

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 17, 2009
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

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

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 the minutes for the February 2, 2009 meeting, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – VERIZON POLE LOCATION – BOARDMAN STREET:

Chairman Hannum opened a public hearing at 7:05 pm to hear a petition from Verizon to install a utility pole #T.73S/E.99S on Boardman Street. Al Bessette from Verizon was present and explained the location and reason for the petition. A tree acting as a guide wire for the pole on Boardman Street is dead and needs to be cut down. The new pole will be for guide wire support. There were no comments from the audience. Selectman Macy moved to close the hearing at 7:10 pm, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Macy moved to grant the petition from Verizon to install a utility pole on Boardman Street, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

PAY AS YOU THROW PROPOSAL:

Administrator Kellogg and Recycling Coordinator David Steindler explained a proposed pay as you throw system for trash disposal. Discussion ensued regarding transfer station stickers. A new system, which required only those residents using the station to purchase a sticker, was implemented this year and 500 less stickers were purchased, however the amount of trash stayed the same. The Board has two options for next year: increase the cost of a sticker by a substantial amount or go to a system that charges per bag. This system would require residents using the transfer station to purchase a sticker, which would cover fixed and recycling costs and then pay an additional set amount per bag. Administrator Kellogg and David Steindler both recommend the pay as you throw system. The Board will review the documents submitted explaining the system and discuss this issue at their next meeting on March 2, 2009.

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM:

Recycling Coordinator David Steindler explained the Hazardous Waste Program, which allows residents to dispose of hazardous materials at various times during the year and recommended that the Town continue with the program for next year. The cost estimate for FY10 is \$2,769.

Selectman Macy moved to continue with the program and to send a letter of intent to participate, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

M.G.L. CHAPTER 268A DISCLOSURE:

Administrator Kellogg explained that he has been asked to participate in the collective bargaining negotiations for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District as provided by Education Reform legislation. His sister is a member of the para professionals union in the District. He has contacted the Ethics Commission, which suggested that a vote be taken by his appointing authority allowing him to participate in the negotiations with the exception of the para professional group and to determine that his interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the service provided Selectman Macy moved that the Board has determined that Administrator Kellogg's interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of his services and to authorize him to participate in negotiations, with the exception of the para professionals, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

Conservation Commission: Selectman Macy moved to appoint Howard Chezar to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2012, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Housing Commission: Selectman Macy moved to appoint Marilyn Wightman to the Housing Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2012, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Boardman recommended the appointment of John Wheeler as a probationary member of the Sheffield Fire Department. Selectman Macy moved to appoint John Wheeler as a probationary member of the Sheffield Fire Department, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

TRENCH REGULATIONS:

Designation of Permitting Authority and Permit Fees: Administrator Kellogg explained that the new trench regulations will become effective March 1, 2009 and recommended that Highway Superintendent Edward Lord be designated the permit authority for trench regulations. Mr. Lord will authorize Assistant Administrator Rhonda LaBombard to issue and sign the permits. Administrator Kellogg recommended a fee of \$10.00 for each permit issued. Selectman Macy moved to appoint Edward Lord and/or his designee as the permit authority for trench regulations and to set the permit fee at \$10.00 for each permit, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

FOUR DAY WORK WEEK:

Administrator Kellogg stated that the total saving in heating oil costs for the Town Hall, for the past two months was \$1,060. The four day work week contributed to the savings. Discussion ensued regarding the four day work week. Based on employee comments the Board decided to return to a five day work week. It was noted that this idea may have to be revisited should economic conditions warrant it. Selectman Macy moved to return to the five day work week effective February 23, 2009, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Chairman Hannum noted that Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli both responded to the letter sent by the Board regarding the proposed state gas tax.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator Kellogg stated that he has talked with Representative Pignatelli regarding exempting municipalities from the state gas tax. Representative Pignatelli has filed legislation to accomplish this.

Administrator Kellogg stated that the Berkshire Regional Transportation Authority (BRTA) is studying the idea of using shuttle buses to transport passengers to a larger bus, which will run between North and South County. Informational meetings will be held to discuss improving the efficiency of the bus service, one of which will take place in the Mason Library in Great Barrington on March 12, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

Administrator stated that the Department of Telecommunication and Cable is investigating the quality of Verizon phone service and is accepting public comment until the end of February.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Interim Dog Officer: Administrator Kellogg noted that Animal Control Officer Richard Boardman is having some health issues and Martin Clark has agreed to fill in until he returns. Selectman Macy moved to appoint Martin Clark as Interim Dog Officer, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development Commission:

Chairman Hannum stated that Rene Wood has submitted a letter of interest to serve on the Economic Development Commission. Action on the appointment will take place at the next meeting.

Chairman Hannum stated that she will be unavailable to attend the March 16th Selectmen's meeting and requested that the Board meet on March 23rd. The Selectmen's meeting scheduled for March 16, 2009 has been cancelled and a new date will be determined.

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