

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 21, 2009
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Chairman
Julie M. Hannum, Clerk
Rene C. Wood

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

Members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2009, November 30, 2009 and December 7, 2009 meetings, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

WIND ENERGY SITING REFORM LEGISLATION:

Selectman Wood distributed a draft letter regarding Wind Energy Siting Reform at the last meeting for the Board to review. Selectman Hannum moved to approve and send the letter as drafted, seconded by Chairman Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

A Special Town Meeting has been called for January 11, 2010 at 7 pm. Administrator Kellogg proposed a warrant with the following three articles:

1. Home rule petition for Special Legislation to allow Chief McGarry to continue as Police Chief past the age of 65.
2. Easement from the American Legion to allow installation of a septic system for the Senior Center on their property.
3. Zoning By-law changes proposed by the Planning Board to allow several uses, not currently allowed in the General Business District and Commercial District by Special Permit from the Planning Board.

Selectman Wood moved to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant as proposed, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

HOUSATONIC RIVER CHARTER SCHOOL:

Administrator Kellogg said that at the last meeting, the Board voted to support the School Committee in opposing the opening of a charter school in Housatonic and to authorize Selectman Wood to represent the Board at a meeting that was held at the Lenox Community Center on December 8, 2009. Selectman Hannum moved to authorize Administrator Kellogg to draft a

letter in strong opposition to the Charter School, which will be signed by the Board and sent to the Department of Education, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

MASTER PLAN IMPREMENTATION COMMITTEE:

Selectman Wood discussed the status of the Master Plan and the Housing and Open Space Committees. As a result of the Housing Committee's work, a permanent Housing Commission has been formed and has begun meeting. Administrator Kellogg will contact the Open Space Committee to find out the progress of their work on an Open Space and Recreation Plan. A meeting will be scheduled in March/April to report on the progress. The intern that worked this summer will be contacted to discuss if she is interested in helping to work on the Open Space Plan during her holiday break from college.

MIIA INSURANCE PROPOSAL:

Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) provides insurance for the Town and has sent a proposal for FY11 and FY12. The proposal has no increase for FY11 and no more than a 2.5% increase for FY12. Selectman Hannum moved to authorize Administrator Kellogg to sign the proposal with MIIA for FY 11 and FY 12, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

TEMPORARY ROADSIDE EVENT SIGN:

Kiwanis Club of Sheffield – An application was received for a temporary roadside event sign from the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield for an event at Mt. Everett Cafe on January 17, 2010, with a snow date of January 24, 2010. The sign would be erected on January 11, 2010 and removed at the end of the day of the event. Selectman Wood moved to grant the temporary roadside event sign to the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield, pending approval from the Police Department, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Selectman Hannum wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Selectman Hannum stated that the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce has issued a certificate of appreciation to the Town for hosting a Business after Hours event.

Selectman Wood stated that the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is working on a project for affordable housing and is seeking quotes from Town officials regarding how the lack of affordable housing is affecting their town. Administrator Kellogg stated that people that grew up in Sheffield are having a hard time affording housing in Town and businesses have a difficult time finding an adequate work force due to the lack of affordable housing for workers.

Selectman Wood moved to have Administrator Kellogg draft a response to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation containing these comments, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood offered her best wishes for the holidays and thanked all the volunteers for their dedication during the year.

Chairman Macy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and reminded residents that there is no overnight parking in the Village Green in the winter.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Administrator Kellogg stated that the Transfer Station will be closed for Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Administrator Kellogg said free recycle bins are available for residents at the Town Hall.

Selectman Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator