

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AUGUST 18, 2014  
TOWN HALL  
7:00 PM**

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

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

Members of the public

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Selectman Wood moved to approve meeting minutes from the May 30, 2014, July 21, 2014, July 25, 2014 and August 1, 2014 meetings as amended, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEFINITE FIREFIGHTERS:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that Daniel Hamill and Jake Hunker were appointed to one year as probationary firefighters. She stated that their one year probationary period will be expiring and Fire Chief Brent Getchell has recommended them for full appointment. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Daniel Hamill and Jake Hunker to indefinite terms on the Fire Department, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS – SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE VETERAN’S SERVICE DELEGATE, PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE:**

Administrator LaBombard asked the Board to put off the appointment for the Southern Berkshire Veterans Service Delegate because our Veterans Agent stated that she knows some people who are interested but did not know that we were accepting letters of interest. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Casey Rothstein-Fitzpartick to a one year term as the Planning Board Associate Member, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**RE-TRAC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT:**

Selectman Wood explained that there is a DEP technical assistance grant application that would allow for up to 80 hours of assistance to develop new programs. She stated that she wrote a draft grant proposal and asked the Board to approve and/or send any comments to the Town Administrator. Selectman Hawver moved to approve the Re-TRAC Technical Assistance grant proposal and authorize the Town Administrator to submit application pending any comments from the Board, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

**VOTE TO ACCEPT MASSWORKS GRANT APPLICATION:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that she and the Highway Superintendent have been working with BSC to see what bridges/culverts might be good candidates for repair/replacement with the Massworks Grant. Selectman Wood moved to approve the submission of the Massworks grant application as presented by the Town Administrator, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**CDBG UPDATE:**

Selectman Wood gave an update on the status of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). She stated that we are still waiting for paperwork from the State and until that is received the grant will be on hold. She stated that there will be a Joint Citizen Advisory Committee comprised of five members, three from Great Barrington and two from Sheffield. Selectman Wood explained the projects that the grant money would be used for and explained that a Designer Selection Committee and Design Review Committee would also need to be formed. Selectman Wood stated that she would suggest either Chairman Smith or Selectman Hawver to be on the Joint Citizen Advisory Committee.

**ONE DAY ALCOHOL LICENSE – DEWEY HALL:**

Chairman Smith stated that Dewey Memorial Hall has submitted an application for a one day alcohol license for an open house to be held there on August 30, 2014 from 7-10 PM. Selectman Hawver moved to approve the one day alcohol license for Dewey Memorial Hall's open house to be held on August 30, 2014, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

**SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:**

Selectman Hawver read the following statement:

Last Friday August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Selectmen working meeting Selectman Wood brought to the attention of the board an email that is circulating in town about my having a personal interest in the Position of Full-Time Director of the Senior Center. I would like to make a public statement about this issue.

I do not have now nor have I had in the past any interest whatsoever in the full-time director position at the senior center. I have made that very clear to many people, including several members of the council on aging. Had I had any interest in the full-time position I would not have run for selectman.

I wish to make it very clear that I have recused myself from the discussions of the Board of Selectmen about the full-time position not because of any personal interest in the directorship but because I am an employee of the center. It is a conflict of interest for me to participate in any discussion that could benefit me financially. This conflict exists because whoever fills the director position will be my superior and will have influence over my pay.

I believe that it is disrespectful for anyone in the community to circulate speculative emails about my intentions. The fact that this email exists confirms for me that my running for and earning my seat on this board was and continues to be one of the most important decisions I have made in my commitment to serving the people of Sheffield.

Selectman Wood announced that she will not be running for reelection when her term is over. She stated that she appreciates the phone calls that she gets asking her to reconsider but that she will not change her mind.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:**

Administrator LaBombard stated that Anthony Gulotta has applied to be the Planning Board's representative to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee.

Administrator LaBombard stated that she received a call from the State letting her know that the Route 7A Bridge will be closed as of Friday August 22, 2014 because it is unsafe. The State will then determine what needs to be done. Selectman Wood asked how long the bridge would be closed after the State

determines what needs to be done. Administrator LaBombard stated that they think it will most likely be closed for five years.

Administrator LaBombard explained that that a curb cut permit was received from the Nature Conservancy today to do some cleanup at the Drury Preserve on Barnum Street. She stated that there was not enough time to amend the agenda and they would like to get started as soon as possible. Selectman Wood moved to approve the curb cut permit submitted by the Nature Conservancy for the Drury Preserve on Barnum Street as presented, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Nanette Wells thanked the American Legion and the Board of Selectmen for the service flags that were erected on Main Street.

George Oleen asked when the roadside mowing on Foley Road would be done. Administrator LaBombard stated that she would contact the Highway Superintendent to find out. He also asked why no appointment was being made on the Southern Berkshire Veteranø Service Delegate. Administrator LaBombard stated that our Veteranø Agent stated that she knows some people who are interested but did not know that we were accepting letters of interest. Mr. Oleen stated that the vacancy has been on the website for months.

Selectman Wood moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of litigation strategies regarding the Rest of River Project and not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried as follows:

Chairman Smith-Aye  
Selectman Hawver-Aye  
Selectman Wood-Aye

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin  
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:  
Appointments List  
Draft Technical Assistance Grant  
Application for a One Day Alcohol License ó Dewey Memorial Hall  
Curb Cut Permit ó Drury Preserve ó Barnum Street