

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 18, 2006
TOWN HALL**

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

Other Staff Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator
Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary
Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jerry Buckley, Adelphia Cable

Chairman Stanton called the meeting to order at 7PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Macy moved to approve the minutes for April 3, 2006, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Selectman Hannum inquired if specific sums of money for Article 20 (Radar) and 22 (Telephone System for the Police Dept.) could be posted or announced in advance of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. During discussion Town Administrator Weitz explained that exact figures for these articles were not available at the time he prepared the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, and there are time constraints for posting (Town Clerk Felecie Joyce was present to receive signed Annual Town Meeting Warrant to give to the Constable for posting).

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the attached Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

JERRY BUCKLEY, ADELPHIA CABLE

Jerry Buckley of Adelphia Cable spoke about the Board's recent vote to increase Sheffield's public access cable fees to 5%. In order for this change to occur, the contract between Sheffield and Adelphia must first be amended, and within a month, he expects to give the Board paperwork. Because Adelphia does not collect fees retroactively, the effective date for the 5% increase cannot be January 1st. Adelphia will advise on new effective date. He explained that Adelphia has been billing customers from January 1st through December 31st, and then paying CTSB in March. At Chairman Stanton's request, he will check into the possibility of paying CTSB on a quarterly basis.

APPLICATION TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR RAILROAD BARN REPLACEMENT

Selectman Macy moved to sign the Fire Department's Special Permit to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Railroad Barn Replacement Project. Selectman Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PERMITS

Selectman Macy moved to approve Memorial Day Parade Permits to American Legion Post 340 and to the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD COMPANY 2006 VEGETATION CONTROL PROGRAM

The Board received correspondence from TEC Associates Consulting Engineers dated April 7, 2006 outlining the Housatonic Railroad Company 2006 Vegetation Control Program. The proposed herbicide application schedule:

- June 5 – 16, Rights-of-Way
- September 4 – 15, Touch up application
- September 4 – 15, brush application (non-sensitive areas)

Selectman Macy moved to have the Annual Yearly Operational Plan available in the Town Clerk's Office, and post in the Ashley Falls Post Office. Selectman Hannum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BERKSHIRE SCHOOL – APPLICATION FOR ONE-DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITS

Selectman Macy moved to grant One-Day All Alcoholic Beverage Permits to Berkshire School on June 8, June 9, and June 10, 2006 in conjunction with Alumni Weekend, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT – TRANSFER STATION

At the recommendation of Town Administrator Weitz, Selectman Hannum moved to appoint Rose Cronk as a substitute Transfer Station employee, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMAN'S ITEMS

Selectman Hannum praised the efforts involved with the Library's new stairwell construction project, and Susan Rathbun's Security Training of Library staff.

At Selectman Hannum's inquiry about appointing alternates to the Conservation Commission, Town Administrator Weitz advised that before the town can have alternates, the state Legislature must approve the Town's Home Rule Petition. Request for such had been submitted to the state after last year's Annual Town Meeting. Town Administrator Weitz will contact the State Representative to request expediting.

Selectman Macy asked Town Administrator Weitz for a list of Town Committee and Board members up for re-appointment.

Selectman Hannum reported that several residents had requested additional financial information beyond the scope of what is listed in the Annual Town Report. Selectman Hannum moved to provide a Finance Committee packet available to citizens at the Library and Town Clerk's Office, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously. Selectman Macy cautioned that the packet could be confusing, and those with questions, should contact the Selectmen's Office.

Selectman Macy announced that tonight is Chairman Stanton's last regular board meeting, and he extended his appreciation and acknowledged her dedication throughout the past 12 years which they shared interesting times working on a variety of issues (many quite memorable too!). Selectman Hannum expressed appreciation to Chairman Stanton and stated how much she had learned watching her Chair the meetings.

Selectman Macy asked Town Administrator to ask Highway Superintendent to again provide daily work lists.

Chairman Stanton expressed her appreciation to the Town Hall workers for the support they provided to her over the past 12 years, and for helping people to feel comfortable coming to the Town Hall with concerns.

Town Administrator Weitz stated that the Board may elect to revisit keeping the Police Cruiser, as it requires expensive repairs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Selectman Macy moved to end this regular session meeting, and enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining, seconded by Selectman Hannum. ROLE CALL VOTE: Chairman Stanton, aye, Selectman Macy, aye, and Selectman Hannum, aye.

The Board adjourned at approximately 7:40PM and went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary