

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKING SESSION MEETING
APRIL 4, 2014
SELECTMENS MEETING ROOM
1:30 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie Hannum, Chairman
Rene Wood
David Smith, Jr.

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Jill Hughes, Recording Secretary

Chairman Hannum called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Selectman Wood moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of litigation strategies regarding Primax Properties and to return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Smith.

The motion carried as follows:

Chairman Hannum – aye

Selectman Wood – aye

Selectman Smith - aye

Open Session resumed at 2:15 pm.

Selectman Wood moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations with the Town Administrator and collective bargaining strategy regarding the Highway contract and to return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion carried as follows:

Chairman Hannum – aye

Selectman Wood – aye

Selectman Smith – aye

Open Session resumed at 2:45 pm.

Administrator LaBombard informed the Board she received a call from Kurt Degrenier from Mount Everett High School. The school is planning a pep rally with fireworks at the school, but a problem with farm animals on campus prevents the event from being held on campus. They have asked if the Rally could be held at the Town Park on April 17, 2014. Discussion ensued regarding the condition of the parking field and the damage that could be done from cars and a bon fire. The Board asked Administrator LaBombard to contact Mr. Degrenier and let him know that his request for the April 17th date is denied due to the parking areas being wet. If Mr. Degrenier could choose another date in May the parking areas would have a chance to dry out and the Board would consider a new date.

Administrator LaBombard informed the Board about a complaint she received regarding a local electrician, discussion ensued.

Temporary Assistant to the Town Administrator: A discussion ensued about the need to hire someone temporarily to fill in while an employee is out on leave. Selectman Wood made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to employ Jennifer Goewey as a temporary assistant to fill in a few days a week while Alicia Dulin is on leave at a rate of no more than \$17.00 an hour, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion passed 3-0.

Solar Project: The Board reviewed a proposed tax agreement proposal from Housatonic Solar 1, LLC. Assessor Tammy Blackwell joined the meeting. A discussion ensued about the rate of depreciation and taxes. T. Blackwell will contact Kirt Mayland and Chris Lamarre with questions.

Handicap Parking: Administrator LaBombard is not ready and the Board will discuss at another meeting.

Collins Report: Chairman Hannum informed the Board that she met with Treasurer/Tax Collector Michael Ovitt and they talked about his department and the issues mentioned in the Collins Report. Discussion ensued regarding the report and the staffing of this office. The Board will review the Collins Report and make comments and meet to discuss priorities after Town Meeting. Administrator LaBombard will write a memo to all staff about informing the Town Administrator's office when they leave the building. Selectman Wood made a motion to retain Bonnie Bonn Buffoni as a temporary part time employee until December 31, 2014, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion passed 3-0.

Licensing Fees: Administrator LaBombard explained that an error was made on the Board of Health fee schedule that was approved at the last meeting. The Board reviewed the revised document. Selectman Wood made a motion to approve the amended Board of Health fee schedule effective July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, seconded by Selectman Smith. The motion passed 3-0.

Electrical Fee Request: Administrator LaBombard does not have the information and the matter was tabled until after Town Meeting. She will speak to Richard Cappadona to let him know it will be on the agenda for a future meeting.

Chairman Hannum spoke about a presentation to Richard Kirchner for his many years of municipal service. A discussion ensued regarding inviting Mr. Kirchner to the April 28th Selectmen's meeting to present a plaque and to then hold a reception honoring Mr. Kirchner. Selectman Smith will look into a few options and report back to the Board.

The Board discussed the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and FY2015 Budget. Discussion ensued regarding the smart meter petition article. Administrator LaBombard informed the Board that National Grid will be coming to their April 28th meeting to present information regarding smart meters.

Selectman Wood like to know what the Town Moderator will be allowing for handouts and rules for Town Meeting and a discussion ensued.

Selectman Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Smith.
The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Hughes
Recording Secretary