

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 28, 2014
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

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

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, 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 the meeting minutes from the February 3, 2014, February 18, 2014, February 19, 2014, February 21, 2014 and March 3, 2014 meetings, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES – RICHARD KIRCHNER:

Chairman Hannum presented a plaque and thanked Mr. Kirchner in honor of his many years of municipal services. If all the years were added accumulatively it would total 204 years. Chairman Hannum announced that a reception for Mr. Kirchner would be held on Friday, May 9th at 4 pm – 6 pm at the American Legion.

NATIONAL GRID – SMART METERS:

Representatives from National Grid were present to provide information on the Smart Meter program and gave an overview on the Worcester Smart Meter Pilot program, which is a two year program scheduled to begin in October. Information was also provided on how smart meters will provide benefits to both National Grid and its customers.

TEMPORARY ROADSIDE EVENT SIGNS – SHEFFIELD FARMER’S MARKET:

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

EMERGENCY REST CENTERS:

Sandra Martin and Edward McCormick were present to discuss an Emergency Rest Center program. The proposed rest centers will provide warming and cooling places for residents in the event of a disaster. These centers would also provide a meal. An initial meeting to present this program to the faith based community, the Town and others was held in January, but the Board has not received any follow up information. Much of the faith based community has indicated an interest in serving as a rest center. The Board will review the material distributed and schedule a meeting to include the Chief of Police and Emergency Management to discuss this issue further.

WORK STUDY PROGRAM:

Administrator LaBombard discussed information that was received regarding a summer work study program that includes Berkshire Community College and MCLA students. It was the consensus of the Board to look into the program.

ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE – BIG ELM BREWING:

The Big Elm Brewing has submitted an application for an event on August 24, 2014 at the Town Park. All the proper paperwork has been received. Discussion ensued regarding the issuance of a one day alcohol license at the Town Park, charging for the alcohol and charging the public to attend an event at the Town Park. Selectman Wood moved to approve the one day alcoholic beverages license to Big Elm Brewing for an event at the Town Park on August 24, 2014, seconded by Selectmen Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER:

Chief Boardman has recommended the appointment of Tyler Hils as a probationary firefighter. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Tyler Hils as a probationary firefighter for a one year term, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

SOLAR PILOT AGREEMENT:

This discussion was tabled.

SELECTMEN’S ITEMS:

Selectman Wood reminded residents that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2014 at the Mt. Everett High School auditorium.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Berkshire Bike Path Council has sent a letter and invoice requesting \$200 towards the printing of the Southern Berkshire Route maps. These maps were printed in 2011 and at that time the Town contributed \$200 towards the printing. Selectman Wood moved to approve \$200 for the printing of the Southern Berkshire Bike Route maps, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator LaBombard reminded residents that Bulky Waste Days are scheduled for May 16th, 17th and 18th. Residents who have a Transfer Station sticker may pick up a free coupon in her office and residents who do not have a Transfer Station sticker may purchase a coupon for \$25.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nina Anderson expressed her concerns regarding the National Grid Smart Meter Program and discussed the petition warrant article that she submitted that is on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Town Moderator, Bruce Person, stated that officials sitting on stage at the Annual Town Meeting will be allowed to speak as private residents from the stage. He also stated that he will set a time limit for speakers.

David West pointed out posting problems on the Town website, issued his opinion on requirements for residents using the Town Park when alcohol is involved and stated that there was an error in the newspaper stating that the Town was negotiating with Primax Properties.

Trudy Weaver Miller asked questions regarding the Senior Citizen Work Off Program article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. She expressed her concerns with the article, mainly income requirements and the management of the program. Administrator LaBombard explained that if voters approve the program the Board of Selectmen will have to set a policy that will include any income restrictions as well as the criteria for choosing applicants for tasks.

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

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
Meeting Minutes
Information on Work Study Program
Application for One Day Alcohol License
Application for Firefighter