ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS

May 2, 2016

Town of Sheffield

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Moderator Bruce Person opened the 283 Annual Town Meeting in the auditorium of the Mount Everett Regional High School, 491 Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Nadine Hawver acknowledged Moderator Person for his 27 years of service as Town Moderator. He is stepping down as Moderator. Mr. Person is also a Town Constable and has served on the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee.

Moderator Person continued by introducing the Town officers, as well as, town counsel Jonathan Eichman. In addition, he acknowledged those that have served the Town. Notably Daniel Watson and David A. Smith, Sr. who are not seeking re-election on the Planning Board and David Wells and Lahkan Verma, who were sitting members of the Commission on Disabilities at the time of their recent passing.

On a motion by Moderator Person, and seconded, to dispense with the Town Clerk's reading of the Warrant. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 1: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Nadine Hawver, to raise and appropriate $3,038,307 for the purpose of funding those budgets listed in the Warrant, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017.

Moderator	$ 200	Energy	$140,000
Selectmen's Office	$200,558	Board of Health	$ 7,241
Board of Assessors	$ 95,441	Visiting Nurse Association	$ 4,000
Treasurer/Collector	$153,555	Council on Aging	$ 77,714
Town Clerk	$ 64,203	Veterans Benefits	$ 30,000
Elections & Registration	$ 18,000	Library	$163,042
Conservation Commission	$ 2,680	Historical Commission	$ 750
Planning Board	$ 5,400	Memorial Day	$ 750
Commission on Disabilities	$ 200	American Legion	$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals	$ 1,330	Care of Soldier's Graves	$ 1,400
Town Buildings & Grounds	$ 103,500	Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm.	$ 50
Town Report & Communications	$ 6,000	Agricultural Commission	$ 1,000
Legal Services	$ 30,000	Interest on Loans	$ 1
Dispatch Services	$ 9,694	Berkshire County Retirement	$206,303
Police Department	$465,118	Worker's Compensation	$ 18,500
Fire Department	$ 41,102	Unemployment Comp. Fund	$ 1
Inspectional Services	$ 64,776	Group Health (32B) Insurance	$431,000
Fire Hydrants	$ 18,091	Employer Medicare	$ 22,000
Animal Control	$ 10,000	Financial Audit	$ 15,000
Highway Department	$559,207	Insurance & Bonding	$ 70,000

The motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: On a motion by Colin Smith, seconded by Julie Hannum, to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2017, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 and Chapter 71, Section 52 of the General Laws; Moderator, $200; Selectmen, Chairman $2,513; Selectmen, two members at $2,175 each, Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, 4 members at $500 each.

The motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by Andrew Petersen, to pass over

article 3. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 4: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating and Transportation Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and vote to raise and appropriate $6,236,460 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget. Moderator Person declared that this vote would be taken by paper ballot. Discussion ensued. *The vote count was YES: 148; NO: 126. The motion passed.*

ARTICLE 5: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr. seconded by Andrew Petersen, to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and vote to raise and appropriate $249,493 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 6: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by David A. Smith, Jr., to raise and appropriate $84,672 to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2017. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 7: On a motion by Colin Smith, seconded by David Steindler, that $126,200 be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for the disposal and management of solid waste and that $126,200 be raised from Solid Waste Disposal Enterprise Fund Revenues. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 8: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by Nadine Hawver, 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, or take any other action relative thereto. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 9: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Nadine Hawver, to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen to any office or position under its supervision at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 10: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by Andrew Petersen, to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Title 5 and Perc Test Witnesses for Septic System Inspections, and Sanitation Inspections under its supervision in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, Section 21A for Fiscal Year 2017 and to set the salary for those positions: $40 per Title V Inspections and $30 per hour for Perc Tests in accordance with the provisions of G.L.c.41, Section 4A. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 11: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by Nadine Hawver, 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. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 12: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Andrew Petersen, to transfer $22,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 13: On a motion by Colin Smith, seconded by Julie Hannum, to transfer $77,000 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. The motion passed by substantial majority.

