

SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012
MINUTES

ATTENDING: **Board Members present:** Lon McClintock, Karen Mellinger, Craig Bruder, Bill Pennebaker, Carl Korman. **Town Staff:** Margy Becker, Town Administrator.

1. Call to Order

Chairman McClintock called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

2. Announcements – No announcements.

3. Public Comments - No comments made.

4. Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman McClintock inquired if any Board member had a conflict of interest with any matter on the agenda. No conflict noted for the record.

5. FY13 Budget Preparation

The Selectboard continued its final review of the proposed FY13 budget. It was noted the Road Foreman is not proposing a 2013 capital improvement project for Potter Montgomery Road. The Selectboard confirmed a 4% wage increase for the Transfer Station attendant, consistent with budgeted 4% wage increases for other town staff. Margy Becker reported that Trevor Mance had agreed to renew the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Contract without an increase in rates. The Selectboard requested that a draft contract be sent to TAM for its review.

Karen Mellinger reported on conversations with Bennington Free Clinic, Northshire Youth Baseball, Sage Symphony, and WBTV. She confirmed that the Free Clinic and Sage Symphony both serve the residents of Shaftsbury. The Board agreed to keep the proposed Bennington Free Clinic appropriation request in the budget.

Karen Mellinger made the motion to place Sage Symphony's FY13 \$500 appropriation request on the Ballot for March 2012 Town Meeting. Bill Pennebaker seconded. The motion carried. The \$500 appropriation request will be inserted into the Community Appropriations portion of the proposed budget.

The Board confirmed the estimated debt service payment for the proposed purchase of a tandem plow truck. The Board agreed confirmed proposed gravel expenditures included in the gravel line item and capital improvement projects line item will total \$83,000.

The FY11 Fund Balance (surplus) of \$142,139 will be proposed as a revenue item in the FY13 budget in order to reduce the amount to be raised in property taxes. The Selectboard discussed

reducing proposed set-asides into reserve funds, as another means to keep the amount to be raised in taxes flat. Craig Bruder stated his opinion that he is opposed to reducing tax rates as surpluses come and go, and that his objective is to see level tax rates. The current grand list (post 2010 reappraisal) enables \$.01 on the tax rate to raise \$approximately \$40,000.

The Selectboard noted its conservatism in budgeting for anticipated state revenues. It assumes only 95% of prior years' actuals. Lon McClintock noted his concern that the State is having to cope with Irene expenses and what to do with the Waterbury complex.

The balance in the reappraisal reserve fund is \$148,499. There is also an education reserve fund for Listers, financed by a per parcel contribution from the State. The Selectboard requested that an inquiry be made to determine whether these funds could be used to pay for NEMRC's Lister training and administrative support for FY13. The Selectboard also confirmed its philosophy of maintaining a balance in the reappraisal reserve fund, rather than planning that reserves be drawn down to zero \$\$ in order to pay for a reappraisal. Doing so could present a negative impact on subsequent tax rates.

It was discussed and agreed that the proposed NEMRC Bulk Time Agreement, if approved by the Board, will be financed by funds from the Listers and General Administrative professional services budgets. The expense could be allocated over the FY12 and FY13 fiscal years.

Budget discussions concluded with the agreement to adopt a final budget on Monday, January 16, 2012.

Warrants:

CHECK WARRANT #27 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,000 FOR FY12 TRANSFERS TO RESERVE FUNDS WAS REVIEWED.

Karen Mellinger made the motion to approve Check Warrant #27 in the amount of \$99,000. Bill Pennebaker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CHECK WARRANT #28 WAS DISCUSSED AND AN ERROR NOTED.

Action on Check Warrant #28 was tabled.

PAYROLL WARRANT #27 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,895.18.

Karen Mellinger made the motion to approve Payroll Warrant #27 in the amount of \$5,895.18. Craig Bruder seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment

Bill Pennebaker made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Carl Korman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by
Margy Becker