

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 1, 2010
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David D. Macy, Chairman
Julie M. Hannum, Clerk
Rene C. Wood

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

Members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Selectman Hannum moved to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2010, February 10, 2010 and February 22, 2010 meetings, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS:

Selectman Wood moved to appoint Hope Swanson and Judith Steindler to the Commission on Disabilities, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hannum moved to appoint Wray Gunn as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

BERKSHIRE VISITING NURSE AGREEMENT:

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association has sent their annual agreement to provide health promoting services to Town residents for the amount of \$3,096, which is the same as last year. Selectman Hannum moved to renew the agreement for the amount of \$3,096 and to invite the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association to a meeting to update the Board on the services provided, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER:

Melanson Heath and Company submitted an engagement letter to perform an FY10 audit for \$12,000. Selectman Wood moved to sign the engagement letter for a FY2010 audit for \$12,000, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

FY10 TAX RATE:

Administrator Kellogg stated that a Tax Classification hearing was held last week at which time the Board voted to accept one tax rate for FY 10. This is a re-evaluation year and the values are based on the value of the property as of January 1, 2009. The tax rate will be \$12.22 for FY2010. The tax bills will be in the mail by next week and residents have until May 1, 2010 to file any abatements requests.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Selectman Hannum stated that the Land Trust held a program on the geologic and historic areas of Sheffield and on the Asian Long Beetle that has invaded the Worcester area.

Selectman Hannum stated that the Commission on Disabilities will host a workshop on March 18, 2010 at 5:30 in Town Hall. The workshop will work to raise awareness regarding people with disabilities. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Selectman Wood attended a Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) forum and gave the Board an overview. The MBI is applying for stimulus grant funds to bring broadband to citizens that do not currently have access. Selectman Wood drafted a letter of support for the grant application to be sent to U.S. Department of Commerce. Any resident wishing to write a letter of support should contact the Town Administrator's office by Friday. Selectman Hannum moved to approve and sign the letter drafted by Selectman Wood to the U.S. Department of Commerce in support of grant funding for broadband services, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood attended Senator Downing's coffee and conversation. The two topics discussed were broadband and wind siting. The wind siting legislation has passed the Senate.

Selectman Wood drafted a letter to Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli regarding the potential cuts to library services. Selectman Hannum moved to approve and sign the letter drafted by Selectman Wood to voice concerns over the potential cuts to library services, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood stated that the Recovery Zone Facility Bonds are still available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Selectman Wood congratulated all the students recently noticed in the newspaper for achieving high honors from their educational institution.

Selectman Wood noted that a Cabaret program would be held at Mt. Everett Regional School on Friday evening.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Administrator Kellogg stated that the Town recently received \$3,237.82 from the Springfield MRF as a recycling rebate. The Town receives \$15.67 per ton for the disposal of recyclable materials.

Administrator Kellogg stated that a public hearing will be held on March 18, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Mt. Everett Regional School regarding upgrades by the Sheffield Water Company. The Department of Environment (DEP) is requiring upgrades to the water system. Written comment will be accepted until March 22, 2010. The water company should be contacted for further information.

Administrator Kellogg reminded residents that the 2010 Census is beginning and workers will be approaching doors to make sure all residents are counted.

Local resident Candice Parsons questioned the Board on the school budget and Administrator Kellogg's support of the budget. Chairman Macy stated that Administrator Kellogg supported the budget because it was within the 2 1/2 % levy limit and would not require an override vote. Ms. Parsons expressed her concerns with residents below the median income levels being able to afford the tax increases.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator Kellogg announced that one Town resident has reached her 100th birthday. It was the consensus of the Board not to reveal the name of the resident until after a special citation had been presented. Selectman Hannum moved to sign the 100th Birthday Citation and present it as a surprise, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hannum thanked the Highway Department for the outstanding job they are doing during the bad weather.

Selectman Hannum moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator