

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2010
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
Rene C. Wood, Clerk
David A. Smith, Jr.

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Assistant Town Administrator

Members of the public

Chairman Hannum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Wood moved to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2010, August 23, 2010, September 7, 2010, September 8, 2010 and September 20, 2010 meetings, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

VERIZON POLE LOCATION HEARING – HULETT HILL ROAD:

Chairman Hannum opened a public hearing at the request of Verizon for utility pole installations on Hulett Hill Road. It was noted that Albert Bessette from Verizon had sent an email stating that because of another hearing in a neighboring town, he would be late. Chairman Hannum continued the hearing until Mr. Bessette arrives.

MARJORIE COHAN – BERKSHIRE BIKE PATH:

Marjorie Cohan, President of Berkshire Bike Path, was present to discuss the Berkshire Bike Path and a touring map for cyclists. Ms. Cohan asked the Board to consider joining the effort to create a South Berkshire County touring map for cyclists. Each Town is being asked to contribute \$200 toward the map and to create a map route for their town. Discussion ensued on the funding for the touring map and on creating a Task Force to work on the touring map as well as to form a permanent Bike Path Committee. Selectman Wood moved to seek members to serve on a Task Force to work on creating a touring map and to investigate a permanent Bike Path Committee, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding whether this effort would be eligible for funding from the Cultural Council. Selectman Wood will investigate this possibility.

EMS PLAN:

Jim Rintoul from Berkshire Regional Health Systems was present to discuss an EMS plan for Sheffield. Administrator Kellogg and Chief McGarry found that the proposed regional plan for South Berkshire was not specific to Sheffield and have recommended that we prepare our own plan. Assistant Administrator LaBombard has created a draft plan for the Board's consideration which has been approved by Administrator Kellogg and Chief McGarry. It was the consensus of the Board to review the draft plan and continue the discussion at the next meeting.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION:

Administrator Kellogg said that even though FY10 was projected to be a difficult financial year, resulting in no pay raises given for Town employees (with the exception of the Highway Department union), the year ended in the black. He credited this positive result to careful spending and hard work by employees who maintained the same services with less resources. Administrator Kellogg said it is important to reward the employee's efforts for this success and is recommending that all regular employees who did not receive an FY10 pay raise receive two additional days off for this year only, those days being November 24, 2010, (the day before Thanksgiving), and December 30, 2010 (the day before the New Years holiday). This action would involve the Town Hall being closed on those days which are generally slow due to the holiday season. Selectman Wood moved to approve Administrator Kellogg's recommendation to provide two paid days off as noted on November 24, 2010 and December 30, 2010 as a gesture of appreciation to those regular employees who did not receive a pay increase in FY10, and to close Town Hall on those days, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

COA FURNITURE NEEDS:

The Board is waiting for a list from the Council on Aging (COA) of the essential furniture needs for the new Senior Center. Discussion ensued regarding the Friends of the Senior Center and their role to provide the funds necessary to purchase the items from the COA list, and a deadline for the list to be submitted to the Board. The Board will review the list and after approved, it will be shared with the Friends to decide which items they are willing to finance. Selectman Smith moved to send a letter to the COA requesting a list of essential furnishings for the Senior Center by October 22, 2010, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

VERIZON POLE HEARING CONTINUATION:

Chairman Hannum continued with the Verizon public hearing at 7:50 pm. Mr. Bessette from Verizon was present. A new home is being constructed on Hulett Hill Road. This requires the installation of three utility poles. Discussion ensued regarding the placement of the poles. Chairman Hannum closed the public hearing at 7:55 pm. Selectman Wood moved to approve the installation of three utility poles on Hulett Hill Road as submitted by Verizon, namely numbers T.1-3/E.14; T.1-2/E.15; and T.1-1/E.16 seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTRICITY SERVICE CONTRACT:

Administrator Kellogg explained that the Town's current five year contract for electricity generation is with Constellation New Energy and will expire in December. This contract was locked in at \$.11 per kwh. Administrator Kellogg has solicited quotes from Patriot Energy, Hampshire COG and Constellation New Energy regarding a new contract and is recommending that the Board approve a new 48 month contract with the lowest proposer, Constellation New Energy at \$.084 per kwh. Selectman Smith moved to sign a 48 month contract with Constellation New Energy to be effective in December at the expiration of the current contract, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Wood stated the Sheffield in Celebration was a wonderful event and thanked everyone that worked hard to make it successful.

Selectman Wood thanked Police Officer Eric Munson for coordinating the Rx Roundup on Saturday at the Town Hall which provided a safe option for disposal of outdated or unused medications. It was very successful and 13.2 pounds of medications were collected.

Selectman Wood said that she attended the pot luck dinner hosted by the Council on Aging held on Friday. The progress of the Senior Center and future programs were discussed.

Selectman Hannum congratulated Nancy Hahn, Library Director, on hosting an open house for the new Massachusetts Library System.

Selectman Hannum noted that she attended the recent kick off for the Mt. Everett Regional School accreditation process.

Selectman Hannum said she also attended a Southern Berkshire Chamber event honoring the Ward family for their business accomplishments and commended them on their hard work.

Selectman Hannum stated that the Board has scheduled an All Boards Meeting for land use boards, which will be held on October 18, 2010 at 6 pm at Town Hall.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Administrator Kellogg said that on September 30, 2010 a new State law will become effective which prohibits texting and emailing while driving for all drivers and prohibits any electronic usage while driving for all junior operators under the age of 18.

Administrator Kellogg reminded residents that Bulky Waste Days will be held on October 15th, 16th and 17th. Any resident that has a valid Transfer Station permit will be allowed to pick up a coupon for one pick up truck load of bulky waste.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Trudy Miller, president of the Cultural Council was present to discuss a survey on the events that the Cultural Council has supported. The survey will be available at the Library, Senior Center, Southern Berkshire Regional School District and Town Hall. Ms. Miller has requested that an active PDF be placed on the Town website; she will provide the PDF form for placement on the website. The survey deadline is the end of October.

Selectman Smith moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy, collective bargaining and non union personnel negotiations and not to return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Wood. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Hannum – aye

Selectman Wood – aye

Selectman Smith - aye

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator