

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 6, 2006
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Selectman
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Town Officials Present: James M. McGarry, Police Chief
Peter Rowntree, Board of Library Trustee

Selectman Macy called the meeting to order at 7PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

At Selectman Hannum's request, the Board placed the January 17, 2006 minutes on hold until the next meeting.

MAIL OF NOTE

- Planning Board re: Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article
The Planning Board announced that it will ask voters at the 5/1/06 town meeting to fix compensation for upcoming fiscal year at \$100 for each elected official of the Planning Board (\$500 total) to provide recognition and additional incentive for serving.
- Town of Kingston: Letter of support re: removal of cap on Lottery Proceeds
In response to the above letter, Selectman Hannum moved to send State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Andrea Nuciforo a letter asking for support of the Governor's petition to remove the current cap on the lottery proceeds to the town, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.
- Franklin Regional County of Governments: Letter of Support re: Federal Help America Voting Act Voting Changes
Above-mentioned letter requested Selectmen to send Secretary Galvin a letter stating opposition to the federal Help America Voting Act (HAVA) in which towns will be required to accept one electronic voting machine for the 2006 elections. Concerns mentioned included: accuracy of machines, paper trails, why change when the current paper ballot system works. The board did not act on this letter. Selectman Hannum stated that while speaking to a colleague at the Mass. Municipal Conference, she had heard that the electronic voting system is supposed to benefit citizens with disabilities (for example, blindness). Selectman Hannum stated that prior to considering this request, she would want additional information, including Town Clerk's (& Town Clerk's Association) input.

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – ONE DAY WINE & BEER PERMIT APPLICATION

Selectman Hannum moved to issue a one-day wine & beer permit to Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce for its March 11, 2006 fund-raiser at Berkshire School. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSHNELL SAGE LIBRARY – NEW SIGN

Board of Library Trustee member Peter Rowntree showed the Board of Selectmen a proposed replacement sign for the Bushnell Sage Library. Selectman Hannum commented that while it is handsome, she thinks it's a good practice for towns to have signs consistent in shape and color to provide recognition of town buildings.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY RE: NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

The Board had received communication dated January 19, 2006, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety Homeland Security Division urging all municipalities to comply with standards of National Incident Management System (NIMS) which provides a consistent, nationwide template (see attached) to enable federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as private sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together to prepare, respond to, and recover from disaster. Police Chief McGarry spoke in support of the board endorsing NIMS, required for towns to receive FY07 Federal Preparedness funds including grant funding from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security & the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services.

Selectman Hannum moved to adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles and policies, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET CUT PERMIT APPLICATION – VOORHIS/OLD JOE ROAD

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the street cut permit application for Timothy Voorhis on property located at Old Joe Road (Map 22, block 3.j, Parcel 5), contingent upon approval of the Police Chief. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS

Selectman Hannum reported on events she attended:

- Chamber of Commerce Pittsfield Business Development State Incentives Workshop
- Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting at Options Institute re: Berkshire Economic Development Commission
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (“MPO”) meeting—MPO is a new sub-committee of Berkshire County Regional Planning Agency. The purpose of this committee is to decide where federal moneys are spent on various transportation improvement projects (“TIP”) -- (Nothing to do with Chapter 90 and bridge moneys). The completion of the Village Green's project remains on the TIP listing. The state has various MPO regions. The Berkshire County MPO Region has 10 members including 4 state appointed officials, 2 from cities (1 from Pittsfield, and 1 from North Adams), and 4 regional representatives (2 from North County and 2 from South County). Three Selectmen competed to be the S. Berkshire MPO representatives (including Selectman Hannum). Veterans Selectmen Chris Irsfeld, and Jim Lovejoy ended up becoming the Delegates for Southern Berkshire. Selectman Macy pointed out that the 4 regional representatives much be elected officials and this could present vacancies if a selectman is not re-elected. He also pointed out that with the formation of MPO, the individual towns no longer have their own representative to Berkshire County

Regional Planning's Transportation Subcommittee. Selectman Hannum noted the importance for the Board of Selectmen to maintain close dialogue with the representatives, which must now think more "globally" in terms of the best needs of the county rather than merely advocating for their own specific town.

Selectman Hannum had received a telephone call from Margaret Larkin of West Road concerning a dangerous blind corner on West Road where erosion of a bank is causing the road to narrow into one lane. The Board will refer to the Town Administrator and Highway Department.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously. Selectman Macy adjourned the meeting at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert
Recording Secretary