

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MARCH 7, 2011  
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 February 22, 2011 and February 24, 2011 meetings, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

**E911 SIGNAGE – CHIEF McGARRY AND CHIEF BOARDMAN:**

Chief McGarry discussed the difficulty of finding residences in the event of an emergency and requested that an article be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that would educate residents on the importance of house numbers and also to enforce compliance with installation and display of house numbers. Selectman Wood moved to support the concept of drafting a warrant article addressing this problem, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously. Chief McGarry and Chief Boardman will work with Administrator Kellogg to create the language for a Town Meeting Warrant article.

Chief McGarry also requested that the Board contact Verizon to discuss the emergency communication tower at Butternut Basin in Great Barrington. The lines to the tower malfunctioned recently and Verizon was less than cooperative in getting the repairs made. This disruption affected all of South County. It was the consensus of the Board to have Administrator Kellogg contact Verizon to discuss this issue.

**BERKSHIRE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:**

MacKenzie Greer from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) was present to discuss the Berkshire Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan in its entirety can be found on BRPC's website, and Ms. Greer distributed the Sheffield section for review. Discussion ensued regarding the plan. Comments and/or changes will be accepted until March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**WIRED WEST:**

Tim Newman, a representative from Wired West was present and gave an overview of the program. The structure of Wired West will be the creation of a Public Cooperative of Municipal Lighting Plants (MLP), with each interested Town creating an MLP. This process requires two Town Meeting votes from each town wishing to create an MLP and join the Cooperative. There are currently 23 towns that have held the first vote and will hold the second vote at their Annual Town Meetings this spring. Discussion ensued regarding membership in the Cooperative, joining fees, pilot towns, and timeline. It was the consensus of the Board to take the information under advisement.

### **CHANGE IN POLLING PLACE LOCATION:**

At the request of Town Clerk Felecie Joyce, the Massachusetts Secretary of State, Elections Division recently inspected and approved the new Senior Center as a polling location as a result of accessibility concerns at Town Hall due to the frequent malfunctioning of the elevator. John Arthur Miller, Senior Center Director, was present and objected to using the Senior Center as the polling location, stating that elections would be too disruptive to the programs scheduled. Discussion ensued. Selectman Smith moved to change the Town's polling location to the new Senior Center at 25 Cook Road for Town and State elections, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

### **DLTA – GE FUND:**

Administrator Kellogg said that the Towns of Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington have joined together to apply for District Local Technical Assistance funds from BRPC for assistance in obtaining economic development assistance from General Electric as part of the Rest of the River Clean-up. The four Towns have extended an invitation for Sheffield to join them. Selectman Wood moved to join the above Towns in the DLTA application and to have Administrator Kellogg serve as the Town's representative for the project, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

### **RESIGNATION – CULTURAL COUNCIL:**

Amber Spring has moved out of Town and submitted her resignation from the Cultural Council. Selectman Smith moved to accept the resignation from Amber Spring and send her a letter of thanks, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

### **SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:**

Selectman Wood discussed the Mass Dairy Farmer Tax Credit that is not available to Massachusetts farmers for 2010. She would like to work on trying to restore the tax credit. It was the consensus of the Board to allow Selectman Wood to represent the Board and proceed with the issue.

Selectman Wood said that she recently attended two meetings regarding the GE Housatonic River Clean up efforts. There will be several sessions that will allow the public to give input on this issue. The first sessions will be on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox. The last session will be an all day session on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued regarding South County representation. She said that BRPC will apply to get back on the Citizen Coordinating Council which has oversight for the clean-up.

Chairman Hannum said that the tentative date for the dedication of the Covered Bridge Park is May 7, 2011.

Chairman Hannum discussed the need for a new Chapter 90 bond authorization. It was the consensus of the Board to contact our legislators regarding Chapter 90 funds.

Chairman Hannum again thanked the Highway Department for the great job they have been doing.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:**

Administrator Kellogg urged residents to beware of the frost heaves on many roads. This has been a tough winter on the roads and the heaves should go down once the weather warms up.

Administrator Kellogg congratulated Town Clerk Felecie Joyce on her certification as a Municipal Town Clerk.

Administrator Kellogg announced the receipt of \$4,246.23 from MRF as a recycling rebate resulting from residents doing a great job on recycling. He also stated that the Town has received a grant to employ a Recycling Educator at the Transfer Station this summer. The position will be advertised and anyone interested should contact the Administrator's office for information.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chief Boardman has recommended that Jason Smith be appointed as a probationary member of the Fire Department. Selectman Smith moved to appoint Jason Smith as a probationary member of the Fire Department, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard  
Assistant Town Administrator