

SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2010
Cole Hall
BUDGET WORKSHOP

Board Present: Lon McClintock, Bill Pennebaker, Karen Mellinger, Cinda Morse, Craig Bruder; **Others present:** Margy Becker, Town Administrator; Town Officials: Treasurer, Henri Billow; Listers Larry Johnson and Angie Abatello.

1. Call to Order

Lon McClintock called the meeting to order at 10:30A.M.

2. Budget Workshop

The Town Administrator's salary line item was reviewed. It was agreed that \$310 would be added to bring the budget to \$42,850.

FICA and retirement expenses related to fee income for the Town Clerk and Zoning Administrator were discussed. The Board will research whether or not FICA needs to be paid on the Zoning Administrator's fee income, which is run through payroll the same as Town Clerk fee income. It was noted that FICA expense for the Delinquent Tax Collector needed to be increased.

Tree removal expenses were discussed. The Tree Warden's recent inventory cites much work is needed. Lon McClintock noted Ron Daniels will proceed with tree removal projects before the winter is over. The Road Foreman proposes utilizing the \$9,000 current budget for tree removal projects consistent with Tree Warden Jim White's priorities. The 2011 budget was adjusted to \$3,500. Tree removal expenses associated with capital improvement projects will be posted to that line item.

It was noted that the Road Foreman needs the discretion to manage spending the gravel, salt, and chloride budgets.

Lon McClintock reported that the Treasurer had confirmed the fund balance for the Economic Development Reserve Fund to be \$1,800. An added set-aside of \$200 into the Fund will achieve the amount needed for the local share of a future grant to be applied towards a South Shaftsbury Streetscape Plan.

It was agreed the grader reserve fund would be level-funded at \$10,000. The Board discussed the fact that there is need for 2 truck replacements in the near future. Additionally, the Fire Department has identified vehicle replacement needs.

Karen Mellinger suggested the 2011 budget be the final year for set-asides into the Sidewalk Fund, in anticipation of another grant to complete the sidewalk around the

corner at the intersection of Church Street and Rte. 7A. Funds should be budgeted for maintenance of sidewalks.

Lon McClintock reported on conflicting recommendations from Architect Mark Wesner and the Facilities Committee. Mr. Wesner has suggested that it would be more cost-effective to site a new town garage at the landfill. The Facilities Committee recommends keeping the town garage in the Village. Mr. McClintock reported Ben Benedict will be unable to complete a proposed site plan for the Village location for several weeks. The Board noted that Town Meeting provides an opportunity to discuss facilities planning.

Subsequent Board discussions focused on reaching consensus on acceptable tax and budget increases. The Board agreed to hold the proposed tax increase to 3% or less without foregoing salary improvement. Lon McClintock suggested he could support a 5% increase in salaries for the road crew, and he suggested applying a portion of the \$13,712 2009 fund balance to fund salary increases.

Cinda Morse suggested reducing the budget for tree removal by \$1,500 for a proposed expenditure of \$2,000. She suggested foregoing Selectboard stipends, and she suggested reallocating \$5,000 from the overtime budget to the road crew salary budget. She commented that reducing the overtime budget would provide more incentive for management of overtime.

Brief discussions regarding the Selectboard stipend concluded with leaving the \$2,500 in the budget, as it was agreed that \$500/year barely covers gas expense to and from meetings. Karen Mellinger then advocated for reduced funding of the reappraisal reserve fund. Craig Bruder stated he supported adequate funding of the Reappraisal Reserve Fund based on an 8-year reappraisal cycle. Ms. Mellinger and Mr. Bruder discussed their assumptions for projected fund balances. Craig Bruder stated a future reappraisal could cost \$225,000. A compromise was reached and the Board agreed to cut \$2,500 from the proposed set-aside into the Fund. The Reappraisal Reserve Fund set-aside is now budgeted to be \$7,500.

Differing approaches to account for the \$13,712 2009 fund balance were examined. The Board agreed to recommend to the voters that the 2009 fund balance be set aside into a contingency fund. Discussions concluded when final budget adjustments resulted in a tax increase of 2.6% and a proposed budget increase of 9.8%.

3. Adjournment

Bill Pennebaker made the motion to adjourn at 1:45PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Margy Becker