

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AUGUST 1, 2005  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**

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

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

Chairman Stanton called the meeting to order at 7PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –JULY 13, 2005 EXECUTIVE AND REGULAR SESSION, & JULY 18, 2005 REGULAR SESSION

Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes for July 13, 2005 (Executive and Regular Sessions), and July 18, 2005 (Regular Session). Selectman Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. CTSB RE: PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAMMING FEE – ROSWITHA METZ, PRES. & NORMAN MCLEOD, EXEC. DIR.

Community Television for the Southern Berkshires Executive Director Norman McLeod, and President Roswitha Metz discussed and fielded questions regarding CTSB's request to increase Sheffield's cable subscriber public access fee to 5% -- to match fees to be assessed to the other 4 towns (Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Lenox & Lee). CTSB hopes to realize approximately \$64,000 additional annual funding to hire a full-time videographer knowledgeable about digital equipment (CTSB increased to 3 channels) and a part time administrative position. Currently, CTSB spends approx. \$120,000 on 3 employees. Their current budget is approx. \$226,000. Ms Metz explained that it is difficult to recruit volunteers and give additional work to volunteers, and the CTSB Board wants the staff to focus on programming rather than time-consuming fund-raising. They stated that Sheffield has no volunteers on their board (or to do videotaping). Chairman Stanton pointed out that traveling, making arrangements to pickup and return videotaping equipment was burdensome as Sheffield is much farther away than the other 4 towns.

Mr. McCloud and Ms Metz indicated if the town were to agree on the proposed increase:

- CTSB is willing buy (\$2,000) and store videotaping equipment at the Town Hall.
- CTSB could provide a complimentary copy of Sheffield's videotaped meetings. (These could be housed at the Library for 30 days).

Selectman Macy inquired about live broadcast. According to Mr. McLeod, live feed will run after the cable company completes wiring. Also, per Mr. McCloud, town hall and the school may have live programming simultaneously as each place is equipped with separate modulators and 2 frequencies.

Selectman Hannum suggested voting for an increase for a specified time period followed by Board of Selectmen review/recommendation – rather than automatically keeping the increase. She did not want the town to be locked into the new rate if additional moneys were not spent on additional staffing. The board agreed to Selectmen’s Macy’s idea to place on the August 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda to allow the board time to formulate wording of the motion.

### 3. DAVE SMITH RE: SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION

David Smith and Kathy Orlando described plans for the annual Ashley Falls Fair (which will not occur in Ashley Falls) and Sheffield in Celebration events. -- David Smith and Kathy Orlando asked permission to close traffic at the Village Green from the Stone Store to Silks (not including access to the Fire Dept. and Post Office) and then they would coordinate details with the Police Dept. Selectman Macy moved to approve closing the green to traffic from 2PM till 7PM on September 10, 2005 for the Annual Sheffield in Celebration and Ashley Falls Fairs Off the Green events, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. MAIL OF NOTE:

#### SHEFFIELD AMERICAN LEGION POST 340 RE: SENIOR CENTER

Bruce Philbrick, Commander, Sheffield American Legion Post 340 sent a memo dated 7/23/05 to Pauline Schuman, Senior Activity Site Committee, and the Board of Selectmen advising that the consensus of the members of the Post Home re: use of the Post Home Property as a potential Sheffield Senior Center site which is to leave the Legion Hall building as is with no internal or external renovations or expansions but they are open to discussion about developing a separate building on the Legion Property in the vicinity of the Legion’s present storage garage. The letter also suggests that the Barrington Stage Company facilities might be an ideal place for the Senior Center. In closing, Mr. Philbrick inquires if the Selectmen after reading this memo still want to meet on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the American Legion Hall.

#### COUNCIL ON AGING RE: SENIOR CENTER SITE

The Council on Aging and Director of the Senior Center. 7/18/05 – asked that the Board of Selectmen consider and find out if the Barrington Stage Company building in the center of town (The Barrington Stage Company is moving to Pittsfield from a building they own in the center of town) is available to house the Senior Center – either for rent or purchase.

