

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 16, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman
David D. Macy, Selectman,
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary

Chairman Stanton called the meeting to order at 7PM. Selectman Macy & Selectman Stanton welcomed Julie Hannum to the Board.

The Board expressed appreciation and acknowledged Richard Kirchner's service on the Board for approximately 30 something years. Mr. Kirchner continues to give to the community by serving on the Board of Health, and has indicated his willingness to continue on as the Sheffield Representative to the Veteran's District and on the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Board. Mr. Kirchner had also served on the Fire Dept. prior to being a Selectman.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Selectman Macy nominated Selectman Stanton as Chairman of the Board of Selectman, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Stanton explained that the Board rotates its chairmanship/clerk. The Chairman tends to be the Selectman who will be up for re-election, and the Selectman serving as Clerk will have a turn to be the Chairman in the following year.

Selectman Hannum nominated Selectman Macy as Clerk of the Board of Selectman, seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

The Board members made nominations by taking turns reading names, positions & length of terms, from the attached list.

Betty LeGeyt had served on the School Committee for 6 years. The School Committee has a term limit of 6 years.

Selectman Macy moved to appoint those nominated on the attached list, and Susan Young to fill the vacancy on the School Committee, seconded by Julie Hannum.

Julie Hannum recommended postponing the School Committee appointment so that the vacancy could be announced to the public via CTSB & newspapers to see if others in the community might have an interest in serving. Selectman Hannum moved to amend the motion to postpone an

appointment to fill the vacancy on the School Committee seconded by Selectman Macy. The Motion on Appointment as per attached list carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes for April 19, 2005; April 25, 2005 Regular & Executive Session; May 5, 2005; May 7, 2005, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE CHIEF - MASS. GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 48: §59A -- FIRE DEPT. AID TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Town Administrator Weitz indicated that the Fire Chief requested that the Board sign an agreement (as a formality) to renew mutual aid agreement between the Town of Sheffield and the Berkshire County Fire Chiefs Association. In response, the Board signed the agreement to be returned to the Fire Chief.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESIGNATIONS

The Board read Fire Chief Boardman's letter in which he advised of the resignations of Michael Koldys, Jen Bennett, Eric Hewins, Almo Zani & Bill Ruane from the Fire Department. The Board acknowledged the service they had provided to the town, and will send a letter of appreciation.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADES

Selectman Macy moved to grant permits for Memorial Day Parades in Sheffield and Ashley Falls, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

MAIL OF NOTE:

Sheffield Land Trust: Conservation Restriction

Kathy Orlando of the Sheffield Land Trust's letter dated May 11, 2005, advised that they received a grant from the Commonwealth toward the purchase of the Cosgriff property (with the walking route to School) between Salisbury Road and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The grant requires that the Land Trust must grant a Conservation Restriction to either the town in which the project is located, or a state agency, or both. The Sheffield Land Trust, as a courtesy, inquired via the letter if the Town would be interested in accepting a Conservation

Restriction. The letter contained attachments providing additional information about the location of the property and a sample Conservation Restriction agreement. The Board expressed their support of this project but that they feel that given the limited resources of the town, the responsibilities of the project would be better managed by the Department of Conservation & Recreation or Fish & Wildlife. Town Administrator Weitz will contact Ms Orlando.

Selectman Macy moved to decline accepting a conservation restriction (CR) from the Sheffield Land Trust for the Cosgriff family property between Salisbury Road and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District., seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPLAINT RE: JUNK CARS

In response to a letter (and pictures attached to the letter) dated May 9, 2005 from Ken and Diane Bartow concerning junk vehicles, and other debris including construction debris and exposed vehicle batteries on Pine Lane, Ashley Falls, Selectman Macy moved to notify and ask that the Chairman of the Board of Health (responsibility is for debris on the property but not vehicles), and the Sheffield Police Department (responsible to enforce junk vehicle by-law), investigate

this matter, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Selectman Hannum stated that as a courtesy, she will contact the Bartows.

TOWN PROPERTY ALCOHOL POLICY

Chairman Stanton announced that this is the 2nd time this matter has come before the Board. Chairman Stanton stated that she is concerned about people drinking alcoholic beverages at the Town Park while children play. Selectman Hannum asked Town Administrator Weitz to look into the insurance costs that would be incurred by those holding One-Day Alcoholic Beverage Permits. Selectman Macy expressed that his main objective would be to avoid the town's exposure to liability to the town. All agreed that this is important. Town Administrator Weitz stated Town Counsel recommended that the Town have a policy and that most towns he surveyed do not allow alcohol on town properties. Susan Young, Board of Library Trustees, expressed her concern about how this policy might impact special events/receptions (some serve wine) occurring in the library.

Chairman Stanton suggested giving Selectman Hannum more time to think about this -- being that this is her first meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

LETTER RE: POSSIBLE CAR REPAIR BUSINESS ON ALUM HILL RD.

The board has not received a report. Town Administrator Weitz will follow-up with the Police Chief.

STREET CURB CUT PERMITS

Pending approval from Police Chief McGarry, Selectman Macy moved to approve the curb cut permits as listed below, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

Ann & Gary Grogh, Rannapo Road
Joseph & Susan Hurlburt, Rannapo Road
Karen Galliger, 180 Salisbury Road
Sam Earnshaw, Hickey Hill Road

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

Selectman Hannum expressed appreciation to Betty LeGeyt for serving on the Southern Berkshire Regional Committee for 6 years. The Board will send her a letter of appreciation.

Chairman Stanton announced that the Massachusetts Bar Association is having a free legal advice public hotline (413) 782-1659 -- on Wednesday May 18, 2005, from 3:30PM till 7:30PM.

Selectman Stanton requested that the board find out the procedure for selling town-owned land, and asked that they examine information she has obtained via the Internet for this. Once they know the procedure, the next step would be to look at parcels.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Miller of Root Lane offered to raise money privately to restore 4 stones located at the Barnum Cemetery. These had been damaged from a tree falling. The Board agreed that Mr. Miller will contact Town Administrator Weitz to coordinate calling professionals to confirm it is possible to restore the stones, find out what would be involved, and to obtain estimates. After this occurs, the Board will review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7: 55 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining and not returning to Open Session seconded by Selectman Stanton. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Macy - Aye; Chairman Stanton-Aye, and Selectman Hannum -Aye.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert
Recording Secretary