

Town of Sheffield
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 21, 2007
7 p.m.

Board Members Present: David Macy, Chairman
Julie Hannum, Clerk
James Collingwood

Others Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator

Chairman Macy called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Selectman Collingwood moved to appoint Selectman Hannum as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Macy moved to appoint Selectman Collingwood as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Chairman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Selectman Macy moved to approve minutes from the following meetings, April 23, 2007 and May 9, 2007, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

The list of appointments was read by the Selectmen. The Agricultural Commission appointments were tabled until the next Selectmen's meeting. David Smith Sr. was added to the list as Alternate Delegate to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The Council on Aging appointments were put on hold until more information may be obtained. Moderator Bruce Person recommended David Smith and Judith Schnurr be re-appointed to the Finance Committee. Moderator Person also recommended that Collin Smith be appointed to fill a vacancy on the Finance Board. Selectman Macy moved to ratify the recommendation from Moderator Person for the Finance Committee appointments, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion passed unanimously. Selectman Macy read a statement regarding appointment to the Southern Berkshire Regional District (SBRSD) Committee. Selectman Macy moved to appoint David Steindler, Susan Young and Janet Stanton to the SBRSD Committee, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. Discussion ensued regarding the appointments. Public concerns were with appointing a member that is out of town for 5 months of the year and appointing a member that is currently Chairman of the Finance Committee. Discussion ensued on the terms of the appointment. Selectman Macy amended his motion to include the terms as follows: David Steindler and Susan Young to be appointed for a 3 year term and Janet Stanton to be appointed to fill a vacancy for one year. The motion carried by a 2 to 1 vote. Selectman Macy moved to send a letter of appreciation to the School Committee members not appointed and to Mark Bachetti from the Finance Committee.

seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously. There are many letters of appreciation that will need to be sent. The Conservation Commission appointments will be held for a later date.

MAIL OF NOTE:

Undermountain Elementary School:

Administrator Weitz read a letter from the Undermountain Elementary School requesting permission to plant flowers at Shay's Rebellion. The planting will take place on May 31, 2007. Selectman Macy moved to grant permission for the planting, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Senior Center Building Committee:

Administrator Weitz read a letter from Peter Traub, Chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee regarding working on an action plan for the funding of the Senior Center. Discussion ensued on the re-establishment of the Building Committee which would be given new charges from the Board of Selectmen. A meeting will be set between the Building Committee, Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. David Steindler, Chairman of the Finance Committee requested a copy of the letter.

District Department of Veteran's Services:

Administrator Weitz read a letter regarding the retirement of Veteran's Agent Al Adams effective July 1, 2007. Ed Morehouse has asked all Southern Berkshire towns to participate in the screening and interviewing of a replacement. The screening will take place on June 14, 2007 at 7 pm in the Great Barrington Town Hall. The interviews will take place on June 20, 2007 at the Great Barrington Town Hall. Richard Kirchner will be contacted regarding the screening and interviews.

Letter of Complaint:

Administrator Weitz read a letter of complaint regarding motor vehicles and junk on a South Main Street property. The signers of the letter requested that the town enforce the by-law relating to abandoned vehicles. The letter will be forwarded to the Building Inspector who handles zoning enforcement issues.

Highway Department Resignation:

Bill O'Donnell has resigned from the Highway Department. Selectman Macy moved to accept the resignation, to send Bill a letter of appreciation and to seek a new employee for his replacement, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RAILROAD BARN:

The Fire Department has requested that the Board of Selectmen dedicate the use of the Railroad Barn to the Fire Department. Selectman Macy moved that the use of the Railroad Barn be dedicated to the Fire Department, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion passed unanimously.

CHRIS WELD – BREWERY:

Chris Weld was present to inform the board of his plans to operate a brewery on Home Road. Mr. Weld explained the process. Discussion ensued on the permitting process.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR POSITION:

Selectman Macy moved to accept with regret the resignation of Robert Weitz effective June 21, 2007, seconded by James Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Macy moved to appoint Joseph Kellogg as a part-time interim Town Administrator for the period of June 22, 2007 – November 16, 2007 at the rate of \$35.00 per hour, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. Discussion ensued on a search for a Town Administrator and the creation of the position of Assistant Town Administrator. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Hannum will follow-up with contacting the MMA Consulting Group regarding the search for a Town Administrator. The Assistant Town Administrator position will also include Assistant to the Selectmen and Planning Board. Discussion ensued on posting the position. Selectman Macy moved to appoint Rhonda LaBombard as Assistant Town Administrator and Assistant to the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board pending Counsel's opinion on necessity of posting of the position, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

CURB CUT:

Two curb cut applications have been received, one for Peter Soules at 176 Root Lane and one for Pine Grove Properties at 101 Hewins Street. Both of the applications have been approved by the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief. Selectman Macy moved to approve the curb cuts as submitted, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion passed unanimously.

TEMPORARY ROADSIDE SIGN PERMITS:

An application for a temporary roadside sign permit was received from Priscilla Cote for the Sheffield Friendly Union for the annual plant sale at Dewey Hall. The sale was held last weekend. Selectman Macy moved to grant the permit, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

PARADE PERMITS:

The American Legion has requested a permit for the Memorial Day Parade. Selectman Macy moved to grant permits for the Sheffield and Ashley Falls Memorial Day Parade, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

METALS RECYCLING PROPOSAL:

Administrator Weitz asked John Jasmin from Ray's Auto Parts for a proposal on metal recycling from the Transfer Station. Currently the Town is paying \$75.00 per load for the Master Garbologist to pick up the metals from the Transfer Station and take them to Ray's Auto Parts. The new proposal from Ray's would be to pay the town \$150.00 per 40 yd container delivered. Selectman Macy stated that the transportation of the metals will be handled by JTC and Sons which is owned by the son of Selectman Collingwood, Selectmen Macy and Hannum are also related. David Steindler suggested setting the funds received from the metal container aside for the purpose of purchasing a new 40 yd container. Selectman Macy moved to accept the proposal as submitted, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Selectman Collingwood inquired on the status of the intersection of Old Joe and Home Road. Administrator Weitz stated that the highway department will implement changes at the intersection this summer.

Chairman Hannum will attend the Berkshire Blueprint meeting tomorrow.

Discussion ensued on the MPO representation from Sheffield.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pauline Schumann thanked the Selectmen for their support on the proposed Senior Center but expressed her disappointment with the timing of the funding question on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Pauline stated that she is now the President of the Friends of the COA. Chairman Hannum thanked Pauline for all of her hard work at COA Chairman.

Rene Wood submitted information on grant funding possibilities. Discussion ensued on these grant opportunities as well as Smart Growth and Economic Development. Tom Matusko from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will meet with the Selectmen on June 4, 2007 at 6 pm.

Selectman Macy moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining as well as non union employee negotiations and for the meeting not to return to open session, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Hannum – aye

Selectman Collingwood – aye

Selectman Macy – aye

Executive Session entered at 8:50 pm.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Recording Secretary