to see if that is possible.

Mr. Kiernan said the last traffic survey on Grandview found that the average speed during the survey of 1782 vehicles was 25 m.p.h. with 72 enforceable speed violations. The same sort of survey will be done shortly by BCRC on Hawks Ave.

11. DPW Report

- Buck Hill Paving Bid will be going out shortly. It will be paid for by a Vtran Class 2 roads grant received a couple of years ago for \$153,400, \$30,000-\$40,000 of which is the Town share. Mr. Yannotti said the cost may have gone up since the grant was awarded. The seven culverts on Buck Hill will be installed by the Town. Mr. Yannotti has been waiting for the school year to end to begin that work. The Town crew will do ditching along Buck Hill in preparation for the paving.

- A bid for a Trumbull Hill Grant in Aid project to replace five culverts and do about 1000' feet of stone-lined ditching will go out shortly. The Town match is less than \$10,000.

The town crew is going to work on a box culvert on Laclair Rd. that has filled with sediment since its installation in 2008. The problem seems to be fish baffles, which will be removed (the stream does not support fish). There is a similar problem on Bennett Hill, where a stream is threatening to erode the road. A State permit has been issued.

New speed limit signs have been put up. He'll need to purchase more signs to complete the project.

Roadside mowing will start this week.

The bids will be opened at the first selectboard meeting in June.

12. Transfer Station PAYT Change in Procedure and Pricing

Mr. Kiernan said the scale has been fixed, but noted that Pownal, Bennington, and Sunderland find it efficient and accurate to charge by the bag and he'd like Shaftsbury to do the same. He said the transfer station isn't covering its own costs and an increased fee will help reduce that shortfall. Mr. Kiernan described the proposed changes, which should become effective July 1.

Mr. Kiernan will post the proposed changes on the Town website. The board can then vote after receiving public comment.

13. Appointment to Cemetery Committee: Rosemary Lindsey

Mr. Krulikowski moved to appoint Ms. Lindsey to the cemetery committee. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

14. Other Business

Mr. Kiernan said perhaps issues with registering as interveners in the PUC process described by Ms. Miller can be attributed to his being the "administrator" for the EPUC site. He will look into it further.

Mr. Krulikowski thanked those who participated in Green Up Day.

Ms. Miller noted that the Town has lots of free Covid tests. She urged folks to come and take as many as they wish.

15. Review of Action Items

Mr. Kiernan will post the notice about EMT training on the town's website.

Proposed transfer station fees will be posted on the website.

The Town will follow up with Dufresne re the sidewalk survey.

Mr. Yannotti will issue two bids.

Mr. Kiernan will post the link to the hearing on the new no parking regulation at Church and Route 7A.

16. Executive Session – Personnel

Following the executive session, Mr. Cichanowski moved to appoint Cody Wilkins as a summertime Parks and Buildings Maintenance employee, graduating in September to a full-time DPW employee. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Krulikowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.