

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 21, 2011
CARLTON FRENCH MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
Rene C. Wood, Clerk
David A. Smith, Jr.

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator

Members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Wood moved to approve minutes from the March 7, 2011 (two sets) and March 14, 2011 meetings, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

COVERED BRIDGE CANOE LAUNCH:

A dedication celebration for the new Covered Bridge Park and Canoe Launch will be held on May 7, 2011. Discussion ensued regarding establishing a River Park Committee and/or Task Force. Selectman Wood moved to establish a River Park Task Force to work on establishing a permanent River Park Committee, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

SIGN PERMIT – SHEFFIELD FRIENDLY UNION:

The Sheffield Friendly Union submitted an application for a Temporary Roadside Event Sign to be placed in the Village Green for events at Dewey Hall to be held on April 2nd, May 8th and June 4th. The sign would be erected a few days before each event and removed on the day of the event. Selectman Smith moved to grant a Temporary Roadside Event Sign for events to be held at Dewey Hall on April 2nd, May 8th and June 4th, seconded by Selectmen Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

RACE BROOK LODGE ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE:

Discussion ensued regarding the Entertainment License for the Race Brook Lodge which will expire on March 31, 2011. David Rothstein from the Race Brook Lodge was present along with abutter Danielle Pedretti. Administrator Kellogg said that the Rothsteins have been working with the Building Inspector to bring the Events Barn up to code and recommended that the license be issued until the end of May at which time it could be reviewed again. The Entertainment License is for the Stagecoach Tavern and does not include the Events Barn. Discussion continued regarding abutters and any objections they may have. Ms. Pedretti stated that she does not have any issues with the Entertainment License for the Stagecoach Tavern. Selectman Wood moved to extend the Entertainment License for the Stagecoach Tavern through May 31, 2011, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

CTSB FRANCHISE RENEWAL:

The Five Town Cable Advisory Committee has recommended that all the member towns sign the renewal agreement with CTSB. Discussion ensued regarding the expiration date for the renewal. Administrator Kellogg will look into the beginning and ending date for the renewal. Selectman Smith moved to approve and sign the renewal contract between the Town and CTSB, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSITION 2½ BALLOT QUESTIONS:

Administrator Kellogg explained that the deadline for approving ballot questions for the May Election was approaching and distributed two questions that he recommended for inclusion on the ballot. The first question would be for a Proposition 2½ override vote for the FY2012 SBRSD operating assessment. The second question is for a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion to pay for the Town's share of a proposed SBRSD Capital Bond. Discussion ensued regarding possible cuts to Town services if the questions fail. The bond issue will not affect the FY2012 budget because the first payment would not be due until FY 2013.

Selectman Wood moved to place the following Proposition 2½ referendum questions before the voters at the Annual Town Election on May 9, 2011: Question No. 1. "Shall the Town of Sheffield be allowed to assess an additional \$98,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011?"; Question No. 2. "Shall the Town of Sheffield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the Town's share of the bond authorized by the School Committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District on January 27, 2011 for capital improvements and purchases?". The motion was seconded by Selectman Smith and carried unanimously.

PROPOSED ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS:

The Planning Board sent a letter regarding a previous referral from the Board of Selectmen on two proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments, expressing concerns about the proposals. They indicated that the first amendment involving language changes needs more consideration before bringing to the Town Meeting, however they were in support of the second amendment to allow the Zoning Board of Appeals the same decision criteria as the Planning Board. It was suggested that a new referral be made to just include the second amendment. Selectman Smith moved to refer the proposed Zoning Amendment to the Planning Board for a hearing and report as provided in Chapter 40A, Section 5 of the General Laws, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Wood reminded everyone that the EPA would be holding workshops regarding the GE Housatonic River Clean up efforts. There will be several sessions that will allow the public to give input on this issue. The April 5th session will discuss the history and ecology of the river, the April 6th session will discuss PCB facts and the April 7th session will discuss clean up options. They will be held at 5:30 pm at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox. The last session will be an all day session on May 7th.

Selectman Wood stated that the Economic Development Committee needs members. Anyone interested should contact the Town Administrator's office.

Chairman Hannum said that meetings scheduled in the Town Hall would be held in the Carlton French Meeting Room on the first floor of the Town Hall due to elevator problems.

Chairman Hannum thanked the Kiwanis Club for the new ladder signs placed at various locations within Town.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator Kellogg noted that the new polling location for the Town would be the new Senior Center, which opened last week. The new telephone number for the center is 229-7037 and it would be open Monday – Friday 9 am to 2 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jared Clayton was present to discuss drainage issues on Clayton Road at the intersection of Hillside Lane, a private road. Mr. Clayton also discussed issues claiming that the Town has destroyed road frontage along his property on Clayton Road by creating channels that allow water run off from Clayton Road and Hillside Lane. Administrator Kellogg said that he and Highway Superintendent Ed Lord will look into the complaints.

Administrator Kellogg said that the Sheffield Business Association would like to construct a kiosk for visitor information. The proposed location will be beside the Village Green Restaurant. The building meets all zoning requirements and will be built by students from Mount Everett High School. The building will be opened, closed and maintained by the Sheffield Business Association. Members said they had no objection to its construction and placement.

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

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator