

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 6, 2009
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Clerk
James Collingwood, Sr.

Others Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Assistant Town Administrator

Selectman Macy stated that Chairman Hannum would not be present due to a health issue.

Selectman Macy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Collingwood moved to approve minutes for the March 30, 2009 meeting, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried 2-0.

SUSAN HAGEN – 2010 U.S. CENSUS:

Susan Hagen, Partnership Specialist for the U. S. Census Bureau was present to explain that work on the census has begun. Starting in April, workers will be knocking on doors for the address verification process. This process will end on June 6, 2009. The workers will be local people who have been through a security screening, will wear official badges and carry GPS hand held implements. The actual count will be in April 2010. Any resident with a P.O. Box address will be visited by a counter in 2010.

TRANSFER STATION CLOSING ON EASTER:

Selectman Collingwood moved that the Transfer Station be closed on April 12, 2009 in observance of the Easter holiday, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried 2-0.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Economic Development Committee: Selectman Macy announced that Kevin Schmitz has requested to be appointed to the Economic Development Committee.

PROPOSITION 2 ½ OVERRIDE QUESTION:

Selectman Macy explained the reason for the override question, which is based on the vote of the School Committee to assess the school budget by the alternative assessment method. The towns of Monterey and New Marlborough sent letters to the School Committee requesting the alternative assessment method. This would require an override for Sheffield in the amount of \$305,000. Andy Fetterhoff from the School Committee worked to get a member from each of

the Boards of Selectmen from Sheffield, Alford, Egremont, Monterey and New Marlborough as well as School Committee members to hold a meeting to discuss an amendment to the alternative assessment method. This amendment would involve a change in the regional agreement which would lower the need for an override for Sheffield for Fiscal Year 2010 from \$305,000 to \$177,000. The override question must be placed on the ballot at the local elections and the amount of the override must be set at least 35 days before the election, which is today. It won't be known whether the regional agreement is amended until the towns complete their Annual Town Meetings. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of the ballot question or if there should be two ballot questions. Selectman Collingwood moved to place the following Proposition 2 ½ override referendum questions before the voters at the Annual Town Election on May 11, 2009:

Question 1a. "Shall the Town of Sheffield be allowed to assess an additional \$305,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009?"

Question 1b. " Shall the Town of Sheffield be allowed to assess an additional \$177,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009?"

In addition the following instructions shall be included on the ballot: Questions 1a. and 1b. are separate questions. You may vote for or against each question independently. Each question requires a majority of those voting on that question to pass. If more than one question passes, the question with the highest dollar mount will prevail.

The motion was seconded by Selectman Macy and carried 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Smith Jr. reminded residents of the roadside clean-up in Sheffield on April 19th at 1 pm and in Ashley Falls on April 18th at 9 am.

Selectman Collingwood moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Macy. The motion carried 2-0.

Selectman Macy adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator