

SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
September 12, 2011
MINUTES

ATTENDING: **Board Members present:** Lon McClintock, Karen Mellinger, Bill Pennebaker, Craig Bruder, Carl Korman. Town Officials: Margy Becker, Town Administrator; Joe Vadakin, Fire Chief; Jerry Mattison, Emergency Management Director; Terry Stacy, Road Foreman; Oliver Durand, Fire Warden. Guest: Owen and Kathy Beauchesne.

1. Call to Order

Chairman McClintock called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

2. Announcements

No announcements made.

3. 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.

4. Public Comments

Owen Beauchesne spoke to the Board concerning his farm and the Rod and Gun Club. Owen stated that zoning permits are needed for the club. There are no permits for buildings at the club. The club has continued to expand without permits. The shooting that goes on interferes with the therapeutic riding center for kids that the adjacent Beauchesne farm runs. Mr. Beauchesne asked the Select Board to please step in and help. Mr. Bouchard stated that no environmental regulations have been followed. There have been 96 changes to the land at the range since 1984. Mr. Beauchesne presented aerial views of the range showing the changes over the years. He stated that there are no regulations in place as to what weapons can be shot at the range. The Beauchesne's are looking at a September 30th deadline for their appeals.

5. Tropical Storm Irene – Response De-Briefing

Jerry Mattison, Emergency Manager, briefed the Board on his account of the events concerning Tropical Storm Irene. Jerry got a call around 10:30a.m. concerning water on Cider Mill Road. Jerry checked other streams for flood conditions. Jerry stated that he got a call about a structure fire in North Bennington and spent some time there also. Roads were closed down and Jerry and others went door to door to evacuate residents. Jerry made his last rounds a 9:00p.m. Jerry stated that the rapid response plan came into play and that overall the Town's response went well.

Joe Vadakin, Fire Chief, stated he tried to be in constant contact with residents. He was able to deal with multiple things, everyone knew their responsibilities. He stated that the system

worked and it just flowed. Joe stated that it was obvious that Cider Mill Road was not a minor flooding event but that there was enough help. Carl Korman asked what lessons were learned after the storm and if there was an after-action report. He asked if an objective report would be put together to look at what should have happened or been anticipated.

Terry Stacy reported that he got a call just after 10:00a.m. that morning from the State Police about a tree down in Granger Hollow. Terry called in the crew. Some crew members were sent to Granger Hollow and some to Cider Mill Road where they closed the road.

Judy Stratton, Town Clerk, stated that she was not sure what her role was and did not want to second guess. She said she thought that the weak link was public information; too many varying reports were circulating.

Margy Becker, Town Administrator, got a call from Karen Mellinger about the situation on Cider Mill Road. Events started to unfold quickly. Margy stated that it was frustrating going in without a predetermined role. One problem was that when at Cole Hall she could not hear communications between the departments.

Karen Mellinger reported that she got a call about Cider Mill Road being gone. She made phone calls and went to the Fire House and then to Cole Hall. Karen decided to take photos to document the event.

Carl Korman asked if there was one person that could declare an emergency. Jerry Mattison stated that the Chair had the authority to declare an emergency.

Carl Korman suggested that cards be made with the department heads and select board members' home, cell, and work phone numbers and email addresses on them.

Karen Mellinger stated that the schools need to be involved and made aware of any emergency situations.

Oliver Durand, Fire Warden, was out of town when the storm hit, but he kept in touch. Oliver noted that communication from state to town was not good. The State needs up-dated numbers.

Lon McClintock noted that the road closure signs needed to be more visible. Chair McClintock suggested it would be best if Jerry Mattison wore only one hat during a declared emergency. The Select Board will document loss and damages for FEMA.

Joe Vadakin discovered the roof leak on the fire house during the Irene incident. Joe stated even without the leaking roof the fire house is unsuitable for use as a shelter. There are no food and water provisions, and it was being used as a command center during the incident. He suggested talking to the Red Cross about designating emergency shelters in Shaftsbury.

Jerry Mattison reported the school, church, and north station can be used as shelters. The Red Cross will bring in provisions.

The question was asked if Glatsenbury should be part of the emergency reponse plan. FEMA will be at Cole Hall Tuesday, September 13th, they have asked for a map with location sites.

Joe Vadakin announced that the tabletop exercise will be postponed until October 29th at 8:30a.m. and will over by noon. Joe stated that the panel box downstairs in the fire house has been brought up to code. He stated that there is no need for the old fire whistle.

Chair McClintock stated that communications with correct information needs to be put into place. An advanced warning system needs to be set up. Chair McClintock thanked everyone for their input and great work.

6. Proposed Personnel Policies

The proposed policies will be reviewed and any questions or comments can be sent to Craig Bruder.

7. Other Business

none

8. Approval of Minutes

Tabled

9. Approval of Warrants

PAYROLL WARRANT PR#10 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,547.35.

Karen Mellinger made the motion to approve payroll warrant PR#10 in the amount of \$6,547.35. Craig Bruder seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CHECK WARRANT #W11 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,247.46.

Craig Bruder made the motion to approve check warrant #W11 in the amount of \$9,247.46. Carl Korman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Adjournment

Craig Bruder made the motion to adjourn at 9:04pm. Carl Korman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by
Carol MacLean