

Shaftsbury Select Board

Wednesday September 18, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Present were selectpersons Tony Krulikowski (vice –chair and meeting coordinator), Mike Cichanowski, and via Zoom, Art Whitman (chair) and Martha Cornwell. Also present was town administrator David Kiernan.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the minutes for Tuesday Sept 5, 2023. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

4. Warrants

Check warrant #11, \$111,732.33. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant #6, \$2174.58. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

5. Announcements

Mr. Kiernan reported that the Municipal Energy Resilience Project (MERP) application step one was approved. It will open the possibility of a \$500,000 grant to retrofit Cole Hall for energy efficiency.

6. Public Comments

Rich Jorgensen of Bank Street asked for an update on the sheriff's monitoring of speeding in the neighborhood. He asked that such information be regularly shared on the town website. He explained that neighbors put up "slow down" signs at their own expense. He said he'd heard from a couple of people that they'd had to jump off the road to avoid cars.

Mr. Kiernan said he'd spoken with the sheriff's office. The town is going to erect speed monitoring devices around town (Mr. Kiernan has ordered them). The sheriff's staff will institute a static presence on Bank Street. The Town is going to appoint a liaison from the Select Board to meet with State troopers. (He noted that budget season is coming up for both the town and the sheriff's office. Now would be the time to add more hours to the contract for the year beginning July 2024. The issue is person power – more hours.)

Mr. Jorgensen said he'd like to know what the sheriff's activity log looks like. Mr. Kiernan said he'll ask the sheriff what can be shared publicly.

Mr. Jorgensen said the NYC parkways have erected cameras which automatically generate tickets. Is that a possibility for Shaftsbury?

7. Treasurers Report

Melanie Dexter reported that neither the final August report nor the cash flow report is up to date. An August payroll hasn't yet cleared. And her check scanner malfunctioned and led her to fall behind in recording tax receipts. She noted that the negative amounts shown in the reserve fund accounts aren't real but reflect the requirement that reserve funds not be replenished until tax receipts have been collected.

8. EDC Survey Presentation

Ms. Cornwell reported on a survey to which about 128 citizens responded to the questions: what would you like to see in the town community center and in the town green? Whatever options are chosen will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act funds and grants.

Desired in a community center? Meeting event and fitness space and offerings for seniors and youth ranged highest. Others were also suggested.

Desired in the town green? Picnic tables and green space, gazebo/stage for performances, skating rink/splash pad, and a solar roof/EV charging facility ranked high.

Lisa Pezzulich said via Zoom that her extended family recently discovered how limited ADA facilities are nationally. She asked that it the issue be kept front and center as these projects are pursued.

Andrea Bacchi said via Zoom that she is proud of Shaftsbury for the number and quality of the survey responses.

Jim Cormier suggested that the center might contain a mural celebrating all those who have preceded us, including indigenous peoples, the Mahicans (or Mohicans). He also said he'd read that the town was the first to have an underground railroad station, at the Bottum farm (at Old Depot Road). This should also be reflected on the mural. The center must also be maintained properly and kept clean and safe. Maybe a caretaker's unit could be included in the space.

Carl Korman asked whether there are plans for a standing committee that would manage programing. Ms. Cornwell said there had been some talk about partners helping with programing, and about adding a DPW employee to help maintain the site.

Mr. Whitman thanked Ms. Cornwell and all the committee for their work.

9. DPW

Sidewalk Plow / Multipurpose Tractor Purchase

Mike Yannotti, DPW foreman, reported that the Town wished to purchase N. Bennington's old sidewalk plow with many accessories for \$25,000. It will be available at the end of November. Mr. Yannotti said the town's current sidewalk plow sits unused all summer. The new used machine could be used for many summertime tasks. Mr. Kiernan noted that replacement of the existing machine is in the FY 2024 capital plan. Mr. Cichanowski moved to purchase the Wagner WL30 machine for \$25,000. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Specifications Tandem Truck Purchase / State Spec

Mr. Yannotti said he has learned that we don't have to put a bid out but can buy from the state contract. The companies the town has used regularly are both in the state contract. He has received quotes and specifications from those entities and would like authorization to purchase both the truck and the body under the state contract provisions. Mr. Yannotti said he is acting early in order to secure a truck on site by summer 2025. The cost would be \$267,885. Mr. Yannotti plans to sell the existing truck and that payment will cover the difference between the amount budgeted for the new truck and the actual cost. Mr. Whitman said the reason that International and Viking are part of the state contract is because they were the low bidders for that contract. Mr. Cichanowski moved to purchase from Allegiance Truck a new 2025 International Model HV613 SBA 6x4 heavy duty tandem axle truck with a stainless steel combination dump body/sander, plow, wing and all necessary hydraulics and attachments for \$267,885 via the state contract. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Buck Hill is ready for paving. The paver should be here next week.

10. Municipal Planning Grant Resolution

Mr. Kiernan said the town is seeking a grant from the Agency for Commerce and Community Development to hire a consultant for the Economic Development Committee. A resolution by the Select Board and Planning Commission to pursue the grant is required. The match would probably come to about \$2000. Mr. Cichanowski moved to sign the resolution. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Kiernan asked those present via Zoom to try to stop by later in the week to sign the resolution.

11. Cole Hall Improvements Contract

Mr. Kiernan said the Town has entered into a contract with Goldstone Architecture to renovate Cole Hall to become ADA compliant. He requested to changes to the contract, as follows: Change Order 1: requested structural engineer to evaluate the entire building and renovate the clerk and assessor's offices for better work flow and improve ADA accessibility. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve change order 1. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Change Order 2: MET Engineering, a sub to Goldstone, to plan and install new energy systems for Cole Hall, contingent on the town's receiving the MERP grant. Mr. Cichanowski moved to sign change order 2. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

12. Engineering Services Agreement – Community Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report

Mr. Kiernan noted that we received the \$125,000 loan to do a study regarding a wastewater system for South Shaftsbury. He noted that in return the town would receive a grant of \$125,000 to pursue the project. Mr. Cichanowski moved to authorize Mr. Kiernan to sign the ESA. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

13. Architectural and Engineering Preliminary discussion Village Green, Pavilion, Community Center

Mr. Kiernan reported that he walked the town green area with representatives from Goldstone Architects and MSK Engineering, a preliminary step in designing the improvements. The design team will look into saving the barn. Mr. Kiernan said he'd like to create a committee to help advise the team as they create visuals for the eventual development of the green and structures. Updates will be coming.

Betsy Habberfield reported on her efforts to install a historic marker at her mill property.

14. Animal Control Officer Appointment

Mr. Kiernan said that Kelly Coonradt will resign effective October 1. He asked the board to appoint Robert Perry, our first constable, as animal control officer. Mr. Cichanowski moved to appoint Robert Perry animal control officer effective October 1. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

15. Other Business

There was none. Mr. Kiernan said there is no need for an executive session.

16. Review of Action Items

Mr. Kiernan will sign a number of documents.

17. Executive Session Legal

Not needed

18. Adjournment

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.