

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JANUARY 5, 2015  
TOWN HALL  
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David A. Smith, Jr., Chairman  
Nadine A. Hawver, Clerk  
Rene C. Wood

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator  
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to Town Administrator

Members of the public

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Selectman Wood moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 17, 2014, November 24, 2014, December 1, 2014 and December 12, 2014 as amended, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Administrator LaBombard stated that D. Matthew Emprimo has submitted a letter of interest in being appointed to the Board of Assessors. She stated that she has talked with him and he is willing to take classes that may be required. Administrator LaBombard stated appointment will be made in two weeks.

**APPOINTMENT OF PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER:**

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Fire Chief Brent Getchell has submitted a letter requesting that Lea Handke be appointed as a probationary firefighter. She stated that Ms. Handke is currently in Sheffield on a visa from Germany while she completes an internship. She does not have a social security number therefore a CORI cannot be run on her. Administrator LaBombard stated that a CORI from the Association for Community Living is attached that notes compliance with the Department of Disability Services. Selectman Hawver moved to appoint Lea Handke as a probationary Firefighter for a one year term, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

**CDBG 2015 GRANT APPLICATION AND PROJECT:**

Selectman Wood stated that there will be a Public Hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in which a representative from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will present. She stated that it will be held on January 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Selectman Wood explained that Sheffield will be partnering with Becket on the grant application for housing rehabilitation and each Town will have a separate project included in the application. She stated that Sheffield's separate project could possibly be for construction funds for the Town Hall accessibility project.

**NEXTSUN ENERGY NET METERING CREDIT PROGRAM:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that NextSun Energy has submitted a proposal to sell net metering credits to the Town for credits on the electric bill. Discussion ensued regarding the length of the proposed contract and the amount of money that could be saved every year. Administrator LaBombard recommended tabling this because she has

already received some calls from other companies regarding net metering credits and she thinks it would be beneficial to compare proposals. It was the consensus of the Board to table and discuss other proposals.

**WESTERN MA – REGIONAL SCHOOL FORMULA:**

Selectman Wood stated that the legislature appointed a committee to look at the Chapter 70 formula for school funding. She stated that the committee will be holding a meeting on January 10, 2015 in Northampton to receive input from Western Massachusetts. Selectman Wood asked if the Board is interested in submitting comments. It was the consensus of the Board to submit comments.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES – MAY 30, 2014:**

Administrator LaBombard recommended that the Board not release the May 30, 2014 Executive Session minutes because there is confidential information in those minutes that pertain to ongoing litigation. Selectman Hawver moved to not release the May 30, 2014 Executive Session minutes, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

**BRTA PILOT SURVEY RESULTS:**

Selectman Wood gave an update on the results of the BRTA pilot bus route survey. She stated that the Board needs to know if residents have any interest in the bus route and encourage residents to take the survey that is on the Town's website. She thanked BRTA for their work on this pilot bus route but stated that the Board had asked for more day time runs to accommodate the senior population.

**SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:**

Selectman Wood wished everyone a happy new year and stated that she hopes people are thinking about candidates for the elected positions.

Selectman Hawver stated that the School Committee would be holding a public hearing at Mount Everett High School on January 21, 2015 at 6:30 PM to discuss the proposal for the roof and boiler project for Mount Everett High School and Undermountain Elementary School.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:**

Administrator LaBombard stated that the next Board of Selectmen meeting would be held on Tuesday January 20, 2015 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. She stated that there would be a public hearing that night regarding the CDBG application for 2015.

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

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin  
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:  
Letter of Interest of Board of Assessors

Firefighter Application  
NextSun Energy Net Metering Proposal  
2015 CDBG Memorandum of Understanding