

CONSTABLES

As First Constable I would like to say that I am extremely fortunate to have Robert Perry as a Second Constable. His previous police skills have proven to be an asset to our community. Working with a budget of only \$200 for the year I must admit that staying in budget was largely due to Constable Perry not requesting payment for his calls.

The constable role is not always an easy role to play. I must say, not everyone is excited when the constable shows up. There have been several times when requests have gone out to the constables due to "quality of life issues" such as illegal burning by a neighbor, fireworks, illegal dumping and other issues of which include face to face confrontations with the individuals. We try our best to quell the situation the best we can. We issue many warnings with the hope that there will be a mutual understanding that the issues we are confronting will be mitigated.

Constables in Shaftsbury are elected, but not necessarily trained in law enforcement, nor passed the entrance exams for law enforcement, had background checks completed, psychological tests completed nor are outfitted for the duty. It is due to reasons like this that the State of Vermont has mandated a new statute that Shaftsbury and all other towns in the state will have to comply. That is, as of July 2010 "All Constables will have to be at least part time certified in order to exercise law enforcement." We have addressed this with our select board. The Vermont State Police and the Sheriff's Departments said they welcome the additional help once training is completed. This is a major hurdle. Constable Perry and I will be drafting a plan for the town based on the requirements set forth by the state; the duties we would be performing as well as the cost, should the town decide to sustain it's constables.

As an elected official involved in law enforcement in Shaftsbury, I feel it is important that you are aware that I have previously passed exams required for entrance into the Vermont State Police Auxiliary program. I am yearly CPR, BBP and first aid certified. A current type 5 Incident Commander, and was a member of the Arlington rescue Squad for eight years. I am currently an engine boss for the U.S.F.S. Constable Perry was a previous police officer with a back ground in drug use and expert in firearms. We appreciate your continued support.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Herzfeld, First Constable