Town of Sheffield
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Annual Town Meeting Results
Monday, May 7, 2012

The Annual Town Meeting which was held at the Mount Everett Regional High Auditorium was called to order at 7:03 PM by Town Moderator Bruce Person. There were 164 of the Town's 2,249 voters in attendance. The results follow:

On a motion made by Moderator Person, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to dispense with the Town Clerk's reading of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1: On a motion was made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the following sums of money necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2013.

Moderator	$ 214	Streetlights	$ 11,000
Selectmen's Office	$156,552	Board of Health	$ 14,551
Board of Assessors	$ 96,720	Visiting Nurse Association	$ 4,200
Treasurer/Collector	$153,891	Council on Aging	$ 42,263
Town Clerk	$ 55,487	Veterans Benefits	$ 27,000
Elections & Registration	$ 21,300	Library	$159,665
Conservation Commission	$ 7,093	Historical Commission	$ 0
Planning Board	$ 11,354	Memorial Day	$ 750
Economic Development Comm.	$ 0	American Legion	$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals	$ 2,035	Care of Soldier's Graves	$ 1,400
Town Buildings & Grounds	$127,425	Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm.	$ 50
Town Report & Communications	$ 6,500	Agricultural Commission	$ 250
Legal Services	$ 25,000	Interest on Loans	$ 1
Dispatch Services	$ 8,307	Berkshire County Retirement	$177,082
Police Department	$435,398	Worker's Compensation	$ 18,500
Fire Department	$ 44,749	Unemployment Comp. Fund	$ 1
Inspectional Services	$ 60,500	Group Health (32B) Insurance	$336,000
Fire Hydrants	$ 18,091	Employer Medicare	$ 21,000
Animal Control	$ 8,700	Financial Audit	$ 12,000
Highway Department	$581,354	Insurance & Bonding	$ 69,000

ARTICLE 2: On a motion made by Collin Smith, seconded by David Macy, voted unanimously to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2013, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws; Moderator - $214; Selectmen, Chairman - $2,311; Selectmen – two members at $1,999 each.

ARTICLE 3: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted by written ballot, Yes: 139; No: 6, to see if the Town will vote to amend the first Restatement of the Regional Agreement of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District as follows: To amend Article IV, subparagraph "h" of the first Restatement of the Regional Agreement to read in its entirety as follows:

h. Each Member Town shall make payment for its respective share of the District's estimated annual operating and transportation costs upon certification by the district treasurer as specified in section 8(b) below, such payment to be made by the respective town treasurer in four equal installments on the fifteenth day of August, November, February and May, by check payable to the District.

In all other respects the first Restatement of the Regional Agreement of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 4: On a motion by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating and Transportation Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 and vote to raise and appropriate $5,888,727 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 and to raise and appropriate $223,632 to pay the Town's assessed share of that Budget.

ARTICLE 6: On a motion made by Rene Wood, seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to raise and appropriate $60,000 to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2013.

ARTICLE 7: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to expend, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the disposal and management of solid waste, and that $142,055 be raised from Solid Waste Disposal Enterprise Fund Revenues.

ARTICLE 8: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously, to see if the Town will vote to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges

ARTICLE 9: On a motion made by Rene Wood., seconded by David Smith, Jr., voted unanimously to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Health, Economic Development Committee and Highway Garage Design Study Committee at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws.

ARTICLE 10: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Title 5 and Perc Test Witnesses for Septic System Inspections, Sanitation Inspections, and Public Health Nurse Services for Fiscal Year 2013 at rates and salaries to be determined by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 11: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Julie Hannum, 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 12: On a motion made by Rene Wood, seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash $26,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995, for the Town Hall, Police Station and Library.

ARTICLE 13: On a motion made by David Steindler, seconded by Rene Wood, voted by substantial majority to transfer $73,000 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 Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to transfer $750 from Free Cash to the Emergency Response Fund.

