

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 28, 2005 - 6:45 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Board Members Present: Richard J. Kirchner, Chairman
Janet G. Stanton, Selectman
David D. Macy, Selectman

Others Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Diane P. Roosa, Recording Secretary
Bob Kerwood, Verizon
Rene Wood, Chairman, Planning Board
Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk
Mr. & Mrs. Schumann
Peter Batacchi
Barbara Margolis
Sheryl Lechner, Berkshire Eagle
Peter Rowntree, Sheffield Times
Harold Wickwire

Jared Clayton
Vito Valentini
Jane Russell
Berry & Martha Williamson
Seana Roche
Julie Hannum
Marina Coulon (The Lantern)

Chairman Kirchner called meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Selectmen interviewed Seana Roche for the part-time Clerk, Treasurer/Collector's position.

Chairman Kirchner called regular business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda was amended to read minutes of February 7, 2005 and February 16, 2005. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 7, 2005 and February 16, 2005 meeting. Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2005 and February 16, 2005 meetings, seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Verizon New England, Inc. - Re: Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Relocation on Berkshire School Road:

Town Administrator Weitz stated that a public hearing was being held at the request of Verizon New England, Inc. for the purpose of petitioning for joint or identical pole relocation of a total of 17 poles on Berkshire School Road. Notices were mailed to all abutters on February 11, 2005 advising them of the public hearing. Several residents were present to ask questions concerning placement of poles on or near their property. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Bob Kerwood, Representative of Verizon would arrange a site visit/meeting between the concerned abutters on Berkshire School Road, Verizon and a representative from Mass. Electric Company to answer their questions. **Selectman Macy moved to continue this hearing until the next Selectmen's meeting scheduled for March 7, 2005, seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENTS -

Treasurer/Collector Clerk Position:

Selectman Stanton moved to appoint Seana Roche to the part-time Treasurer/Collector Clerk, position, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Town Clerk Position:

Town Administrator Weitz read a letter received from Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk, recommending Elsie Gilligan be hired on a trial basis to fill the position of Assistant Town Clerk. **Selectman Stanton moved to appoint Elsie Gilligan on a trial period to the position of Assistant Town Clerk, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.**

Highway Department:

Town Administrator Weitz stated that he and Highway Superintendent, Ronnie Bassett, had a recommendation for a position on the Highway Department. Chairman Kirchner requested that this appointment be put on hold until he has had a chance to review the applications before making a decision. This item was tabled until next meeting.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT - Peter J. Batacchi, d/b/a Pete's Sales & Service - Re: Change in underground storage tank size:

Peter J. Batacchi, d/b/a Pete's Sales and Service, was present to inform the Board that the 11,000 gallon underground fuel storage tank at his business was removed and three tanks totaling 22,000 gallons were installed as replacements. These tanks consist of one 10,000-gallon regular unleaded fuel tank; one 8,000-gallon super unleaded fuel tank, and one 4,000-gallon diesel fuel tank. Selectman Macy stated that there was some confusion about the process as the tank was replaced before the application was submitted to the Board for approval. Selectman Stanton suggested that in the future the paperwork is filed before the installation of any tanks. **Selectman Macy moved to approve the application for the three new storage tanks as referenced above, seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carried unanimously.**

APPLICATION FOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE - Marina Coulin (The Lantern)

Marina Coulin submitted an application for an entertainment license for The Lantern. Ms. Coulin stated that she was interested in an entertainment license only and that any events that were held at The Lantern would be alcohol-free. Ms. Coulin is interested in providing a place for recovery groups to come for meetings, an occasional Friday evening band, food service, dance classes and other social events. Ms. Coulin further stated that she would be residing next door to The Lantern and would be able to keep her eye on the place. Her intention is to improve the appearance and be a good neighbor to the people that abut the property. Selectman Stanton questioned who would be operating The Lantern and what time would events run until. Ms. Coulin stated that she would be the operator and that the Friday evening events would probably run from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

Town Administrator Weitz advised the Board that they had until March 24 to either approve/disapprove to have a public hearing on the proposed license.

UPDATE ON SMART GROWTH GRANT - Rene Wood, Planning Board Chairman:

Rene Wood, Chairman, Planning Board, was present to update the Board on the Smart Growth Grant (a copy of the tasks summary is attached). Ms. Wood stated that if the Board had any issues with the zoning by-laws, now would be the time to make their suggestions. Selectman Macy suggested that Brent Getchell, Building Inspector is involved in the process as well. Ms. Wood informed the Board that the next meeting of the Right-to-Farm group would be Friday evening, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. and invited the Selectmen to attend if they were available.

SENIOR CENTER

Pauline Schumann was present to discuss the Senior Center's future plans with the Board. Ms. Schumann reported that she has obtained several options regarding expansion of the Senior Center, however, does not have the authority to do any background work on the project. Ms. Schumann requested that the Board

make an appointment of a Committee under the Council on Aging giving her group authority to do the background work. Selectman Macy stated that he saw nothing wrong with Ms. Schumann working with the COA to pursue the options and bring them back to the Board. Selectman Stanton agreed to work with Town Administrator Weitz to help move this along with the COA to the next step and report back to the Board.

BLANTYRE - REQUEST FOR USE OF COVERED BRIDGE AREA

Town Administrator Weitz stated that Blantyre has requested use of the Covered Bridge to host a guest event picnic. After a brief discussion the Board agreed that Blantyre should contact Kohlburne School first for permission to use the covered bridge area and if obtained, the Board will consider the request.

PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENTS

Town Administrator Weitz stated that Counsel had recommended language changes to Section VI of the Personnel Policy (copy attached to file). **Selectman Stanton moved that the changes be accepted as noted, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS:

The Selectmen had no items to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Harold Wickwire of 208 East Stahl Road was present to register a complaint regarding nuisance dogs belonging to his neighbors coming onto his property. Mr. Wickwire stated that he had called the neighbor several times as well as the Police Department and Martin Clark, Animal Control Officer. To date nothing has been done. Mr. Wickwire stated that the Police suggested he come to the Board of Selectmen with his complaint. Selectman Stanton suggested that Mr. Wickwire put his complaint in writing and submit to the Board to be acted on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Stanton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation and not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Macy. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Macy - Aye; Selectman Stanton-Aye, and Chairman Kirchner-Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane P. Roosa
Recording Secretary