

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MAY 23, 2011  
SENIOR CENTER  
WORKING MEETING  
4:30 PM**

Board Members Present: Rene C. Wood, Chairman  
Julie M. Hannum, Clerk

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator

Members of the public

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Tara White, Lawrence Davis, and Nathaniel Yohalem, members of the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen were present for a discussion relative to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) FY12 Budget and Capital Bond. Finance Committee members David Steindler, John James, Judith Schnurr and David Macy as well as School Committee members Andy Fetterhoff, Charles Flynn, Dennis Sears, Vito Valentini, Stephen Willig and Business Administrator Bruce Turner were also present. It was noted that the SBRSD School Committee has voted to recertify the same budget as was rejected by voters in Sheffield and New Marlborough. Chairman Wood expressed concern over recent news articles in the Berkshire Record regarding this action and asked that we work towards a resolution of the matter rather than playing into the rhetoric. Discussion ensued as to what is needed to obtain an approved SBRSD budget for FY12. It was noted that Sheffield has scheduled a Special Town Meeting for June 27<sup>th</sup> to consider the matter. New Marlborough passed the budget at their Annual Town Meeting, but voters did not approve the Proposition 2½ override required to fund it. Although no date has been set, it is expected that a Special Election will be called soon.

Selectmen Yohalem said that they had received a letter from Herb Abelow, Chair of the SBRSD School Committee, asking for input on the capital bond proposal. Discussion ensued and several questions were suggested for submission including: the need for more detail on how the funds will be expended; concern about lead paint abatement at the Egremont School since information was provided that the process had been completed several years ago; the need for more detail about what constituted softgoods at the TACPAC; request that the process not be rushed and that there be several meetings with the Selectmen and Finance Committees of all five Towns; concern about borrowing funds to pay for computer and technology items; concern about maintaining a \$400,000 annual payment for twelve years when the proposed bond schedule in later years only totaled \$200,000 in repayments which would be included in a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion; it is not clear that the Towns will be able to afford the remaining \$200,000 and keep within the levy limit. It was agreed these questions would be submitted to the School Committee for their consideration.

Selectmen Yohalem suggested that we approach the School Committee and ask them to reconsider their vote to certify the same budget in hopes of reaching a compromise on a reduced budget that would keep Sheffield and New Marlborough from exceeding their levy limit. Discussion ensued and it was agreed we would bring these issues to the School Committee at their May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

New Marlborough Selectmen left the meeting as did Finance Committee members and all School Committee members except Dennis Sears.

Trudy Weaver Miller, Kathy Orlando, James Kelly, Bruce Howden, and Dominic Palumbo were present to represent the Farmers Market request to close part of the Village Green in order to move the location of the Market to the roadway/parking area in front of the Old Parish Church. Chief of Police James McGarry was also present and provided a brief summary of his safety requirements should the Board decide to close all or part of the Village Green. Discussion ensued about the various options. Selectman Hannum moved to approve closing off those parking spaces on the Village Green situated in front of the Old Parish Church for use by the Farmers Market on Friday afternoons until June 24, 2011 with the following conditions: that the spaces be barricaded in accordance with Chief McGarry's requirements; flaggers be present to direct motorists; no parking signs and cones be placed on Route 7 and in the parallel parking spaces directly east of the barricaded spaces; and signage be installed to direct motorists around the barricaded area, seconded by Chairman Wood. The motion carried 2-0.

An application has been received from the Sheffield Farmers Market for two temporary roadside event signs on the Village Green, one on the north and one on the south. The signs would be erected on each Friday afternoon and removed each Friday evening beginning May 27<sup>th</sup> until September 1<sup>st</sup>. Selectman Hannum moved to grant the Temporary Roadside Event Signs to the Sheffield Farmers Market, seconded by Chairman Wood. The motion carried 2-0.

Chief McGarry, Trudy Weaver Miller, Kathy Orlando, James Kelly, Bruce Howden, and Dominic Palumbo left the meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the June 27<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting. Administrator Kellogg provided the Board with a draft Warrant and suggested that it not be finalized until it is determined whether the SBRSD School Committee will be voting again on a Capital Bond. Under the relevant State law governing such issuance, a Special Town Meeting will be required within 60 days of any such vote to express disapproval of the issuance. It was agreed to wait until the intentions of the School Committee are known.

Administrator Kellogg advised that more definitive costs have been developed relative to the proposed schedule of roads to be paved this summer and noted that the Sheffield Egremont Road project will not be able to be completed this year with the current available funds.

Board members discussed potential meeting dates for the rest of May and June and agreed to meet on the following dates: May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for a working meeting; June 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm for a working meeting and 7 pm for a regular meeting; June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm for a working meeting and 7 pm for a regular meeting; and June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm for a working meeting.

It was noted that a more detailed discussion would be held at the meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> regarding the Town Administrator search.

Administrator Kellogg advised that the contract with JTC & Sons to haul recyclable materials to the Springfield MRF is expiring on June 30. In a conversation with James Collingwood, President of JTC, he has agreed to hold the existing price of \$230.00 per haul for one more year. It was noted that Chapter 30B, the Uniform Procurement Law, exempts the hauling of solid waste, including recyclables, from bidding requirements. Administrator Kellogg recommended that the Board approve a one year extension since diesel prices have risen dramatically in the past year and said we would likely pay a higher price if we were to go out for new bids. Selectman Hannum moved to approve a one year extension of the recyclable material hauling contract with JTC & Sons to June 30, 2012 at the same terms and conditions, seconded by Chairman Wood. The motion carried 2-0.

Administrator Kellogg said only one application had been received in response to the Town's help wanted advertisement for a Recycling Educator to work at the Transfer Station this summer. He noted that the temporary, part-time position is being funded with a grant from the MRF Advisory Board. The Recycling Educator will be available during regular Transfer Station operating hours to assist residents with improving their recycling habits, which in turn will reduce the Town's costs of recycling. Administrator Kellogg recommended that the one applicant, Lila Milukas be hired to fill the position as she has worked in the past for the Town as a summer intern while attending college and did an excellent job. Selectman Hannum moved to hire Lila Milukas to fill the Recycling Educator position at the rate of \$12.00/hour, seconded by Chairman Wood. The motion carried 2-0.

Administrator Kellogg provided a brief update on discussions with the American Legion to meet our obligation to provide them with replacement storage included as a condition of the land donation for the Senior Center. George Oleen, Commander of the American Legion Post 68, was present and said they are proposing that the Town pay for a free standing pre-fabricated shed to be installed to the south of the Legion building. Mr. Oleen agreed to obtain a specification sheet on the shed and provide it to Administrator Kellogg who will solicit three quotes.

Discussion ensued on the proposal to hold a recognition luncheon for all those contributing to the creation, design, and construction of the new Senior Center. It was agreed a committee would be put together to plan the event.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Wood. The motion carried 2-0.

Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Joseph A. Kellogg  
Town Administrator