

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
May 23, 2005 - 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

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

Others Town Officials Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator  
David Steindler, Industrial Development Commission  
Rene Wood, Planning Board

Chairman Stanton called meeting to order at 7PM

**POLICE & FIRE DISPATCH**

Fire Chief Rick Boardman & Fire Chief Deputy John Ullrich, & Police Chief James McGarry were present to discuss Police & Fire Dispatch. They advised that the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office needs a letter of intent from the Board of Selectmen to proceed with transferring to County Dispatch. Deputy Fire Chief Ullrich stated that Berkshire County Dispatch is going through a transition and is putting in a new structure & upgrading the system including putting in brand new dispatch center at the County Jail. Chief McGarry favors transferring to Berkshire County after working through other issues. The Fire Dept. thinks both the Police & Fire Department should use the same Dispatching organization. County Dispatch will be installing its own transmitter on Butternut Basin, which will provide better coverage. Chairman Stanton inquired if there were any financial advantages. Chief McGarry indicated that coverage would be just as good if not better with the new transmitter on top of Butternut Mountain. Chairman Stanton asked if it were less money & Chief McGarry replied, "at this time". Town Administrator Weitz stated that in the past, there were dead spots under the county's plan. John Ullrich indicated that for the first time, funding is available to upgrade the new system & it will be on the leading edge of technology. The County targets September 1<sup>st</sup> for installing the equipment on Butternut Basin. Selectman Macy moved to send a letter of intent to transfer Sheffield over to the County Dispatch to Berkshire County Dispatch Office, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

**FARMER'S MARKET**

Sandy and Andy Snyder discussed the Farmer's Market. Chairman Stanton requested that from now on, those in charge of the Farmer's Market come before the Board of Selectmen about one month prior to the beginning of the market. Sandy Synder apologized & explained that this year going before the Board had not been done -- both June Wolf (former manager) & she had major issues (she had surgery). Chairman Stanton stated that she'd like to have communication with the Farmer's Market in advance of its opening. Chairman Stanton would like to know the plans of the market in advance to give the Board and others in town (including storekeepers in the Village Green) an opportunity to ask questions or voice any concerns they might have. Chairman Stanton indicated that she had heard that some of the Farmer Market vendors had parked their vehicles on the Village Green. Sandy indicated that when she notices someone parked in the wrong place she asks them to move & she agreed to give out reminder flyers to the vendors: if anyone notices a vendor parked in the Village Green she asks to be informed and she'll have the vendor move.

Sandy Snyder gave information to the Board re: this year's Farmer's Market. There are 19 vendors although not all are there every week. The Board expressed their support of the Farmer's Market. Chairman Stanton indicated that she will see if any of the business people in town have questions or things that should be worked out.

**UPDATE ON SMART GROWTH**

Rene Wood, Chairman of the Planning Board updated the Board on the activities of the Smart Growth grant.

Task 3 Right to Farm Bylaw - Objective was met -- the Right to Farm Bylaw was approved at the Annual Town Meeting. She stated that having this in place will add points to the town's Commonwealth Capital Application Score.

Task 1 Reviewing the Zoning ByLaws - there will be a meeting tomorrow night to discuss residential issues. Information has been provided to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee will have a meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss non-residential uses. Mark Bobrowski has developed a table outlining uses within the different zoning districts. Ms Wood anticipates that this will be wrapped up by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Task 2 Analysis of how the Zoning Bylaws are consistent with Goals of Sheffield's Master Plan. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has cut staff -- Tom Matsuko expects to complete the draft by early June hopes.

Rene Wood announced upcoming quick points application grant for towns -- The towns are able to see scores they might want to change. Towns seeking APR funding from the state can go through the score. The higher the score the more opportunity for money and services. The Planning Board expects to apply for another Smart Growth Development grant mid August.

The Board expressed appreciation to Rene for all the hard work she does on behalf of the town.

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission met with the Board of Selectmen to express their concern that due to complex laws, they anticipate the need to hire consultants for environmental issues. In keeping, the Conservation Commission joined the Conservation Agent Program which is part of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The Conservation Commission is planning to adopt this as part of the Conservation Agent Program but wanted to communicate to the Board of Selectmen about this matter before acting.

Chairman Stanton expressed her support for the Commission using whatever resources required to get the job done correctly. Selectman Macy suggested that the Conservation Commission may see Town Administrator Weitz for assistance with monitoring their budget.

#### PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

Town Administrator Weitz advised that the town has the fifth Purchase & Sale agreement for the Business Park.

Rene Wood advised on special permit hearing June 7<sup>th</sup>, for David and Maggie Brigham.

Selectman Macy moved to sign the purchase of sale agreement of Sheffield Business Park lot 5 to Euro Precision, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

#### APPOINTMENTS

At the recommendation of Moderator Bruce Person, Selectman Macy moved to ratify the Moderator's appointment of David Steindler to the Finance Committee, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the subject of Policies & Procedures for appointments and reappointments. The issue discussed was how to get candidates, how to review them & how the Board makes decisions when there are multiple candidates for various boards.

It was suggested by members of the audience that the Board of Selectmen needed a policy regarding appointments to which the Board decided to have a working meeting to discuss further. The Board also agreed that they would like to begin the review of reappointments to Board & Committees in January and asked Town Administrator Weitz to remind them of this next January.

#### STREET CURB CUT PERMIT

The Board approved the Street Curb Cut Permit as conditioned by the Highway Superintendent, to Matthew Fogerty for his property located on West Street.

## FULLER BARN

The Town Administrator asked the Board to consider the disposition of the Fuller Barn as this had been voted in the past to demolish, and then not to demolish when the site was proposed for the Senior Center.

Selectman Macy moved to demolish the barn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The Board then decided to postpone action until Selectman Hannum had a chance to look at the barn with Town Administrator Weitz. Jim Miller of Sheffield Historical Society asked the Board to again look into the possibility of either having the barn moved or letting someone salvage the building materials from the barn.

## SELECTMAN'S ITEMS

Selectman Macy noted the upcoming Memorial Day Parades.

Selectman Hannum noted the fine job done by the Kiwanis Club and Police Departments for the recent Community Day held at the Town Park.

Chairman Stanton suggested that the Board discuss issues of Appointments and Tax Title at a working meeting. The working meeting is tentatively set for June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There were a number of residents from Hulett Hill Road who were in attendance to express concern regarding the recent development of 13 lots along Hulett Hill Road and the poor condition of the road, as well as the poor visibility along such road.

Rene Wood gave the Board a summary of how the development had come about. There was further discussion about one driveway curbcut already in (presumably by the developer) without the required curb cut permit & how the town would enforce the curb cut bylaw. The board asked Town Administrator Weitz to review the driveway with the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief & to take appropriate action.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

At 9:03 PM, Selectman Macy moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining seconded by Selectman Hannum. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Macy - Aye; Chairman Stanton-Aye, and Selectman Hannum -Aye.

Chairman Stanton noted that the Board would not be reconvening after the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Weitz, Town Administrator