

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 15, 2013
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
Rene C. Wood
Edwin J. Dobson

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to Town Administrator

Members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Wood moved to approve the minutes from July 1, 2013 and July 8, 2013 meetings, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

Selectman Wood moved to appoint the following:

Graham Frank and Andrew Carlson to terms to be set by Chief Munson as Reserve Intermittent Police Officers

Joseph Wilkinson to a three year term on the Park and Recreation Commission

Gail Mullen to a three year term on the Commission on Disabilities

John James to a three year term on the Ashley Falls Historic District Commission

Edwin Dobson to a 1 year term as the Agricultural Commission Alternate, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annie Ryder – Council on Aging

Michael Ovitt – Park and Recreation Commission

Peter Stiglin – Conservation Commission

Administrator LaBombard read the following list of vacancies:

Agricultural Commission – 1

Agricultural Commission Alternate – 1

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission – 1

Board of Assessors – 1

Council on Aging – 1

Cultural Council – 1

Commission on Disabilities – 6

Electrical Inspector Assistant – 1

5 Town Cable Advisory – 2

Housing Commission Alternate – 1

Local Emergency Planning Committee - 1

Park and Recreation Committee – 2
Public Weigher – 4
Veteran’s Grave Officer – 1

APPOINTMENT OF FOOD INSPECTOR:

Administrator LaBombard explained that the Board of Health advertized for a Food Safety Inspector and received one application. The Board of Health interviewed Sally Munson and recommends her for appointment. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Sally Munson to a one year term as Food Safety Inspector at a rate of \$26.00 per inspection, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood talked about the possibility of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health sharing costs of trainings for the Food Safety Inspector.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Chairman Hannum explained that the Board of Selectmen would be adjusting their meeting schedule. The Board will now meet on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Monday of every month. Selectman Dobson expressed his concerns about being able to be on time for the meetings because his work is very consuming. It was the consensus of the Board that all meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

DCR COOPERATIVE AND FIREFIGHTER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT:

Administrator LaBombard explained that these agreements are for grants used to buy forest fire fighting equipment for the Fire Department. Selectman Wood moved to approve the agreements and to authorize the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION BORROWING:

Administrator LaBombard explained that she had hoped to have an estimate for the Rannapo Road repairs but does not, and stated that as soon as she has an estimate it will be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE:

Passed over because no applications were received.

SELECTMEN’S ITEMS:

Selectman Wood stated that she spoke to Mr. Hanlon about the overturned railcars on Lime Kiln Road. Mr. Hanlon told her that he is waiting for his insurance to come through and then he will begin cleanup of those cars and the debris.

Selectman Dobson stated that one of his neighbors had come to him with concerns regarding speed on Main Street. Selectman Dobson stated that he agrees that people drive too fast on Main Street and talked about the possibility of having the Police Department do a better job of enforcing the speed limit. Selectman Wood stated that as we get close to paving Route 7 that would be another good time to talk about the speed issues on Main Street.

Chairman Hannum stated that she serves as a liaison to the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce and she can no longer do it. She asked the other Board members if they might be interested in serving in this capacity.

Chairman Hannum stated that the Board held an emergency meeting to discuss litigation strategy.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce contacted her about the possibility of holding a gravity car race in Sheffield next year. Administrator LaBombard stated that it should be a secondary road with a slope, if residents had any ideas on a road in Sheffield they should contact her.

Administrator LaBombard reminded residents that they can call Mosquito Control at (413) 447-9808 if they would like to have their property sprayed for mosquitoes. Selectman Wood stated that she thought it would be a good idea to post Mosquito Control's e-mail address on the Town's website so residents could contact them that way as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Catherine Miller asked if the breakdown lane on Main Street could be made not available for passing because it is dangerous. She also asked if the Selectmen had any feedback on the communication issues that were brought up at the last Selectmen's meeting. Administrator LaBombard stated that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting it was the consensus of the Board to research this issue further and discuss feasibility again at a meeting in August.

David Smith Sr. representing the Planning Board stated that the Planning Board would like to be involved in the litigation strategy. Chairman Hannum stated that the Board of Selectmen recognizes that Boards are anxious but litigation strategy is the job of the Board of Selectmen. Peter Cherneff, a member of the Planning Board, expressed his concerns regarding the litigation strategy.

Dennis Sears again requested that the Board send a letter to the Attorney General regarding Anti-SLAPP Actions.

Trudy Weaver-Miller offered her opinion that the Board was giving the perception that they don't support other Town Boards.

David West asked that United Sheffield please identify themselves. He also would like a copy of the 900 signature petition that people keep talking about and asked about the search for an Assistant Building Inspector.

Susan Butler read the remainder of her letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding miscommunications and presented each Board member with a copy.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator LaBombard stated that a college student is seeking permission to sell educational software. It was the consensus of the Board to get more information on what he will be selling before making a decision.

Selectman Wood stated that she just found out that the EPA will be resampling residential properties in Pittsfield. Selectman Wood stated that she has spoken to the EPA repeatedly about PCB resampling of the Housatonic River in Sheffield and presented a letter that she would like to send to Curt Spalding requesting resampling in Sheffield. Selectman Wood moved to approve the letter to the EPA Regional Administrator Curt Spalding requesting resampling in Sheffield, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen Wood moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy concerning Primax Properties and to not return to open session, seconded by Selectmen Dobson. The motion carried as follows:
Chairman Hannum-Aye

Selectmen Wood-Aye
Selectmen Dobson-Aye

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

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:

List of Appointments
List of Appointment Announcements
List of Vacancies
DCR Cooperative Agreement
Firefighter Cooperative Agreement
Peddling and Soliciting Bylaw
Policy for Door to Door Solicitation
Letter to Curt Spalding, EPA Regional Administrator