

MINUTES OF THE SHAFTSBURY SELECT BOARD
April 25, 2011
COLE HALL
SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT

Board Present: Lon McClintock (Chairman), Karen Mellinger (Vice Chair), Craig Bruder, Bill Pennebaker; Carl Korman. **Staff:** Margy Becker, Town Administrator; **Visitors:** none

1. Call Meeting to Order:

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

2. Announcements:

Bill Pennebaker requested that the Shires Byway Plan be scheduled for Board consideration at its regular meeting on May 2nd.

3. Conflict of Interest Statement:

Chairman McClintock asked if any Board member has a conflict of interest with any topic on tonight's agenda. None did.

4. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

5. Requests to Cater Malt and Vinous Beverages– Bennington College

Lon McClintock informed Board members of revisions to statutes that will enable Bennington College to apply for a license for events at the President's House. In the future the Town should have to approve the license and not caterer's licenses for every weekend.

Karen Mellinger made the motion to approve Caterer's Licenses for the period of May 2nd, 2011 through June 24, 2011 as noted:

May 2 – 6th; 9th – 13th; 16th – 20th; 23 – 27th; 5/30 – 6/3/11
June 1 - 3; 6th – 10th; 13th – 17th; 20th – 24th.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Harris Tax Sale

Lon McClintock summarized the status of the Harris tax sale, which the Board had previously approved. 3 lots exist; 2 parcels are land only. The landowner has asked if the Town would forgo putting the Homestead up for sale, thereby allowing the Bank to negotiate. If the Delinquent Tax Collector lists the homestead, the Bank will not make a deal with the owner. There is a lot of land with the property, inclusive of 7 disputed acres. The title to at least 60 to 70% of the acreage is

undisputed, however. Mr. McClintock asked Board members if they desired to have the Delinquent Tax Collector take the Homestead out of the sale of 2 unimproved lots, or should he proceed as usual and list the entire property. The Delinquent Tax Collector has reported that his attorney is confident the lots could be sold as separate lots.

It was noted that if the Town proceeded with the tax sale, it would be most likely paid up front.

Karen Mellinger made the motion that the Delinquent Tax Collector proceed with the Harris tax sale. Bill Pennebaker seconded.

Craig Bruder noted the Town is not in the business of speculation and expressed support for the sale. Carl Korman stated he agrees the Town should proceed with the sale, while noting the concern that the landowner had not been notified of the Selectboard's special meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Other Business

It was noted the Board will be asked to reconsider the Highway Capital Improvement Plan that provided the basis of the 2012 CIP approved in the 2012 budget in March. The discussion on May 2nd will focus on whether or not to proceed with continued improvements to Paran Road – which did not fare well over the winter. Carl Korman inquired about a cost benefit analysis. The Town does have a capital improvement plan.

The Board expressed interest in proceeding with this big picture planning analysis, while noting there were no funds in the current nor the 2012 budgets for such a project.

The Board agreed to extend the deadline for filing applications for the Road Foreman vacancy. The Town Administrator will proceed with additional advertising.

Lon McClintock summarized the Treasurer's April 18th budget report. She is now predicting a positive fund balance of approximately \$83,000. Carl Korman observed this was the second year the Town had a surplus and inquired how the Board manages budget surpluses.

8. Warrants

CHECK WARRANT No. 44 in the amount of \$8,612.

Motion by Craig Bruder to approve check warrant #44 in the amount of \$8,612. Karen Mellinger seconded. The motion carried.

PAYROLL WARRANT No. 42 in the amount of \$5,212.62.

Motion by Karen Mellinger to approve payroll warrant #42 in the amount of \$5,212.62. Craig Bruder second. The motion carried.

CHECK WARRANT No. 43 in the amount of \$24,647.61.

Motion by Craig Bruder to approve payroll warrant #43 in the amount of \$24,647.61. Carl Korman seconded. The motion carried.

9. **Minutes**

Karen Mellinger made the motion to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2011. Craig Bruder seconded. The motion carried.

Carl Korman inquired about privatization of highway maintenance and plowing. The Board noted there have been residents in the past who have stated the Town should investigate this option. After some discussions the Board agreed to commence collecting information for such an analysis, while noting there are no funds budgeted in 2011 nor 2012 for such a project.

10. **Other Business:**

There was no other business

11. **Adjournment**

Karen Mellinger made the motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Craig Bruder seconded. The motion carried, 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margy Becker