

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 22, 2005
AMERICAN LEGION HALL**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman
David D. Macy, Selectman,
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Staff Present: Robert A. Weitz, Town Administrator
Michael Ovitt, Treasurer / Collector
James McCormack, Town Accountant

Chairman Stanton called the working meeting to order at 6PM.

WARRANT SCHEDULE

The Board met with the Town Treasurer and Town Accountant regarding processing of the Town Warrant for payments. It was agreed that the Warrant for vendor payments will be completed by Friday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Board discussed the appointment process for fire fighters. No votes occurred.

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

SENIOR CENTER

Mark Bachetti, Pauline Schumann, Bruce Philbrick, George Oleen, and Art Hyatt discussed possibilities and concerns relating to the future site of the Senior Center. Topics included ideas for how American Legion Property might be used for the Senior Center and American Legion, feelings about changing the American Legion property/ownership, other property in town, ownership vs. renting, grant requirements, legal concerns – ACLU, fundraising, parking, egresses,

Mark Bachetti of the American Legion discussed the connection between the American Legion and Post Home – He explained he doubts the American Legion would ever agree to sell their building as volunteers (many who are no longer alive) constructed the building from their sweat and tears. The building symbolizes the “heart and soul” of the organization.

Selectman Stanton emphasized that the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen is to analyze all options, and currently the Board is in the exploration stage, part of which includes seeking input and ideas from the community.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES

Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes for the August 1, and August 15, 2005 meetings, and for the August 8, 2005 public meeting. Selectman Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HILLSIDE LANE

Selectman Hannum moved to send an invoice in the amount of \$300 to Mr. Jobin of Hillside Lane for the \$300 in expenses (Highway Department work time) the town incurred cleaning up sedimentation/erosion coming from Mr. Jobin's property onto Clayton Road from. Selectman Macy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER OF CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE

At Selectman Macy's suggestion, Town Administrator Weitz will ask Town Counsel to review the resolution for the transfer of Cable Television Franchise with an inquiry as to whether such should include (in writing) that Time Warner will honor Adelphia's contract.

CTSB RE: PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAMMING FEE

Town Administrator Weitz reported on his surveys of other towns services by CTSB: Lenox and Stockbridge cable subscribers pay 4 percent of their cable bills (and CTSB receives one half percent in matching funds), for their public access programming fee and that CTSB has not approached these towns to increase their fee to a flat 5% rate. Town Administrator Weitz will contact Great Barrington and Lee. The Board expressed they will not approve Sheffield paying more than the other towns, and therefore took no action.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL – WEBSITE

Town Administrator Weitz inquired about signing the contract to Virtual Town Hall for development of the town's website. Selectman Macy expressed that prior to signing a contract, he wants to confirm with department heads that they support and will partake in the process for development of the town's website. The Board asked Town Administrator Weitz to arrange a Department Heads meeting for September 7th at 3PM.

MOUNT WASHINGTON ROAD

The Board and Town Administrator Weitz discussed their recent site visits (done individually) on Mount Washington Road. Town Administrator Weitz reviewed options relative to the maintenance for Mount Washington Road: 1. Continue/extend maintenance of the road and the bridge, 2. Place an article on a Town Meeting Warrant to discontinue the road. If this avenue were selected, the article would need to include a provision for the town to pay damages to abutters, or 3. Discontinue maintenance of road after holding a public hearing. Selectman Macy moved to hold a public hearing to receive comments on the discontinuance of maintenance, under Massachusetts General Laws chapter 82 section 32A, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

MAIL OF NOTE:

LOUIS J. OGGIANI, ESQ. RE: NOTICE OF SALE OF CHAPTER 61A LAND – COOPER HILL ROAD – Town Administrator Weitz advised that no action is required because subsequent to the receipt of this letter, Attorney Oggiani indicated that his client no longer plans to purchase the land.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY PROPERTIES, INC., RE: HULETT HILL ROAD – DURNING CURB CUT – Via this letter, Mr. Durning explained that his landscaper advised that early fall would be the optimum time to plant the trees (to complete restoration of the curb cut) as they would have the best chance to survive during the cooler weather. The Board asked Town Administrator Weitz to reply that the Board is amenable to Mr. Durning's plans for replacement of the trees as specified in Mr. Durning's letter.

GAETEN LACHANCE RE: LETTER OF INTEREST – HISTORICAL COMMISSION – Selectman Hannum stated that she would like an opportunity to talk to Mr. LaChance regarding his interest to serve on the Historical Commission. The Board will place this on the agenda for its September 19th meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

Selectman Hannum commended the Library's Landscaping Committee, Headed by Tom Ingersoll and Chris Tomich, for its recent improvements.

At Selectman Hannum's suggestion, Town Administrator Weitz composed a letter of request to Mass Highway Dept. to repaint crosswalks in brighter (more visible) colors.

Selectman Macy - In response to a telephone call requesting the board's endorsement for a proposal to maintain Rote Hill Road to the end – another 500 feet, Town Administrator Weitz and Selectman Macy conducted a site visit, and do not feel such maintenance is feasible for the town. They suggested that Selectman Hannum and Chairman Stanton also conduct a site visit, and then the Board can discuss holding a hearing regarding discontinuance of maintenance on Rote Hill Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTE LIMIT - ONLY ITEMS WITHIN BOARD'S JURISDICTION)

Jared Clayton – The Board suggested that Mr. Clayton write a letter to the Selectmen regarding his request to install berm (that had been removed due to recent clean-up) to block silt coming onto his property on Clayton Road. The Board will then refer this matter to the Highway Dept.

George Oleen praised the Highway Dept's grader work. Town Administrator Weitz will convey to the Highway Superintendent.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary
Via digital recording