

**Town of Shaftsbury
Select Board Meeting
In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom
6:30 PM Tuesday February 20, 2024**

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were selectpersons Art Whitman (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Naomi Miller, and Tony Krulikowski. Also present was webmaster and Zoom administrator Jen Holley.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Warrants

Payroll warrant #15, \$40,997.83. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Payroll warrant #16, \$35,619.95. Ms. Miller moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Payroll warrant #17, \$26,287.27. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the warrant. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant #33, \$94,783.16. Ms. Miller moved to approve the warrant. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Check warrant %3

4. Announcements

Mr. Whitman noted that members are needed for the Town green, Cole Hall, sewer feasibility study, and economic development committees.

5. Public Comments

There were none.

6. Treasurer's report

Ms. Dexter said she transferred about \$500 to correctly code a delinquent tax payment. That check needs a signed warrant. It was later found in the stack. Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve check warrant 33, \$535.60. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Dexter reviewed the cash flow statement. A lot of delinquent taxes are coming in. The cash position looks pretty good.

The reserve fund statement reflected late water payments. She said she gets up to thirty requests daily for copies of tax bills. She asked citizens to check that their bills are in hand.

7. Announcement re contract to purchase real estate

Mr. Whitman announced that the Town has entered into a contract to purchase the lot and house directly behind Cole Hall. The purchase will help the town create the Town Green and perhaps build affordable housing. ARPA funds will be used to complete the purchase.

8. Planning Commission recommendation: creation of energy committee

Mr. Whitman noted that the Planning Commission recommends forming an energy committee. A memo from Ms. Miller (who also sits on the Planning Commission) was shared. Ms. Miller explained that the draft Enhanced Energy Plan makes this recommendation. She described some of the proposed duties of the committee, and qualifications for its members. She noted that the state encourages the creation of such committees. Mr. Whitman asked for a motion to create such a standing committee and to seek volunteers to serve on it. Mr. Krulikowski so moved. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

9. Vermont's 250th anniversary celebration: appointment of Shaftsbury Historical Society as Town representative
Ms. Miller moved to adopt a resolution saying in effect: the Town of Shaftsbury officially resolves to create a local committee comprising the Shaftsbury Historical Society to work with the state's 250th anniversary committee. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
10. Screening ordinance: introduction, adoption, and effective date.
Mr. Whitman explained that an earlier adoption of the screening ordinance did not fully comply with the state's procedures regarding the adoption of ordinances. By adopting the ordinance tonight and making it effective April 20, these procedures can be complied with.
Ms. Miller summarized the ordinance: that it applies to solar panel developments 60 kw and larger; that screening shall be effective year-round; that vegetation and berms may be used; and that the Queechee Test shall be addressed by a panel of five persons drawn from five standing Town committees. Mr. Krulikowski moved to adopt the ordinance as proposed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0. The ordinance will be posted within 14 days. If no petitions are filed regarding it within 44 days, it will become law on April 20th.
11. DPW report
Ms. Holley reported on Mike Yannotti's behalf that the crew is spending time on tree removal, cleaning ditches, maintaining equipment, getting ready for the next storm, stockpiling sand, and preparing the garage for the election.
12. Other Business
A communication re a possible grant program was discussed; there wasn't enough time to pursue it.
13. Action items
Ms. Miller will share the 250th resolution with the Historical Society and get out the screening ordinance.
14. Executive session: personnel
Mr. Krulikowski moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:08 p.m. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.
15. Adjournment