

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 5, 2010
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 Wood moved to approve minutes from the March 15, 2010 meeting, the March 24, 2010 meeting and the March 29, 2010 meeting, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – WINE AND MALT LICENSE – LESLIE SYLVAN:

Chairman Macy opened a public hearing on the application of Leslie Sylvan for a Wine and Malt Innholders License. Leslie Sylvan was present. She presently has a Common Victualler, Lodging House and Antique and Second Hand Goods license. The bed and breakfast is not operational at this time but it is expected to be open within 2 months. The Wine and Malt license would be for guests only and would not be open to the public. The hours of operation would be 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. The capacity of the bed and breakfast would be 12 guests. There was no opposition from the public. Chairman Macy closed the hearing at 7:07 pm. Selectman Wood moved to grant a Wine and Malt License to Leslie Sylvan for the bed and breakfast business during the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm daily, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

FARM ANIMAL EXCISE:

Chairman Macy read a letter from the Agricultural Commission stating that all of the information requested regarding the Farm Animal Excise Tax has not been obtained from the Department of Revenue and the Department of Agricultural Resources, so they are withdrawing their request to have this issue placed on the ballot at the Annual Town Election. The Commission would like to continue to work with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors on this issue.

TEMPORARY ROADSIDE EVENT SIGNS:

Sheffield Historical Society: Dennis Sears was present to request a temporary roadside event sign for the Sheffield Historical Society's pasta dinner at the American Legion on April 17, 2010. The application has been approved by the Police Chief. Selectman Hannum moved to grant a temporary roadside event sign to the Sheffield Historical Society for a pasta dinner on April 17, 2010, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Friends of the Senior Center: Pauline Schumann was present to request a temporary roadside event sign for the Friends of the Senior Center for a Big Band Dance Concert. The event will be a fund raiser for the new senior center and will be held on April 17, 2010 at the Undermountain Elementary School Gym. Selectman Hannum moved to grant a temporary roadside event sign to the Friends of the Senior Center for the fund raiser to be held on April 17, 2010, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

MILT HOROWITZ – CHAPTER 61:

Milt Horowitz from 356 Miller Avenue was present to discuss his concerns with the property owned by Sheffield Water Company. He feels that the water company should not be able to receive the tax benefits of Chapter 61 since their property is being used for commercial purposes. Discussion ensued. Administrator Kellogg will discuss this issue with the Board of Assessors.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT- COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES:

Maryann Hyatt has requested appointment to the Commission on Disabilities. Action on this appointment will take place at the next meeting.

CURB CUT- SHUNPIKE ROAD:

Selectman Wood moved to approve a curb cut as submitted and approved by the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent, for property on Shunpike Road owned by George Ullrich, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

EXTENDED POLLING HOURS:

The Town Clerk has submitted a letter requesting an increase in the polling hours for local elections. The current times are 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and she would like to increase the hours to 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Discussion ensued. Selectman Wood moved to extend the polling hours for local elections from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, as submitted by the Town Clerk, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Selectman Hannum said that Beth Bartholomew, from the Sheffield Water Company, has invited the Board to take a tour of the water company sometime in late May.

Selectman Hannum said that she and Town Clerk Felecie Joyce presented a certificate to Minnie Golden in recognition of her 101st birthday.

Selectman Hannum asked that a letter be sent to Mass Highway requesting that the cross walks on Main Street get repainted.

Chairman Macy stated that Chapter 90 funds have been approved and the Town will soon be out to bid on road paving.

Chairman Macy stated that Berkshire GMC has been successful in receiving approval from General Motors to re-open their dealership.

Selectman Wood reminded residents to fill out and send in their U.S. Census forms.

Selectman Wood said that the Board will meet with the Solid Waste Task Force on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 4:00 pm to discuss their reports.

Selectman Wood congratulated those students at Southern Berkshire Regional School who were inducted into the National Honor Society.

Selectman Wood is working on drafting a letter in opposition of the cuts to the District Local Technical Assistance program. Selectman Wood moved to send this letter to Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Administrator Kellogg announced that the Town has received an E-Government award for the second year in a row for the Town website. An award with distinction would be given if there was a link to the School Committee minutes. Administrator Kellogg will follow up on this.

Administrator Kellogg said that a Bulky Waste Collection will be held on May 14th, 15th and 16th. Coupons are available in the Tax Collectors office for residents that have a Transfer Station Sticker. The coupon is good for one pick-up truck load of bulky waste.

Administrator Kellogg said the State Elections Division recently conducted a survey for alternative voting locations based on concerns with the elevator break down during the last election. It was decided that the present location for voting at Town Hall will continue and the Carlton French room will be available in the event of an elevator malfunction.

Administrator Kellogg said that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 3, 2010 and the Annual Financial Information Session, which focuses on financial warrant articles, will be held on April 26, 2010.

Administrator Kellogg said that the Senior Center project is out to bid. There will be a pre-bid meeting for the Architect and prospective bidders on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. The sub bids will be opened on April 15th and the general bids will be opened on April 22nd. The bids will be awarded on April 26, 2010. The construction will begin in May and estimated completion will be in December.

The Massachusetts Office on Disabilities conducted an audit of the building on March 18, 2010, before the Commission on Disabilities seminar. There are some minor changes that need to be made, one being the slope at the front door to Town Hall is too steep, which will be fixed when Depot Square is repaved. Administrator Kellogg congratulated the Commission on Disabilities on a great job with the seminar.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Smith Jr. asked if the April 8th meeting between the Board and Solid Waste Task Force was open to the public and Administrator Kellogg replied yes. Mr. Smith also inquired on rumors that the Transfer Station would be closed this summer. Chairman Macy stated that there has been no discussion on closing the Transfer Station and that the Solid Waste Task Force voted at their first meeting that closing the Station would not be an option.

David Smith Jr. stated that the Kiwanis Spring Roadside Clean up would be held on April 10, 2010. It was the consensus of the Board to ask the Kiwanis to clean up Route 7 from Kellogg Road to the center of Town.

Pauline Schumann from the Friends of the Senior Center was present to announce a fund raiser that will be held for the new Senior Center. A Big Band Dance Concert will be held on April 17,

2010 from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm at the Undermountain Elementary Cafeteria. The cost will be \$20 if purchased before the event and \$25 at the door. She also thanked the Board and Administrator Kellogg for their work on the Senior Center project.

Carl Schumann asked if signs could be installed on roads stating the fines for littering. The Board will look into this.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator Kellogg said that Chris Regan, Business Manager for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is requesting volunteers for a long range capital planning committee. Discussion ensued. Selectman Hannum volunteered to serve on the committee. If any residents are interested they should contact Ms. Regan or the Town Administrator's office.

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

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator