

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 1, 2005
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman
David D. Macy, Selectman,
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Chairman Stanton opened the meeting at 4:14 PM.

TAX TITLE LANDS

The Board viewed and discussed the disposition of Tax Title Lands to begin analyzing how these properties might best serve the town. The Board will ask the Board of Assessors for additional information on several properties along Berkshire School Road. After receiving information, if there is further interest, the Board members individually will conduct site visits. Under consideration:

- abutters might be interested in acquiring land that by itself is not buildable.
- properties that might be land locked.
- wetland issues
- which ones might be possible site for the Senior Center
- land that may be combined
- fiscal issues
- used for affordable housing
- open space (such as parcel adjacent to the Town Park)

SENIOR CENTER

Chairman Stanton has been in contact with Bruce Philbrick of the American Legion. Next Thursday, the American Legion has a meeting planned with a consultant to investigate and get ideas on how to legally arrange to have the Senior Center on its property. The dilemma is that the American Legion is not permitted to take out loans. Chairman Stanton stated that she thinks the American Legion property is an ideal location for the Senior Center. However, the Board should look for other options in case the American Legion property is not possible. The board discussed Segalla's property in back of the library. Chairman Stanton stated that what is good about this property is that it is in the center of town -- which is a priority for the Council on Aging in their search for a new location. Selectman Macy pointed out that the street may be a problem because it is not a town road -- Selectman Hannum inquired about what it would take to become a town road, and was told it was not cost effective. However, they agreed that Selectman Stanton will find out if Mr. Segalla might be interested. Selectman Macy informed the Board that the state grant rules (for constructing a Senior Center) have changed. Considerable investment is necessary due to the new prerequisites of being in control of the property, and submitting plot plans and construction plans. The Board commented on what a shame it is that the Senior Center did not take advantage of the state grant opportunity offered several years ago.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

The Board discussed ideas to improve the appointment process (however, this discussion was not intended for Police & Fire Departments). Ideas discussed:

- Advertising openings
- determine minimum amount of time before closing openings after advertising (Chairman Stanton suggested at least 2 weeks)
- The need to be flexible when making an appointment in an emergency
- proactive approach -- receiving a list of openings and those up for re-appointments earlier in the year (January 1st)
- The Board communicating with the Chairmen of other committees/boards to advise of those slated for reappointment, and requesting feedback/recommendations; via letter, telephone calls
- Learning more and showing support by a Selectman individually attending meetings of the boards / committees (could divide boards / committees amongst the Selectmen (for instance if there are 9 committees, each Selectman would visit 3 but they agreed to be flexible about how many each Selectmen would visit). Also could learn more by reading minutes (who shows up, who contributes), and inviting boards/committees to come to a televised Selectman's meeting as a way to educate the public and generate interest.
- The Board does not have to automatically reappoint.
- Timing of making appointments -- possibly new fiscal year -- will check if this would impact the School Committee.
- having a running agenda to include appointment related tasks
- Selection -- what the board seeks in candidates. Chairman Stanton stated that it is OK and healthy for the board members to hold open and respectful discussion and compromise when disagreeing.
- Interviewing - Chairman Stanton, in conducting research about other town's appointment policies, indicated that Harvard does not require that its board interview everyone -- because sometimes it isn't necessary if the board is familiar with the candidate.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Board will schedule an evening meeting to interview Alice Naylor who submitted a letter of interest to serve on the School Committee.

The Board noted receipt of a letter of interest from Marcia Savage. Both Chairman Stanton and Selectman Macy previously interviewed her . Selectman Hannum will telephone Ms Savage and arrange for an informal interview.

Selectman Macy and Chairman Stanton described the oftentimes challenging, frustrating balancing act of working with school officials on creating the school budget, and being put in a negotiating position. They expressed their desire to provide a quality education and give maximum funding to the school without compromising the town's fiscal health. They feel that Sheffield, relative to the residents' income, give proportionately more than the other towns, and Sheffield is most certainly generous.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Gilbert
via Recording