ARTICLE 14: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by David A. Smith, Jr., to transfer $750 from Free Cash to the Emergency Response Fund. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 15: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to raise and appropriate $15,000 to compensate firefighters for training. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 16: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Nadine Hawver, to transfer $10,000 from Free Cash for Tax Recertification purposes. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 17: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by David A. Smith, Jr., to transfer $25,000 from Free Cash to purchase information technology hardware, software, and services, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action to effectuate the purpose of the article, including but not limited to entering into agreements in excess of three years for such information technology services. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 18: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by David A. Smith, Jr., to transfer from Free Cash $44,000 for Town building repairs, improvements and furnishings to include but not be limited to the Town Hall, Library, and Police Station. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 19: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Andrew Petersen, 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	$20,000
Gas Inspector	$20,000
Electrical Inspector	$20,000
Fire Safety Inspector	$20,000
Board of Health	$25,000
Senior Transportation	$15,000
Senior Center Programming	$10,000
Tax Title Fees	$10,000

The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Nadine Hawver, to transfer $2,400 from Free Cash into the newly established Senior Center Programming Revolving fund. Discussion ensued as to whether this could be done. Moderator Person placed a temporary hold on Article 19 to allow Town Counsel Jonathan Eichman time to research this action. The meeting continued in the interim. After some consideration by Counsel, it what determined that this could not be done at this time. *The motion was passed over.*

ARTICLE 20: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by David A. Smith, Jr., to transfer from Overlay Surplus $25,000 for the Town's share of the cost to purchase and equip a paving hot box for the Highway Departments of New Marlborough and Sheffield, said paving hotbox to be shared by the two Towns in accordance with the terms of an inter-municipal agreement to be entered into between the Towns pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40 se. 4A. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 21: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to transfer from Free Cash $50,000 to repair the Library parking area and/or sidewalks, including any costs and expenses incidental thereto. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 22: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr., seconded by Nadine Hawver, to transfer $60,000 from Free Cash to purchase and equip a truck for the Highway Department. Discussion ensued. Rene Wood motioned, it was seconded, to amend the article. "I move that the unexpended portions of the appropriations authorized by the votes taken under the following warrant articles:

- May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant article No. 17 to paint the exterior of Town Hall, $4,715;
- May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 17 to purchase a cruiser and laptop for the Police Department, $3,059.54;
- May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 21 to purchase a highway truck, $8,952.30;
- May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 5 to fund vocational education, $9,264;
- May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article No. 1 to fund the energy budget, $36,730.66;

Be transferred, in an total amount of up to $60,000, to fund the purchase and equipping of a truck for the Highway Department." *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 23: On a motion by Nadine Hawver, seconded by David A. Smith, Jr., to accept as a Town way the altered and relocated layout of Rannapo Road, as shown on the plan entitled " Preliminary Roadway Realignment" dated, April 8, 2016, prepared by BSC Group, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and filed with the Town Clerk; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain the fee to or easements in said Rannapo Road as to altered and relocated; and to transfer from the Board of Selectmen for public way purpose to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes the care, custody, management and control of the parcels of land lying outside the altered and/or relocated layout of Rannapo Road and discontinued thereby. for passage. *The motion, which required a 2/3 majority vote passed, as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 24: On a motion by James Collingwood, Jr., and seconded, to amend Section 6.2 of the Zoning By-laws as follows:
6.2.2 Definitions – Electronic Message Sign – Delete the phrase "**These signs are prohibited in all districts"** and replace it with **"These signs are permitted by Special Permit in all districts;** so that it shall now read:
Electronic Message Sign – An electrically activated sign whose variable message capability can be electronically programmed. The copy can be changed by means of remote electronically energized on-off switching combinations or alphabetic or pictographic components arranged on a display surface. Illumination may be integral to the components, such as characterized by lamps or other light-emitting devices; or it may be from an external light source designed to reflect off the changeable component display. These signs are permitted by Special Permit in all districts.
all as set forth in the document on file in the Office of the Town Clerk,

6.2.5 Prohibited Signs – Delete #5. **Internally illuminated and laser/holographic signs are prohibited** and renumber 1 through 10.

6.2.8 Signs Considered by Special Permit of the Planning Board for Approval – Add the following section to 6.2.8.1 – e. Electronic message sign.
or take any other action relative thereto.

Discussion ensued. *The motion, which required a 2/3 majority vote failed, as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 25: On a motion by Andrew Petersen, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to vote, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 21 of the General Laws, to establish a permanent Cemetery Commission. Said commission shall consist of three (3) members and shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. 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. *The motion passed unanimously.*

ARTICLE 26: On a motion by David A. Smith, Jr. seconded by Nadine Hawver, to vote to permit burials on land adjoining the Pine Grove Cemetery on Bow Wow Road under provisions of Chapter 114, Section 34, as shown on the plan on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. Said property was donated by Theodore and Anne H. Chase in 1972 to the Pine Grove Cemetery, Inc., or take any other action relative thereto. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Moderator Person thanked the residents and voters of Sheffield for supporting him during his

tenure as Town Moderator. He then reminded voters that Monday May 9, 2016 was the Annual Town Election, 7AM-7PM at the Senior Center, 25 Cook Road.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk, *CMMC*