

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Town of Sheffield Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, ss

To the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire, *Greeting:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the auditorium of the Mount Everett Regional High School, 491 Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, such sums of money as listed below, and as may be amended, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017, or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator.....	\$ 200	Energy.....	\$140,000
Selectmen's Office.....	\$200,558	Board of Health.....	\$ 7,241
Board of Assessors.....	\$ 95,441	Visiting Nurse Association.....	\$ 4,000
Treasurer/Collector.....	\$153,555	Council on Aging.....	\$ 77,714
Town Clerk.....	\$ 64,203	Veterans Benefits.....	\$ 30,000
Elections & Registration.....	\$ 18,000	Library.....	\$163,042
Conservation Commission.....	\$ 2,680	Historical Commission.....	\$ 750
Planning Board.....	\$ 5,400	Memorial Day.....	\$ 750
Commission on Disabilities.....	\$ 200	American Legion.....	\$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	\$ 1,330	Care of Soldier's Graves.....	\$ 1,400
Town Buildings & Grounds.....	\$ 103,500	Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm.	\$ 50
Town Report & Communications	\$ 6,000	Agricultural Commission.....	\$ 1,000
Legal Services.....	\$ 30,000	Interest on Loans.....	\$ 1
Dispatch Services.....	\$ 9,694	Berkshire County Retirement.....	\$206,303
Police Department.....	\$465,118	Worker's Compensation.....	\$ 18,500
Fire Department.....	\$ 41,102	Unemployment Comp. Fund.....	\$ 1
Inspectional Services.....	\$ 64,776	Group Health (32B) Insurance.....	\$431,000
Fire Hydrants.....	\$ 18,091	Employer Medicare.....	\$ 22,000
Animal Control.....	\$ 10,000	Financial Audit.....	\$ 15,000
Highway Department.....	\$559,207	Insurance & Bonding.....	\$ 70,000

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 and Chapter 71, Section 52 of the General Laws; Moderator, \$200, Selectmen, Chairman \$2,513; Selectmen, two members at \$2,175 each, Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, 4 members at \$500 each, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3: To See if the Town will vote to supplement the Town's annual assessment for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating and Transportation and Capital budgets for Fiscal Year 2016 in the amount of \$88,643.00; and to fund such supplement to the FY 2016 assessment, to transfer the unexpended portions of appropriations authorized by the votes taken under the following warrant articles:

May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 21 to repair the Library Septic System, \$25,921.50

May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 17 to paint the exterior of Town Hall, \$4,715

May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 17 to purchase a cruiser and laptop for the Police Department, \$3,059.54

May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 21 to purchase a highway truck, \$8,952.30

May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 5 to fund vocational education, \$9,264

May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 1 to fund the energy budget, \$36,730.66

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating and Transportation Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and vote to raise and appropriate \$6,236,460 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and vote to raise and appropriate \$249,493 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$84,672 to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2017, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$126,200 for the disposal and management of solid waste, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action to effectuate the purpose of the article, including but not limited to entering into agreements in excess of three years for such solid waste disposal and management, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen to any office or position under its supervision at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Title 5 and Perc Test Witnesses for Septic System Inspections, and Sanitation Inspections under its supervision in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, Section 21A for Fiscal Year 2017 and to set the salary for those positions at \$40 per Title V Inspections and \$30 per hour for Perc Tests in accordance with the provisions of G.L.c.41, Section 4A, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$22,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, \$77,000 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$750 to the Emergency Response Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$15,000 to compensate firefighters for training, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$10,000 for Tax Recertification, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$25,000 to purchase information technology hardware, software, and services, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action to effectuate the purpose of the article, including but not limited to entering into agreements in excess of three years for such information technology services, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$44,000 for Town building repairs, improvements, equipping and furnishings to include but not be limited to the Town Hall, Library, and Police Station, including any design and other costs and expenses incidental thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund:

Plumbing Inspector	\$20,000
Gas Inspector	\$20,000
Electrical Inspector	\$20,000
Fire Safety Inspector	\$20,000
Board of Health	\$25,000
Senior Transportation	\$15,000
Senior Center Programming	\$10,000
Tax Title Fees	\$10,000

, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$25,000 for its share of the cost to purchase and equip a paving hot box for the Highway Departments of New Marlborough and Sheffield, said paving hotbox to be shared by the two Towns in accordance with the terms of an intermunicipal agreement to be entered into between the Towns pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40 se. 4A; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$50,000 for the cost to repair the Library parking area and/or sidewalks, including any costs and expenses incidental thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$60,000 to purchase and equip a truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way the altered and relocated layout of Rannapo Road, as shown on the plan entitled " Preliminary Roadway Realignment" dated, April 8, 2016, prepared by BSC Group, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and filed with the Town Clerk; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain the fee to or easements in said Rannapo Road as to altered and relocated; and to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for such acquisitions; and to transfer from the Board of Selectmen for public way purpose to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes the care, custody, management and control of the parcels of land lying outside the altered and/or relocated layout of Rannapo Road and discontinued thereby, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 6.2 of the Zoning By-laws as follows:

6.2.2 Definitions – Electronic Message Sign – Delete the phrase “**These signs are prohibited in all districts**” and replace it with “**These signs are permitted by Special Permit in all districts;** so that it shall now read:

Electronic Message Sign – An electrically activated sign whose variable message capability can be electronically programmed. The copy can be changed by means of remote electronically energized on-off switching combinations or alphabetic or pictographic components arranged on a display surface. Illumination may be integral to the components, such as characterized by lamps or other light-emitting devices; or it may be from an external light source designed to reflect off the changeable component display. These signs are permitted by Special Permit in all districts. all as set forth in the document on file in the Office of the Town Clerk,

6.2.5 Prohibited Signs – Delete #5. **Internally illuminated and laser/holographic signs are prohibited** and renumber 1 through 10.

6.2.8 Signs Considered by Special Permit of the Planning Board for Approval – Add the following section to 6.2.8.1 – e. Electronic message sign. or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 21 of the General Laws, to establish a permanent Cemetery Commission. Said commission shall consist of three (3) members and shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The terms of the first members of said commission shall be for one, two or three years and so arranged that the term of one third of the members expires each year, and their successor shall be appointed for terms of three years each, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to permit burials on land adjoining the Pine Grove Cemetery on Bow Wow Road under provisions of Chapter 114, Section 34, as shown on the plan on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. Said property was donated by Theodore and Anne H. Chase in 1972 to the Pine Grove Cemetery, Inc., or take any other action relative thereto.

You are also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet in the Senior Center on 25 Cook Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 AM then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town officers:

One Moderator for one year	One Selectmen for three years
One Library Trustee for three years	Two Planning Board members for three years

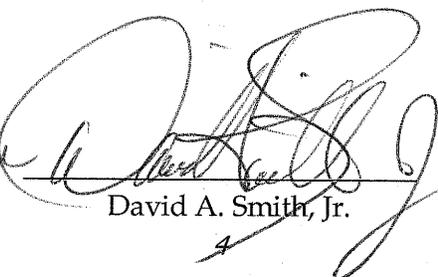
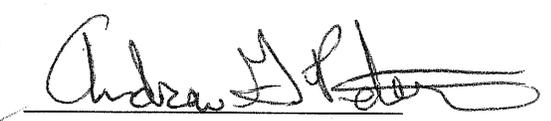
All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 7:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy in seven public places in the Town, not less than seven days before the date of said meeting.

Hereof Fail not, and make return of this Warrant to the Town Clerk, with your doings thereon, at or before the time of said meeting.

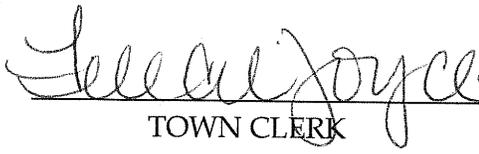
Given under our hands and the Seal of the Town of Sheffield this nineteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

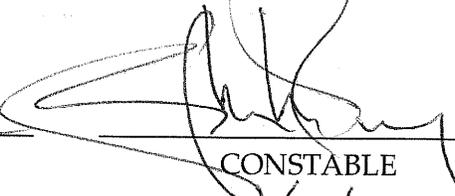
 Nadine A. Hawver	 David A. Smith, Jr.	 Andrew G. Petersen
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In obedience to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield qualified to vote in Town or State Elections and Primaries by posting seven attested copies of said warrant in seven public places at least seven days prior to said election.

ATTEST:



TOWN CLERK



CONSTABLE

4/21/16

DATE