

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 7, 2008
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 Collingwood moved to approve 3 sets of minutes for the December 17, 2007 meetings and 1 set of minutes for the December 27, 2007 meeting, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

CEMETERY VANDALISM:

Cemetery Association member Bruce Philbrick was present and showed photos of vandalism committed at the Center Cemetery and an invoice for repairs. Bruce discussed the vandalism and thanked the Sheffield Police Department for their assistance in recovering some to the costs through restitution. Miles Arnsperger, one of the vandals, was present and read an apology for taking part in the vandalism.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ashley Falls Historic District Committee: Richard Swiatek has been recommended for the position. Mr. Swiatek will be contacted regarding his interest in the position and a written request to be appointed

Economic Development Task Force: Rene Wood, Catherine Miller and Jason Ostrander have requested to be appointed to the Economic Development Task Force. A press release will be issued requesting applicants for the Task Force. If anyone wishes to comment on these appointments, they should contact members of the Board of Selectmen. These appointments will be made on January 22, 2008.

APPOINTMENTS:

Selectman Macy moved to make the following appointments:

Cable Advisory Committee: George Oleen

Broadband Access Committee: John Arthur Miller

Seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

BRPC MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:

Administrator Kellogg explained that all communities in Western Mass have been requested to sign the same document to provide Mutual Aid in a variety of municipal services including police, fire, health, highway and administration. He also noted that the Berkshire County

Managers Group had prepared a statement to deal with several issues raised by Town Counsels. Authorization to sign the agreement was given at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2006, but the language for the agreement was not finalized until now. Selectman Macy moved to enter into the Western Massachusetts Inter-governmental Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement with the Berkshire County Addendum, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

CHANGE IN MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for January 21, 2008 at 7 pm has been changed to January 22, 2008 at 6:30 pm due to the Martin Luther King Day holiday and the Special Town Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Mount Everett School and first on the agenda will be a Public Hearing for the Block Grant for the Senior Center.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Macy offered his appreciation to the Highway Department for all their hard work during the recent storms.

Chairman Hannum noted that a Broadband Access Survey would be included with the Census mailing, which was mailed this afternoon.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator Kellogg noted that the Sheffield Honor Roll, which was donated by The Sheffield Friendly Union, is now hanging in the meeting room. He thanked Dale Smith for hanging it. The Honor Roll is a list of those Sheffield residents who served in World War I.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator Kellogg discussed the Small Cities Block Grant application for the Senior Center and asked the Board for a vote to allow him to apply for and sign the grant application. Selectman Macy moved to allow Administrator Kellogg to apply for and sign the Small Cities Block Grant application and all related documents, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously. Two public hearings are required for the grant application. The first one will be held on January 22, 2008 at 6:30 pm and the second has been scheduled for February 4, 2008 at 7 pm.

Chief McGarry asked if Time Warner had contacted the Board of Selectmen for notification to conduct a survey on cable service with Town residents. No one has been contacted regarding the Time Warner survey. Chief McGarry will follow up with Time Warner.

Selectman Macy moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, litigation strategy and mediation. The meeting will not return to open session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Collingwood and carried as follows:

Chairman Hannum – Aye

Selectman Collingwood – Aye

Selectman Macy – Aye

Executive Session began at 7:20 pm.

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator