

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 3, 2007
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
James T. Collingwood Sr., Clerk
David D. Macy

Other Staff Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Assistant Town Administrator

Chairman Hannum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2007 meeting, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

MARK PRUHENSKI – JUNK BYLAW:

Mark Pruhenski was present to discuss an issue with his neighbor, Pete's Sales and Service, at 69 South Main Street. Photos were distributed showing trash, abandoned vehicles, tires and other items being stored behind the buildings. These are visible from Mr. Pruhenski's property and he has safety concerns for his family as well as the wetland behind his home. Mr. Pruhenski gave his permission for the Board to enter his property to better view the situation. Administrator Kellogg will further investigate the complaint.

PAUL O'BRIEN, FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – C-SPAN:

The Five Town Cable Advisory Committee voted to urge their Selectmen to send a letter to Time Warner requesting that C-Span be placed back on the lower tier of programming. The Towns of Lee and Great Barrington have voted to send the letter. Selectman Macy moved to support the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee and send a letter to Time Warner asking that C-Span be added to the lower tier of programming, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

RUDOLPH STEINER SCHOOL-PICK UP/DROP OFF AREA:

Marilyn Ruppert, Administrator for the Rudolph Steiner School, sent a letter requesting permission to use the Town Hall Parking Lot as a student pick-up/drop-off area. Chief McGarry has approved the location. Discussion ensued regarding other locations. Selectman Macy moved to approve the use of the Town Hall parking area as long as the fire lane is not blocked, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

SAND BIDS:

Administrator Kellogg explained that Sheffield and Great Barrington use a joint bid for winter sand. The original bid asked for screened washed sand. One bid was received from J. Donovan & Son, Inc. for \$13.75 per ton. Discussions took place regarding the need for sand to be screened and washed. A second bid was issued removing the requirement for the sand to be washed. It was noted that Highway Superintendent Ron Bassett and Great Barrington Town Engineer Don Chester agreed that the sand was acceptable. One bid was received from Joe Wilkinson Excavating for \$8.84 per ton. Using dry screened sand would save the Town approximately \$15,000. Selectman Macy moved to accept the sand bid from Joe Wilkinson Excavating for \$8.84 per ton and to reject the screened washed sand bid from Donovan for \$13.75 per ton, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

RENE WOOD – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Rene Wood asked the Board of Selectmen to appoint an Economic Development Task Force to review allowed uses in the General Business District in order that they reflect what the people would like to see. This task force would report their findings to the Board of Selectmen after 90 days. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission would possibly provide funding for this task force. Don Ward, Paul Tepper and Rene Wood would be willing to serve on the task force, which could include one other member of the Planning Board. The Selectmen will discuss this further with the Planning Board at their meeting on December 17, 2007.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

A Special Town Meeting has been proposed for January 22, 2008. Chairman Hannum read and explained each of the following articles:

\$15,000 for a new furnace in the Library

\$16,800 for Vocational Education

\$14,000 for a new telephone system in the Town Hall and Police Department

\$300,000 for a grant match for the Senior Center

The meeting will be in the Mt. Everett School auditorium at 7:00 pm. Selectman Macy moved to call a Special Town Meeting for January 22, 2008 and to approve the warrant, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding a typo, in the Zoning By-law that needs to be changed.

PHONE SYSTEM:

Valley Communications has submitted a proposal to install a new phone system in the Town Hall and the Police Department for \$13,700. The price includes new telephones and will include a voice mail system. Valley Communications has the state bid. Administrator Kellogg explained the issues with the present phone system cutting out in mid conversation as well as problems with the alarm system.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Macy reminded residents not to park overnight in the Village Green during the winter to help snow removal efforts.

Chairman Hannum gave her appreciation to the Highway Department for all their hard work during the recent storm.

Chairman Hannum noted the Ashley Falls tree lighting that took place on Saturday and announced that the Sheffield tree lighting ceremony will take place this Sunday.

Chairman Hannum noted that the Broadband Access Committee would meet soon and invited anyone interested to participate.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator Kellogg thanked Tammy Blackwell for her hard work on replacing the Town Christmas Tree lights with LED bulbs, which will use less electricity.

Administrator Kellogg noted that Recycling Coordinator David Steindler has received new recycling bins and they are available at the Town Hall for any resident that would like one.

Administrator Kellogg noted that an informational session would be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall for the proposed Senior Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Senior Center Director John Arthur Miller also noted the informational meeting to take place tomorrow night and thanked the Board for their support with the Center.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Solid Waste User Abatement:

Selectman Macy moved to issue a full abatement for 57 Sheffield Egremont Road for a bill that was issued in error, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Sign Permit:

A sign permit application was received from Linda Higgins for Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Women's Club for an event on December 8, 2007. The sign would be erected as soon as approved and removed on December 8, 2007. Selectman Macy moved to approve the sign permit, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation:

It was noted that Aidan Cassidy submitted his resignation from the Ashley Falls Historic District Commission. Selectman Macy moved to accept the resignation and send Mr. Cassidy a letter of thanks for his service, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator