

**Town of Shaftsbury  
Selectboard Special Meeting  
Thursday, December 12, 2013  
5:00PM**

Members Present: Karen Mellinger, Ken Harrington, Tim Scoggins;  
Members Absent: Carl Korman; Mitchell Race;  
Others Present: Margy Becker, Town Administrator;

**1. Call to Order**

Called to order by Karen Mellinger at 11:35AM.

**2. Approval of Warrants**

No Warrants to approve.

**3. Conflict of Interest Statement**

No conflict was reported.

**4. Announcements**

Tim Scoggins reported on a Municipal IT Security workshop he had recently attended. He will meet with the Town Administrator after the budget is finished to review in more detail the recommendations for best practices.

Tim Scoggins briefed the Selectboard on discussions at the most recent School Board meeting. Larry Johnson has instructed the School Board that the way to eliminate District One is through legislative action. But informational votes would be required at the local level.

The Selectboard briefly discussed the school budget, and the several variables which play a role in determining whether an increase in the school budget would translate into an increase in taxes – i.e. income sensitivity, the formulas for state distribution of aid, etc.

**5. Corey Request for Ballot Article**

Margy Becker called attention to Mr. Corey's request to the Selectboard which reads as follows:

*"I am asking for a ballot article to be put on for March 4 2014 vote." The proposed ballot article reads as follows:*

*"Shall the Town purchase the land next to current garage (former Shea Property) for \$110,000 for use as site for new Town Garage". YES NO*

*“I have been able to put the land on hold and have a signed contract at the much lower \$110,000 price than the open market price of \$150,000.”*

Margy Becker reported she had forwarded Mr. Corey’s request and attached Purchase & Sales Agreement to the Town’s Attorney for review. He was asked to interpret the language in Mr. Corey’s proposed article.

Ken Harrington reported that Mr. Corey had informed him that he would circulate a petition and the Selectboard need not act on his request. Karen Mellinger requested the item be placed on the agenda for the Monday night December 16 meeting. Tim Scoggins concurred the Selectboard needs to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Corey’s request *not* to act on his written letter/request to the Selectboard. Tim Scoggins asked if Ken Harrington would express his opinion on purchasing the property at \$110,000 while the appraised value is \$60,000. Mr. Harrington agreed he would make such a statement at the next meeting.

Karen Mellinger expressed her concern that the article as written would tie the hands of the Town. According to her interpretation of Mr. Corey’s language, the Town could only use the property for a town garage versus another use – such as a senior or community center.

## **6. FY15 Budget Preparation Workshop**

The **Town Clerk’s budget** was reviewed. It was noted that the Town Clerk has requested the Town support an Assistant Town Clerk. The Selectboard agreed. Margy Becker explained her requested for wages for the Assistant replaces the professional services line item. The net impact to the budget is an increase of \$2,500.

The difficulty of budgeting for future health insurance choices to be made by employees was further discussed. Margy Becker will confirm whether the Town will receive one invoice from VT Health Connect for all health plan selections.

The **Parks budget** was reviewed. In reviewing FY14 budget and actuals, it was noted that \$5,000 had been set-aside by the voters in March 2013 towards purchase of a new tractor for Howard Park. However, the money appears to have been set-aside into the fund historically used for highway equipment. This accounting issue needs to be straightened out with the Treasurer.

Ken Harrington agreed to research the costs of a used tractor. The Parks reserve fund has approximately \$14,000 available for said purchase. Ken Harrington said he would talk to Walter Merritt or Henry Martinka. He said he wondered if the tractor could be a dual-use machine – i.e. mow and plow?

The **highway paving budget** was reviewed. It was agreed the Town should budget \$43,000 for its local share of paving grant expenses to pave 5720 feet of White Creek Road. A second grant will be applied for in March 2014 to complete paving of White Creek Road.

The **highway culvert budget** was reviewed. The Selectboard is still waiting to hear from

VTRANS regarding the recommendations for replacement culvert size at Hollow Hideaway Road. Based on the costs of the Airport Road cement culvert, the Board agreed to estimate budget a \$45,000 box and \$25,000 for installation. The Town would have to pay 10% of the costs, with the State grant paying 90%.

In absence of more information from the road crew concerning a tractor/mower repair estimate, it was agreed that \$15,000 would be budgeted for roadside mowing. This would enable the Town to contract for mowing if need be and for 2 passes.

Ken Harrington expressed his opinion that he thought the Town's existing mower was a good mower, and should hold up if repaired. The mower allows the crew to reach the trees and down banks. He said he thought the Town needed to buy a used tractor only.

It was noted the school's annual audit only costs \$6,300. It was noted that the School does not have all the funds to audit that the Town has.

The Selectboard further discussed the costs to hook up the generator at Shaftsbury Elementary. Karen Mellinger suggested, and the Board concurred, the Town budget only 50% of the estimated installation cost – or \$7,500.

## **7. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 1:35PM by Tim Scoggins; Mitch Race seconds. The motion carried unanimously.**

Submitted by,  
Margy Becker