

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
JULY 9, 2009
5:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Chairman
Julie M. Hannum
Rene C. Wood

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Members of the Public

Chairman Macy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

At the request of Selectman Wood, Administrator Kellogg advised the Board that he had conferred with Town Counsel regarding the continued validity of the January, 2008 Special Town Meeting vote to transfer \$450,000 from Free Cash as a match for CDBG funds to construct a new Senior Center. Town Counsel confirmed that the vote was still valid and therefore the funds remain committed and available as a match for the Senior Center grant. It was noted the Town would likely be receiving notice shortly from DHCD that the grant would be approved using stimulus funding from the Federal government. Selectman Wood moved to proceed with the Senior Center project pending receipt of DHCD approval of a CDBG grant. The motion was seconded by Selectman Hannum and carried unanimously.

Chairman Macy noted that a decision was needed on whether to proceed with paving East and West Roads. Members agreed that no matter what decision was made, the existing paved section of East Road, from Maple Avenue to Water Farm Road, needed to be repaired and resurfaced, and speed zone/dangerous curve signs should be installed on West Road. Selectmen Hannum said she was concerned about road conditions affecting the ability of our public safety services being able to adequately respond to emergencies, but was sympathetic to the neighbor's comments regarding their issues with speeding and aesthetics. Selectmen Wood commented that the Town has always been supportive of the Highway, Police and Fire Departments, but was concerned that these two roads did not appear to necessarily have the highest priority or need for paving. Discussion ensued about the condition of all Town roads and plans for their improvement. Chairman Macy said he did not want to second guess the Highway Superintendent or the Police and Fire Chief's recommendations on the best use of highway funding and was in support of the paving. Additional discussion followed about the pro's and cons of gravel roads versus paved roads. Selectman Hannum moved to approve the paving of both West and East Roads with oil and stone as proposed, with the exception that the northern section of East Road not be paved unless the Board approves of such action following a site visit. The motion was seconded by Chairman Macy and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the need to establish the amount of the Transfer Station Sticker Fee for FY2010. It was noted the Finance Committee had recently met to review the numbers and had voted to recommend a regular fee of \$195 per year with a Senior fee of \$135 per year. Discussion ensued over the number of stickers to be sold, the need to assure adequate revenue is collected, and the billing process. Selectmen Hannum moved to set the regular FY2010 Transfer Station Sticker Fee at \$193 with a Senior Fee (70 and over) at \$134. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wood and carried unanimously. There was further discussion over the number of stickers each household should receive and whether additional stickers should require a fee. Selectmen Wood moved to limit the total number of Transfer Station Stickers for FY2010 at two per household, and to set the rate for the second sticker at \$10. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Hannum and carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about documents needed for the Town's submission to be recognized as a Tree City USA. Selectmen Wood moved to approve an Arbor Day Proclamation, 2009 issued by Tom Ingersoll as Chair of the Sheffield Tree Project and further to approve the Tree Warden Work Plan, both documents to be submitted to the Tree City USA program. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Hannum and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed an application from Nicholas Enterprise, Inc., d/b/a BountiFare for a one day wine and malt beverage license for the Sheffield Plastics picnic at the Town Park on July 25, 2009, with a rain date of July 26, 2009. Selectman Wood moved to approve the license. The motion was seconded by Selectman Hannum and carried unanimously.

Selectmen Wood provided the Board with a proposed letter to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) opposing a rate increase requested by National Grid. Selectman Hannum moved to authorize Chairman Macy to sign the letter and for Selectmen Wood to present it at a public hearing being held by the DPU in North Adams. The motion was seconded by Selectman Wood and carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about the Board's meeting schedule for the remainder of the summer. It was agreed that a working session would be held on Friday, July 17th at 10:00 AM. The next regular meeting would be the first Monday in August on the 3rd with the third Monday meeting to be on August 18th only if necessary.

Selectmen Wood expressed concern that the District Local Technical Assistance budget had recently been cut by the Governor. She explained that this budget provided funding for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist its member communities with a variety of planning tasks that would otherwise not be carried out. Selectman Hannum moved to authorize Selectmen Wood to contact Rep. Smitty Pignatelli and Sen. Benjamin Downing and urge them to restore the District Local Technical Assistance funding. The motion was seconded by Selectman Wood and carried unanimously.

Selectmen Hannum moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Wood and carried unanimously.

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Joseph A. Kellogg
Town Administrator