

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 13, 2014
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rene C. Wood, Clerk
David A. Smith, Jr.
Nadine A. Hawver

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator

Clerk Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Selectman Hawver to the Board and thanked Julie Hannum for her service. She also thanked all of the voters who came out to vote and congratulated the newly elected.

BOARD REORGANIZATION:

Clerk Wood called for nominations for Chairman. Selectman Hawver asked a question regarding whether it was policy or tradition that the Selectman who was in their final year of their term was nominated Chairman. Clerk Wood said there was no policy. Selectman Hawver explained that she promised supporters that she would ask the hard questions and make some difficult changes and decisions. Selectman Hawver moved to nominate Selectman Smith as Chairman, seconded by Selectman Smith. Clerk Wood expressed her disappointment and stated that she has worked hard in the 5 years as a member of the Board. The motion carried 2-1, Clerk Wood was opposed. Selectman Hawver nominated Selectman Wood to serve as Clerk of the Board, Selectman Wood declined the nomination. Chairman Smith nominated Selectman Hawver to serve as Clerk of the Board, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried 2-0, Selectman Wood abstained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Wood moved to approve the meeting minutes from the April 18th, April 22nd, April 28, May 7th and May 12th meetings, seconded by Chairman Smith. The motion carried 2-0, Selectman Hawver abstained.

CHIEF MUNSON UPDATE ON POLICE DEPARTMENT:

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

NATIONAL GRID UTILITY POLE INSTALLATION:

Anthony Corsi was present to discuss utility pole installations on Hulett Hill Road. Chairman Smith attempted to open a public hearing, but residents objected due to this items not being on the agenda. The hearing was postponed to a future meeting.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – PLANNING BOARD:

A letter of interest has been received from Marie Massini-Reynolds for the vacancy on the Planning Board. Action on this appointment will take place at the May 27th meeting.

TOWN PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Park and Recreation Committee has proposed some rules and regulations for the Town Park on Frederick Lane. The Board will review the proposal and invite the Park and Recreation Committee to discuss this issue at the next meeting. Selectman Wood has some specific questions that Administrator LaBombard will look into.

SHEFFIELD FARMER’S MARKET SIGNAGE AND SCHEDULE:

The Farmer’s Market manager, Amelia Wolfe was present to discuss the signage and vendors for the Farmer’s Market. The signage will be the same as last year and will be semi permanent. Selectman Wood moved to approve the sign permit as submitted with the opportunity to revisit the sign placements if there are multiple other requests that would make the Village Green too cluttered, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Wolfe inquired about the possibility of putting a link to the Farmer’s Market website on the Town Website. Selectman Wood moved to allow a link to the Farmer’s Market website on the Town website, pending the Board’s development of a policy regarding what is allowed on the town’s website, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding the licensing for the Big Elm Brewery to offer samples at the Farmer’s Market. Christine Heaton from the Big Elm was present for the discussion. Ms. Heaton also asked the Board to consider reducing the price of a one day alcoholic beverages license. The Board will take the request under advisement and discuss this issue at a future meeting.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL – HOME ROAD:

At their last meeting the Board received notice of a pending sale of property on Home Road. The property is currently in Chapter 61A and the Town has the first right to refusal. Selectman Wood moved to waive the right of first refusal for property on Home Road, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Hawver stated that she would like to look into a possible stabilization fund to be used for senior housing or affordable lots for first time home buyers. Selectman Wood stated that she would like to see all of the Town owned properties indicated on a map. Administrator LaBombard stated that BRPC has been asked to supply a map with all of the Town owned properties highlighted.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANNING GRANTS:

Administrator LaBombard announced that the Town has received two Department of Conservation and Recreation grants for forest stewardship. Forester James Kelly will develop two forest management plans for Town owned land on Frederic Lane and for another Town owed parcel on Berkshire School Road.

TRANSFER STATION STICKER PRICES FOR FY15:

Administrator LaBombard recommended the following prices for the Transfer Station for FY2015:

Regular Sticker	\$165.00
Senior Citizen	\$115.00
Second Sticker	\$ 10.00
Recycling Sticker	\$ 30.00
Bulky Waste Coupon	\$ 25.00
only if no sticker	

This is a reduction of \$10 for the regular sticker and \$5 for the Senior Citizen sticker. Selectman Wood moved to set the price for the Transfer Station stickers as recommended, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

DEP GRANT FOR TRANSFER STATION:

Administrator LaBombard stated that Selectman Wood has done much of the research for this grant that would provide funds to be used at the Transfer Station. There is additional work that needs to be done and Selectman Wood stated that she would have to think about putting more time into this grant. It was the consensus of the Board to move ahead with the grant and ask Administrator LaBombard and Selectman Wood to continue with the research.

SELECTMEN’S ITEMS:

Selectman Hawver thanked the voters and stated that she was grateful for the opportunity to serve the Town. She also thanked all of the candidates who ran for office.

Selectman Wood thanked Julie Hannum for her service on the Board.

Selectman Wood stated that the reception held at the American Legion for Richard Kirchner, in honor of his many years of service, was a great time for the many who attended.

Chairman Smith also thanked Julie Hannum for her service on the Board.

Chairman Smith thanked the Sheffield Hose Company for the great Mother's Day Breakfast.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard read the list of open seats on Board and Committees for FY15 and stated that anyone interested in any of the positions should send a letter of interest to her office by June 9, 2014. Selectman Hawver inquired about people currently holding the positions. Administrator LaBombard explained that all the position are considered open and anyone, including the people currently holding these positions, have to apply and are added to the list of applicants for the Board to appoint.

Administrator LaBombard stated the following as an update to the Primax Properties litigation:

The Board of Selectmen authorized Town Counsel to sign and send a settlement agreement to Primax Properties' attorney. The agreement has been signed by Primax's attorney and has been filed in Land Court. The Judge has not acted on the Agreement as of this date.

The Agreement is still a confidential document but it does address safety concerns with parking, entering and exiting from Route 7. The building has moved back 7', which is why Primax has to present changes to the Board of Health and Conservation Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trudy Weaver Miller thanked the Board for allowing the link on the website to the Farmer's Market website.

Trudy Weaver Miller expressed her disappointment that Selectman Wood has been denied the traditional role of Chairman of the Board.

Peter Saunders inquired as to when the Right of First Refusal Waiver would be ready for pick up. Administrator LaBombard stated that it would be ready by Friday afternoon.

Susan Butler inquired about two outstanding issues with the Harvey property. Administrator LaBombard responded that she would bring an update to the next meeting.

Susan Butler requested to meet with Selectman Wood. Selectman Wood responded that she would be happy to talk to Ms. Butler immediately after the meeting.

Dawn Massini stated that it was difficult for the audience to hear the Board. Discussion ensued regarding moving the chairs closer to the front and moving the placement of the microphones. Chairman Smith asked the audience to indicate when there is a problem with the sound so that it could be addressed before the end of the meeting.

Selectman Wood moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of litigation strategies concerning Primax Properties and to not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Hawver.

The motion carried as follows:

Chairman Smith – aye

Selectman Hawver – aye

Selectman Wood – aye

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

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
Application for Utility Pole Installation
Draft Town Park Rules and Regulations
Farmer's Market Temporary Roadside Event Sign
Letter from Attorney Oggiani – Home Road Property Sale
Award Letters for Forest Stewardship Grants
List of Vacancies for FY2015