In response to the above correspondences, Chairman Stanton will contact Barrington Stage Company to try to arrange for a meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Macy expressed that he thinks the Board should, as planned, have its Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the American Legion to keep all options open. The Board agreed to decide about the location of the Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting after Chairman Stanton speaks to the Barrington Stage Company.

### 5. APPOINTMENTS:

#### ZBA PART TIME CLERK

Selectman Macy moved to appoint Halina Walusko of Housatonic as part-time Clerk to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Selectman Hannum, 2005. Motion carried unanimously. Town Administrator Weitz advised that Ms Walusko has starting working as part-time Clerk for

the Planning Board (which does its own appointments). Selectman Macy stated that he would like feedback from the Planning Board as to how she is doing.

#### ALTERNATE TO THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Selectman Macy moved to appoint Bart Elsbach as the Alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, seconded by Hannum, 2005. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. MOUNT WASHINGTON ROAD

Town Administrator Weitz advised that The Options Institute inquired if the town will be maintaining the bridge located on Mount Washington Road past the institute, and at his recommendation the Board members will conduct a site inspection of the road.

#### 7. STREET CURB CUT PERMIT –PHYLLIS PRIOLETTI, LOT 4 HULETT HILL ROAD

Selectman Hannum moved to issue a curb-cut permit to Phyllis Prioletti for her property located at Lot 4 on Hulett Hill Road, with the condition that all trees 2 inches in diameter are removed from either side 50 feet from the center of the driveway, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. VOTE ON DEEDS FOR BUSINESS PARK

Selectman Macy moved to sign Sheffield Business Park Deeds and Declaration of Covenants for Spark Management, LLC and Four Corners, LLC. Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. OLD BUSINESS

##### DURNING HULETT HILL ROAD CURB CUT

Town Administrator Weitz reported that as of today's site visit, the trees have not been replaced, nor has Mr. Durning replied to a letter of inquiry Town Administrator Weitz sent several weeks ago about such. The Board agreed to give Mr. Durning another week to respond to Mr. Weitz's letter---in case he is away.

##### COMMONWEALTH CAPITAL APPLICATION

Following discussion between Planning Board Chairman Rene Wood and Town Administrator Weitz, Selectman Macy moved to add "Aquifer Protection Plan for Public Water" to the activities on the 2005 Commonwealth Capital Grant, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 10. BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

Selectman Hannum –Town Administrator Weitz had followed up on a few telephone calls she received:

1) cars on Alum Hill Rd – no longer an issue and 2) wash out on Hillside Lane onto Clayton Road --Yesterday Highway Department cleaned up silt/gravel/mud on Clayton.

Chairman Stanton noted receipt of an application for the Dog Officer Position and will send a letter to the applicant thanking her for her interest and explaining that the Animal Inspector has agreed to take on this additional responsibility.

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

Chris and Anna Papachristadoulou of 20 Hillside Lane reported that silt, water, and mud sliding from their neighbor's property flooded into their basement, and garage causing significant damage to their property. In addition, the town has cleaned up mud/silk ending up on Clayton Road. This happens after heavy rains, and this was the third occurrence since their neighbors above cleared trees from their land. They stated that their neighbors have refused to build a retaining wall or take action to remedy. The Papcristadoulous reported communicating to the Board of Health Chairman because they have heard that their neighbors plan to have horses and / or a kennel.

According to Town Administrator Weitz, Hillside Lane is a private road, and unless this involves a town matter such as wetlands (Conservation Commission's jurisdiction) or damage to a town way, the town does not have jurisdiction. The Board of Selectmen's only recourse would be to obtain a court order requiring the neighbors to reimburse the town for the clean up of Clayton Road.

Town Administrator Weitz suggested that Mr. and Mrs. Papachristadoulou contact the Environmental Protection Agency to see if this falls within their jurisdiction. – Beverly Gilbert will find the phone number for them.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 8:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert,  
Recording Secretary  
Approved on August 22, 2005