ARTICLE 15: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to transfer $12,000 from Free Cash to purchase a York rake and a mower for the Highway Department.

ARTICLE 16: On a motion made by Rene Wood, seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to transfer $25,000 from Free Cash to compensate firefighters for training.

ARTICLE 17: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by David Smith, Jr., voted unanimously to transfer $50,000 from Free Cash for exterior painting to include Town Hall, Library, and Police Department.

ARTICLE 18: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to transfer $10,000 from Free Cash for Tax Recertification services.

ARTICLE 19: On a motion made by Rene Wood, seconded by David Smith, Jr., voted unanimously to transfer $10,000 from Free Cash to rent equipment for the Highway Department.

ARTICLE 20: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to transfer $8,000 from Free Cash to purchase up to date information technology hardware, software, and services.

ARTICLE 21: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to transfer $29,000 from Free Cash for guardrail replacements.

ARTICLE 22: On a motion made by Rene Wood, seconded by Julie Hannum, voted unanimously to transfer $21,700 from Free Cash to replace carpets and a door at the Library.

ARTICLE 23: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously to transfer $50,000 from Free Cash for Town building repairs and improvements for the Town Hall, Library, and Police Station.

ARTICLE 24: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Julie Hannum, voted by 2/3 majority to establish a Highway Truck Stabilization Fund and transfer $50,000 from Free Cash into such Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 25: On a motion made by Rene Wood, seconded by David Smith, Jr., voted by 2/3 majority to transfer from $100,000 from Free Cash into the Fire Truck Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 26: On a motion made by Julie Hannum, seconded by Rene Wood, voted to authorize the use of the following revolving funds for departmental operations which shall not exceed the noted sums for each fund, which shall be under the control of the Town Treasurer, which shall be accounted for separately, and to which shall be credited only the receipts received in connection with the departmental operations supported by the revolving fund; further to authorize the Town Treasurer to expend from such funds in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ of the General Laws, provided however that said expenditures for the revolving funds shall not exceed the receipts for said fund:

Plumbing Inspector	$10,000
Gas Inspector	$10,000
Electrical Inspector	$10,000
Fire Safety Inspector	$10,000
Board of Health	$15,000

ARTICLE 27: On a motion made by David Smtih, Sr., seconded by Julie Hannum, voted by 2/3 majority, to amend Section 6.2 of the Zoning By-laws, as proposed by the Planning Board, as set forth in the document on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 28: On a motion made by David Smith, Jr., seconded by Rene Wood, voted unanimously, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to initiate the process to aggregate the electric load of interested electricity consumers within the Town of Sheffield and enter into agreements for services to facilitate the sale and purchase of electric energy and other related services pursuant to G.L. c.164, §134(a).

ARTICLE 29: (*By Petition*) On a motion was made by David Smith, Sr., seconded, and voted unanimously, to pass over this article, as the petition was withdrawn by the petitioner.

ARTICLE 30: (*By Petition*) On a motion made by Ben Schawinsky, seconded, and voted by substantial majority,

The First Amendment of the Constitution was designed to protect the free-speech rights of individuals ("natural persons") not corporations. Recent United States Supreme Court decisions have opened the door for corporations to make unlimited expenditures for advocacy in favor or against political candidates and issues. Many see this development as not only a further erosion of the influences of individuals in the political process, also as – in essence – a corporate takeover of the First Amendment.

This ruling in ***Citizens United v. FEC***, has already unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in the history of this great nation; therefore, this ruling represents a serious and direct threat to our democracy "Of the people, by the people and for the people". The people of the United States have used the constitutional amendment process to correct harmful decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self government. It is for this reason that we present the following resolution to the voters of Sheffield.

Be it resolved that the voters of Sheffield, Massachusetts call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification, a Constitutional Amendment banning corporations, limited liability corporations and any other corporate entities from all and any expenditure of funds for political speech and elections, or if not, to at least regulate such with punitive assurances.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Felecie Joyce
Town Clerk, CMMC