

MINUTES OF THE SHAFTSBURY WATER BOARD  
JULY 20, 2009  
COLE HALL  
SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT

**Board Present:** Lon McClintock, Karen Mellinger, Bill Pennebaker, Wynn Metcalfe

**Board Absent:** Cinda Morse

**Others Present:** Joe Herrmann (Water Superintendent), Mark Rondeau (Bennington Banner), Margaret Becker (Town Administrator), Susan Swasta (Recording Secretary)

**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

Karen Mellinger presided. She called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

**2. Conflict of Interest Statement:**

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

**3. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**4. Final Presentation of FY 2010 Budget:**

- a. **New Budget Format**
- b. **Proposed Budget FY 2010**
- c. **Update of 5-Year Plan**

Ms. Mellinger said that in preparing the budget they had looked at how to include the water project in the figures while also looking at the water system apart from the project. She said that, given a projected 50-cent increase in North Bennington water rates, Water Superintendent Joe Herrmann recommends a 50 cent increase in Shaftsbury rates. North Bennington rates are expected to go from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per 1000 gallons, and Shaftsbury rates would rise from \$5.00 to \$5.50. Mr. Herrmann also recommends a \$10 per year increase in the maintenance fee, from \$50 to \$60. This makes up for a projected decrease in water usage when rates go up.

Ms. Mellinger stated that the difference between revenues and expenditures in the budget is due to money put out toward the water project that will be reimbursed from the bond. She said that they don't know yet what final bids and expenses will be for the project. Ms. Mellinger noted that the budget includes a recommended increase in Mr. Herrmann's salary.

Wynn Metcalfe said that he would like to know what the project bids are before voting on the budget. Ms. Mellinger went over the five bids: United Construction for \$567,125; Belden for \$499,300; Peckham for \$491,550; Petricca for \$399,500; Gurney Brothers for \$391,852; and Drilling Technologies for \$306,090.

Ms. Mellinger noted that the engineer had been surprised by how high the bids are; he had estimated \$300,000 for the project costs. The engineer will evaluate the bids and get back to them tomorrow. She said that the \$33,000 in contingency funds for the project would not get them near the second-lowest bid.

**Mr. Pennebaker made motion to accept the FY 2010 Water Department budget. Mr. McClintock seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.**

Mr. McClintock noted the many hours Ms. Mellinger and Mr. Herrmann had put in on the budget, both in preparing the numbers and in doing the new budget format. He said that their tremendous effort is appreciated.

Mr. Herrmann stated that the five-year plan has not changed from last time it was discussed. A garage door and window will be put in this year, and money will be set aside for a pickup truck.

**Mr. McClintock made motion to accept the Water Department 5-year plan. Mr. Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.**

**5. Water Improvement Project:**  
**a. Bid Report**  
**b. Project Status**

Ms. Mellinger reported that they should hear from the engineer on the bids tomorrow or the next day. They will probably need a special Water Board meeting to approve a bid. Ms. Mellinger said that the Water Department fund balance will not cover project-related bills. Mr. McClintock noted that tonight's Select Board meeting will include approval of a water project bond anticipation note. Ms. Mellinger stated that the cost of the note is included in the project's \$425,000 budget.

**6. Other Business:**

Mr. Herrmann stated that Treasurer Henri Billow gave him a list of delinquent water bills. This amounts to about \$4,000, and payments have been coming in. A couple of individual cases are being negotiated.

**7. Minutes:**

Ms. Mellinger said that she is not sure where they stand in approving meeting minutes. It was agreed that they will hold a short Water Board meeting in August and approve minutes.

Mr. Metcalfe stated that Mr. Herrmann should be paid more for for his work. He noted that as it stands now the assistant foreman makes almost as much as the foreman. Mr. Herrmann noted that he has no assistant right now. Mr. McClintock said that Mr. Herrmann should be compensated for covering both positions.

**Mr. McClintock made motion that Water Department chairman Karen Mellinger look into and implement interim compensation for the Water Department Superintendent.**

**ent commensurate with the work being done. Mr. Pennebaker seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.**

**Mr. Pennebaker made motion to adjourn. Mr. Metcalfe seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.**

**The meeting adjourned at 6.51 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Swasta