

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 18, 2005
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM**

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

Others Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Stanton opened the meeting at 7 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 6, 20, 30, 2005, & JULY 11, 2005
Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes for June 6, 20, 30, and July 11, 2005, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

2. COMMUNICATIONS/POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR FY2006
Selectman Macy moved to sign Great Barrington's contract to provide Communications/Police Services for FY2006, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

3. DANA BARTHOLOMEW – PARKING IN TOWN
Dana Bartholomew, and Richard Cantele, Jr. of Salisbury Bank and Trust Company, expressed concern about parking adjacent to the bank. Because the bank does not have a drive-through window, convenient parking is important for business. They inquired about the town's Village Green enhancement project. The Board advised that the Transportation Improvement Project funding (Federal funding, managed by Mass Highway Dept.) for the Village Green Enhancement Project has been assigned a priority scheduled for Fiscal Year 2007 (moved up from the 1990s). Unfortunately, the "Big Dig" project in Boston has caused monumental delays to the TIP program allocations. Each year, Mass Highway reviews and assigns a priority number to the projects listed on the TIPS. While the Board is optimistic that the town will realize the funds for this project, it might not happen in 2007. Because the town has been promised the funding, the Board has not thought it would be fiscally responsible to spend money on this area when in near future the town will receive funding for this project.

Although there are no immediate plans for changing the Village Green, a discussion ensued regarding how to improve parking. Chief McGarry suggested as a way to gain 5 or 6 parking spaces to try: 1) using the most southerly opening as a one-way exit (no entrance from Route 7) from the Village Green, and 2) posting one-way signs to change traffic flow to southbound only south of the post office.

Selectman Macy moved to have a 30-day trial period to place appropriate signs (one-way, do not enter) to have one-way southbound traffic flow from the Friendly Union and Gilligan properties. This will involve posting a do not enter sign on Route 7 at the most southerly egress/curb cut in the Village Green, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator Weitz will arrange to post signs.

Chairman Stanton stated that after a 30-day trial period, she'd like the Board to hold a meeting with Village Green owners/tenants. At the meeting the below listed could be explored:

- Feedback on changes to traffic flow (described above).
- Willingness of tenants/owners to park in back areas to keep spots near stores open for customers.
- Post time limits on parking on the Green (1 or 2 hour)
- Addressing tenants with large trucks who consume large number of parking spaces – including Verizon, Gilligan Bros.
- Asking Bus Tour Company to consider utilizing American Legion parking lot rather than use the Village Green as meeting spot.

Rene Wood suggested inviting Berkshire Regional Planning (Tom Matusko) – Transportation Division.

4. APPOINTMENTS: POLICE DEPT.

Selectman Macy moved to appoint Kim Shaw as a part-time Reserve Intermittent Police Officer, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

At the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent, and Town Administrator, Selectman Hannum moved to appoint Edward Charles Pickert as a Highway Dept. Light Truck Driver/Laborer, and Michael Kingsbury as a Highway Dept. Heavy Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD

The Board noted John Downie's resignation from the Planning Board, effective, August 5, 2005. Mr. Downie extended his resignation date to complete a special permit. The Board will send a letter of appreciation. At the recommendation of the Planning Board, Selectman Macy moved to appoint Francis Doc Nourse (currently serving as Alternate to the Planning Board) to fill the opening on the Planning Board until May 2006, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board will post the Alternate to the Planning Board vacancy.

5. STREET CURB CUT PERMIT – MARK BACHETTI, HULETT HILL RD.

Subject to the review of the Police Chief, Selectman Hannum moved to approve the street curb cut permit to Mark Bachetti for property located on Hulett Hill Road, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

6. RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

Selectman Macy moved to adopt the below listed health insurance regulation, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, Section 14 of Chapter 32B of the Massachusetts General Laws grants authority to the Board of Selectmen to adopt such rules and regulations that may be necessary for the administration of the Chapter:

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 14 of Chapter 32B of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Board of Selectmen hereby promulgates the following Rule:

Employees of the Town of Sheffield who retire from their employment with the Town pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 32 or after a minimum of twenty years of continuous service to the Town are entitled to group health insurance coverage during their retirement only if they were participating in the group health plan at the time of their retirement from service with the Town of Sheffield and for a minimum of five years prior to such retirement.

7. CABLE TV FRANCHISE TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Town Administrator Weitz reported that Attorney Bill August (Mr. August worked with the town on Cable matters in the past), advised the Board to hold a public hearing regarding the cable company's transfer of ownership. The Board announced the public hearing:

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166A, Section 7 and 207 CMR 4.01 et. seq., a public hearing will be held on the applications for assignment and change of control of the existing cable television license for the Town of Sheffield. The license will be transferred from an indirect subsidiary of Adelphia Communications Corporation to Time Warner Cable, Inc. The applications for assignment and change of control are available for public inspection during regular business hours at Town Hall and at the Massachusetts Cable Television Division at One South Station, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110. The issuing authority has been asked to consider the desirability of approving the proposed assignment of license and change of control based on the managerial, technical, financial and legal ability of Time Warner to operate the cable system pursuant to Adelphia's existing license. **The hearing will be held at 8:30PM on Monday, August 8, 2005 at Town Hall, 21 Depot St., Sheffield, MA 01257.** Residents and municipal officials are invited to attend.

8. REQUEST FOR ONE-DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMIT – FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL

Selectman Macy moved to grant approval for a One-day All Alcoholic Beverages permit to Fairview Hospital for its fundraiser to be held at Berkshire School on August 20, 2005 with the stipulation that Fairview Hospital submits a certificate of insurance for alcohol liability coverage. Selectman Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS:
HULETT HILL ROAD CURB CUT

Town Administrator Weitz reported on the progress of the restoration of the illegal curb cut located on Hulett Hill Road. The berm had been restored but restoration of several trees remains outstanding. At Chairman Stanton's suggestion, Town Administrator Weitz will send Mr. Durning a letter asking when the required tree plantings will occur

10. BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

Chairman Stanton reported on the Selectmen's working meeting of July 13th, in which they met with a website provider. There is a great deal of thought that will go into creating the website. Rene Wood expressed that she hopes the website will not create extra work for committees/boards.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTE LIMIT - ONLY ITEMS WITHIN BOARD'S JURISDICTION)

Rene Wood complimented the improved landscape in front of the Town Hall.

At David West's request, Selectman Macy moved to appoint David West and Barbara West to the Historical Commission, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton thanked Mr. West for all the work he does for the town.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Gilbert,
Recording Secretary