

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 5, 2011
CARLTON FRENCH MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

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

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Jennifer Goewey, Assistant to Town Administrator
Members of the public

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

MINUTES:

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2011 meetings, the November 9, 2011 meeting, the November 14, 2011 meeting, the November 21, 2011 meetings and the November 29, 2011 meetings, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT:

Selectman Hannum moved to appoint Thomas Manghue as a Seasonal Snow Plow Driver at the rate of \$15.50 per hour as needed, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

MIIA BACK WAGE INCREASE:

Discussion ensued regarding the current coverage for back wages through MIIA. Administrator LaBombard recommended the Board to keep the current coverage of \$50,000. Selectman Smith moved to keep coverage for back wages at the current amount of \$50,000, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

ASHLEY FALLS BRIDGE REPAIR:

Discussion ensued regarding the construction of the Ashley Falls Bridge. Administrator LaBombard stated that the project was expected to be completed in one construction season, and has the information packet for residents to review. Chairman Wood drafted a letter addressing all the concerns that were discussed at the Public Hearing on November 29, 2011. Selectman Hannum moved to send the letter to MA DOT with questions and concerns as presented, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF HEALTH REVOLVING FUND:

Selectman Hannum moved to have all Perc Test and Title V Witness Fees put into the Board of Health Revolving Fund and all of the license fees would remain in the General Fund, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER STATION- HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Discussion ensued regarding the Transfer Station Holiday Schedule and it was the consensus of the Board to discuss further with the Transfer Station employees, and table the issue until the next meeting.

BACKHOE AWARD:

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Town received two bids for the purchase of a backhoe, and recommended that both bids be rejected because both were higher than the amount appropriated by voters at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Selectmen Hannum moved to reject all bids due to lack of funding, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

2012 TOBACCO LICENSE:

Discussion ensued regarding the 2012 Tobacco Licenses. Administrator LaBombard recommended that the licenses be issued on a calendar year. Selectman Hannum moved to shift the tobacco licensing to a calendar year, pending concurrence of the Board of Health members, seconded by Selectmen Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

TAX CLASSIFICATION UPDATE:

Discussion ensued regarding the tax classification hearing that was held on November 29, 2011. The Board adopted a single tax rate of \$12.84 which would result in an approximate \$100.00 increase for the average tax bill.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Hannum commented on recent community events including the tree lightings in Ashley Falls and Sheffield and announced that the High School Holiday concert is on Friday, December 9, 2011 at Mt. Everett. She also thanked Tammy Blackwell and the Hewins Family for the holiday Decorations.

Selectman Hannum complimented Administrator LaBombard who was recently published in the Berkshire Community College Alumni notes.

Chairman Wood stated that Senator Downing will hold a forum on energy at Berkshire South, on December 14, 2011 at 5:30.

Chairman Wood stated that the SBRSD School Committee has meetings scheduled on December 13 & 14, 2011 to review proposed budget information received from administration.

Chairman Wood stated that the District Local Technical Assistant Grant deadline was January 18, 2012 and discussion ensued.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard reviewed the upcoming Holiday Schedule. The Town Hall will be closed December 23, 2011 and December 26, 2011 for the Christmas Holiday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Susan Butler requested to be put on the next agenda to discuss the PRLA Zoning Enforcement issue.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Women's Club, requested a Temporary Roadside Sign Permit for their Annual Christmas Bazaar Event to be held on December 10, 2011 at Our Lady of the Valley. The sign would be erected at the intersection of Maple Ave. and Main Street on December 5, 2011 and removed on December 10, 2011. Selectmen Hannum moved to grant the Temporary Roadside Event Sign to Our Lady Of the Valley Catholic Women's Club for their Annual Christmas Bazaar Event to be held on December 10, 2011, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hannum moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining and

not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Smith. The role call vote was as follows:
Chairman Wood – aye
Selectman Hannum – aye
Selectman Smith – aye

Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer Goewey
Assistant to Town Administrator