

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 30, 2009
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
6:15 PM**

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

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Assistant Town Administrator
David Steindler, Finance Committee Chairman
John James, Finance Committee

Chairman Hannum called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm in the Selectmen's Office.

Chairman Hannum discussed the recent meeting she attended regarding the assessment method for SBRSD. The discussion focused on a 50/50 split toward the statutory method for FY 2010 and 75/25 split for FY 2011, which will require an override. The school budget remains the same either way but the assessment to the towns is what is in question. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of the override and the printing of the ballots. Selectman Macy moved to include an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to amend the regional assessment method to a 50/50 split toward the statutory method in Fiscal Year 2010 and 75/25 in Fiscal Year 2011, contingent on New Marlborough dropping their lawsuit against Sheffield and subject to the amendment wording, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting continued in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Collingwood moved to approve minutes for the following meetings: December 23, 2008, February 17, 2009, March 9, 2009 and March 23, 2009, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

RENE WOOD – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Rene Wood was present to discuss her proposal to include volunteer opportunities on the Town website. Discussion ensued regarding Town Counsel opinion, disclaimer, and concerns with placing this on the Town website. Discussion was tabled until after July 1, 2009.

DAVID SMITH JR. – KIWANIS ROADSIDE CLEANUP:

David Smith Jr. was present to discuss the annual Kiwanis Roadside Cleanup. The Sheffield clean up will be held on April 19, 2009 at 1 pm with anyone interested to meet in the Town Hall parking lot. Questions can be directed to David Smith Jr. or Selectmen's office in Town Hall. Neil Chamberland was present to discuss the Ashley Falls roadside clean up, which will be held

on April 18, 2009 at 9 am with anyone interested to meet at the Village Green in Ashley Falls. The Highway Department will collect the bags on the Monday following the clean ups.

CURB CUT – 810 BOARDMAN STREET:

A curb cut was submitted for 810 Boardman Street. The Highway Superintendent and Police Chief have both approved it. Selectman Macy moved to approve the curb cut for 810 Boardman Street, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Rene Wood submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to the Economic Development Committee. Chairman Hannum explained that in the past the Board waited until there were at least two or more letters of interest before making any appointments to boards or committees. It was the consensus of the Board to hold off on the appointment until more letters of interest are received.

PAY AS YOU THROW:

Administrator Kellogg explained the pay as you throw system of trash disposal. He is recommending this system be implemented July 1, 2009. This system encourages recycling, is more equitable to residents and would be less expensive for residents because the cost of a sticker would have to at least double in order to cover the costs at the Transfer Station and disposal of the trash. Residents would be required to purchase a sticker to cover the fixed costs of the station and then pay a fee per bag of trash. Bulky waste would be scheduled more frequently. There is possible grant funding for education of residents on how the system works. Discussion ensued regarding the swap shop, trash being dumped on the roadside, where the bags would be available and hazardous waste. Selectman Macy moved to adopt a pay as you throw trash disposal system effective July 1, 2009, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously. The cost of the sticker and the bag fee will be set at a later date.

SLOW TRAFFIC SIGN ON ROUTE 7:

A local business man has requested a slow traffic sign near the corner on Route 7 when entering Main Street. Mass Highway needs a written request from the Town for the sign. Selectman Macy moved to petition Mass Highway to install a slow traffic sign on Route 7, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT FY09:

Selectman Macy moved to engage Melanson Health and Co. to conduct an audit for FY09, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION SESSION:

Selectman Macy moved to hold the annual financial information session on April 27, 2009 at 7 pm, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Chairman Hannum stated that the Selectmen and Planning Board agreed the next step for the Master Plan would be to focus on the Community Preservation Act (CPA). A meeting will be held on April 7, 2009 and is open to anyone interested in the discussions on the CPA.

Chairman Hannum stated that a site visit will be scheduled for the Covered Bridge property, which was chosen for a canoe access site. The visit will help provide comments to the Housatonic Valley Association.

Chairman Hannum stated that she would like to look into a policy on campaigning on Town property, discussion ensued.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator Kellogg thanked Marty Clark for serving as Interim Dog Officer. Selectman Macy moved to send Mr. Clark a letter of thanks, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Kellogg stated that the Town has received an E-Government Award from Common Cause Massachusetts for information included on the Town Website.

Administrator Kellogg said that he and Recycling Coordinator Steindler have worked out an arrangement with the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for a recycling program for non-returnable cans and bottles, which they bring to the Transfer Station.

Administrator Kellogg welcomed two new officers to the Police Department. Jacob Gonska and Eric Munson were appointed last week to fill two vacancies in the Department. Officer Munson comes with many years of experience and Officer Gonska finished the academy training and began work the next day.

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

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator