

Town of Sheffield  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Results of Annual Town Meeting  
Held Monday, May 4, 2009

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Auditorium by Town Moderator Bruce H. Person.

**ARTICLE 1:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by Julie M. Hannum, voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the following sums necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2010.

|                                  |           |                                   |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Moderator.....                   | \$ 200    | Streetlights.....                 | \$ 11,500 |
| Selectmen’s Office.....          | \$156,704 | Board of Health.....              | \$ 14,334 |
| Board of Assessors.....          | \$ 91,007 | Visiting Nurse Association.....   | \$ 3,096  |
| Treasurer/Collector.....         | \$145,124 | Council on Aging.....             | \$ 48,460 |
| Town Clerk.....                  | \$ 54,046 | Veterans Benefits.....            | \$ 18,000 |
| Elections & Registration.....    | \$ 19,890 | Library.....                      | \$152,664 |
| Conservation Commission.....     | \$ 6,930  | Historical Commission.....        | \$ 100    |
| Planning Board.....              | \$ 11,000 | Memorial Day.....                 | \$ 750    |
| Economic Development Comm...     | \$ 100    | American Legion.....              | \$ 500    |
| Zoning Board of Appeals.....     | \$ 2,000  | Care of Soldier’s Graves.....     | \$ 1,400  |
| Town Buildings & Properties..... | \$104,100 | Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm. | \$ 100    |
| Town Report & Communications     | \$ 5,500  | Agricultural Commission.....      | \$ 500    |
| Legal Services.....              | \$ 15,000 | Interest on Loans.....            | \$ 1      |
| Dispatch Services.....           | \$ 7,602  | Berkshire County Retirement.....  | \$170,306 |
| Police Department.....           | \$418,669 | Worker’s Compensation.....        | \$ 18,500 |
| Fire Department.....             | \$ 40,445 | Unemployment Comp. Fund.....      | \$ 1      |
| Inspectional Services.....       | \$ 75,800 | Group Health (32B) Insurance..... | \$280,000 |
| Fire Hydrants.....               | \$ 7,942  | Employer Medicare.....            | \$ 19,000 |
| Animal Control.....              | \$ 8,500  | Financial Audit.....              | \$ 12,000 |
| Highway Department.....          | \$551,050 | Insurance & Bonding.....          | \$ 67,000 |

**ARTICLE 2:** On a motion made by David J. Steindler, seconded by Colin Smith, voted unanimously to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2010, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws; Moderator, \$200; Selectmen, Chairman \$2,200; Selectmen, two members at \$1,900 each.

**ARTICLE 3:** A motion was made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, to raise and appropriate \$800 to pay the stipend for Sheffield’s committee members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2010. On the recommendation of the Sheffield School Committee members, the motion was defeated by a substantial majority.

**ARTICLE 4:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by James T. Collingwood Sr., voted by paper ballot, 129 - yes; 102 - no, to amend Section 4 (e), of the SBRSD Regional Agreement, pursuant to M.G.L. c 71, s16B, as amended, as follows:

“For Fiscal Year 2010, each member town’s share of the total operating and transportation budget of the District (“Assessment”) shall be the amount determined as follows: the district treasurer shall calculate each member town’s share of the District’s total operating and transportation budget using the alternative assessment method as set forth in the amendment to the SBRSD Regional Agreement voted in May of 2001 and shall then multiply such share by fifty percent (50%) (the “Alternative Method Portion”). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town’s share of the District’s total operating and transportation budget using the Statutory Method and shall then multiply such share by fifty percent (50%) (the “Statutory Method Portion”). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town’s actual Assessment for Fiscal Year 2010 by adding the Alternative Method Portion to the Statutory Method Portion.

“For Fiscal Year 2011, each member town’s share of the total operating and transportation budget of the District shall be the amount determined as follows: the district treasurer shall calculate each member town’s share of the District’s total operating and transportation budget using the alternative assessment method as set forth in the amendment to the SBRSD Regional Agreement voted in May of 2001 and shall then multiply such share by twenty-five percent (25%) (the “2011 Alternative Method Portion”). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town’s share of the District’s total operating and transportation budget using the Statutory Method and shall then multiply such share by seventy-five percent (75%) (the “2011 Statutory Method Portion”). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town’s actual Assessment for Fiscal Year 2011 by adding the 2011 Alternative Method Portion to the 2011 Statutory Method Portion.”

**ARTICLE 5:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by Julie M. Hannum, voted by a show of hands, 123 - yes; 78 - no, to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (“District”) Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$13,203,459 and to raise and appropriate \$5,451,605 to pay the Town’s assessed share of that budget under the alternate apportionment formula, said formula being an optional alternative to the statutory formula enumerated in Chapter 71, Section 16B of the General Laws, said appropriation to be contingent both on the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ override in the amount of \$177,000, and passage by the five member towns of the District of the amendment contained in Article 4 above.

**ARTICLE 6:** A motion was made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (“District”) Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$13,203,459 and to raise and appropriate \$5,580,157 to pay the Town’s assessed share of that budget under the alternate apportionment formula, said formula being an optional alternative to the statutory formula enumerated in Chapter 71, Section 16B of the General Laws, said appropriation to be contingent both on the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ override in the amount of \$305,000, and the failure of any of the five member towns of the District to pass the amendment contained in Article 4 above. The motion was defeated unanimously.

**ARTICLE 7:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted by a substantial majority to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$13,203,459 and to raise and appropriate \$5,323,053 to pay for the Town’s assessed share of that budget under the statutory formula enumerated in Chapter 71, Section 16B of the General Laws, said appropriation to be contingent on the failure of Article 5 above and Article 6 above to pass, or the failure of any of the contingent Proposition 2 ½ overrides noted therein to pass.

**ARTICLE 8:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by James T. Collingwood Sr., voted unanimously to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and to raise and appropriate \$190,190 to pay the Town’s assessed share of that budget.

**ARTICLE 9:** On a motion made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to transfer \$55,000 from Free Cash to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2010.

**ARTICLE 10:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to expend \$152, 000, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the disposal and management of solid waste.

**ARTICLE 11:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by Julie M. Hannum, voted unanimously to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Health and Conservation Commission at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws.

**ARTICLE 12:** On a motion made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members, including members who also serve on the Board of Selectmen, as Title 5 Witnesses for Septic Systems Evaluation Tests and Inspections at a rate of \$35.00 per inspection, and/or Sanitation (Title 5) Inspector at an annual salary of \$500 for Fiscal Year 2010.

**ARTICLE 13:** On a motion made by David J. Steindler, seconded by Colin Smith, voted unanimously to transfer \$5,000 from Overlay Surplus and \$65,000 from Free Cash to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund.

**ARTICLE 14:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title.

**ARTICLE 15:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by James T. Collingwood Sr., voted unanimously to transfer \$29,053 from Free Cash to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995.

**ARTICLE 16:** On a motion made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to transfer \$750 from Free Cash to the Emergency Response Fund.

**ARTICLE 17:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to transfer \$40,000 from Free Cash to be added to the \$350,000 approved under Article 16 of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to purchase a new fire truck.

**ARTICLE 18:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by James T. Collingwood Sr., voted unanimously to transfer \$18,000 from Free Cash to purchase new turnout gear for the Fire Department.

**ARTICLE 19:** On a motion made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to transfer \$19,600 from Free Cash to compensate firefighters for training.

**ARTICLE 20:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to transfer \$30,000 from Free Cash to purchase a new brush chipper and snow plows.

**ARTICLE 21:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by Julie M. Hannum, voted by a substantial majority to transfer \$50,000 from Proceeds From the Sale of Land to pay for design and engineering services relative to determining the feasibility and location of a new highway garage.

**ARTICLE 22:** On a motion made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, voted by a substantial majority to transfer \$32,000 from Free Cash to purchase and equip a new police cruiser for the Police Department.

**ARTICLE 23:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted by a substantial majority to transfer \$5,000 from Free Cash for commercial personal property tax appraisal consultant services for the Board of Assessors.

**ARTICLE 24:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by James T. Collingwood Sr., voted by a substantial majority to transfer \$15,000 from Proceeds from the Sale of Land to pay for repairs and improvements to Town buildings including the Town Hall, Police Department and Library.

**ARTICLE 25:** On a motion made by James T. Collingwood Sr., seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to transfer \$10,000 from Free Cash to purchase up to date information technology hardware, software, and services.

**ARTICLE 26:** On a motion made by Julie M. Hannum, seconded by David D. Macy, voted unanimously to accept the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8J of the General Laws and establish a permanent Commission on Disabilities to cause the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in Sheffield. Such commission shall (1) research local problems of people with disabilities; (2) advise and assist municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities; (3) coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts office on disability; (4) review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of said city or town as they affect people with disabilities; (5) provide information, referrals, guidance and

technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability; (6) coordinate activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

Said commission shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. A majority of said commission members shall consist of people with disabilities, one member shall be a member of the immediate family of a person with a disability and one member of said commission shall be either an elected or appointed official of the Town. The terms of the first members of said commission shall be for one, two or three years, and so arranged that the term of one-third of the members expires each year, and their successor shall be appointed for terms of three years each. Any member of said commission may, after a public hearing, if so requested, be removed for cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment. The chairperson and other officers shall be chosen by a majority vote of said commission members.

**ARTICLE 27:** On a motion made by David D. Macy, seconded by James T. Collingwood Sr., voted by a substantial majority to accept Chapter 32B, Section 18A of the General Laws which will require that all persons who retire after the acceptance of this section, their spouses and dependents who are enrolled in Medicare Part A at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, or eligible for coverage thereunder at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, be required to transfer to a Medicare extension plan offered by the Town.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Felecie O. Joyce  
Town Clerk