

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
Rene C. Wood
Edwin J. Dobson

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to Town Administrator

Members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Wood moved to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2013 and the September 4, 2013 meetings, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSERVATION RESTRICTION:

Tabled until next meeting.

CORNERSTONE ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS:

CJ Day from Cornerstone Advanced Communications Solutions presented a proposal for fiber connectivity voice and data services for all Town buildings. He distributed the proposal and pricing to each Board member.

EMS VEHICLE:

Martin Mitsoff was present to ask the Selectmen if a decision had been made on the use of the decommissioned police cruiser as a First Responder Vehicle. Administrator LaBombard stated that she talked with the Town's insurance company and there are no issues with transferring the vehicle. Selectman Wood moved to approve the transfer of both decommissioned police cruisers to the Fire Department, one as a First Responder Vehicle and one as a parts vehicle for the First Responder Vehicle, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN PARK OLYMPIC EVENT:

Lauren Hyde, owner of Purple Dress Events of the Berkshires asked the Board for permission to hold an event at the Town Park called the Beer Olympics. The tentative date for the event is October 12, 2013 from 11-5 and would be for adults who are 21 and over. Ms. Hyde explained that it would be an adult field day in which beer would be incorporated into some of the games. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board to have Lauren come up with a different name, develop the concept more and present it to the Board at their next meeting.

DAVID WEST - PETITION:

David West read a letter to the Board asking if they would accept his petition even though it states that the Special Town Meeting would be held in September. Selectman Wood moved to accept the petition as presented with the exception of the September Town Meeting date, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

TAC REPRESENTATIVE:

Administrator LaBombard explained that we no longer have a TAC Representative and Selectman Wood has volunteered to serve in this position. TAC is an arm of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and decides how transportation funds get spent. Selectman Dobson moved to nominate Selectman Wood to serve as the TAC representative, seconded by Chairman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD VACANCIES:

Chairman Hannum read the following list of vacancies:

- Agricultural Commission – 1 vacancy
- Agricultural Commission Alternate – 1 vacancy
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission – 1 vacancy
- Board of Assessors – 1 vacancy
- Cultural Council – 1 vacancy
- Commission on Disabilities – 6 vacancies
- Assistant Electrical Inspector – 1 vacancy
- 5 Town Cable Advisory Committee – 2 vacancies
- Housing Commission Alternate – 1 vacancy
- Park and Recreation Committee – 2 vacancies
- Public Weigher – 4 vacancies
- Veteran’s Grave Officer – 1 vacancy

Chairman Hannum stated that anyone interested in the above positions should send a letter of interest to the Town Administrators office.

APPOINTMENT – PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER:

Chief Boardman has recommended the appointment of Jake Hunker as a probationary member of the Fire Department. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Jake Hunker as a Probationary Firefighter for a term of one year, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

MMA 6TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST:

Chairman Hannum explained that each year MMA invites 6th grade students to participate in a statewide essay contest. She stated that this year she can not organize it, but is still willing to participate. Selectman Wood stated that she is willing to organize the event this year. Selectman Dobson moved to participate in the MMA 6th grade essay contest and to authorize Selectman Wood to organize the event, seconded by Chairman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

REST OF RIVER AGREEMENT:

Selectman Wood stated that the agreement is still being reviewed and is not ready yet.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE:

Chairman Hannum read the following list of Board and Committee members who have been nominated or volunteered for the Community Development Strategy Committee:

- Helen Johnston – Council on Aging
- Kathy Orlando – Housing Commission
- Rene Wood – Board of Selectmen
- Edward Lord – Highway Department
- John James – Finance Committee
- James T. Collingwood Jr. – Planning Board

Chairman Hannum read the following list of members of the public who have applied:
Trudy Weaver-Miller

Phyllis Webb
Alice Hsu
David West
Alicia Dulin
Lynne Posner
Gay Tucker
Martin Mitsoff

Chairman Hannum stated that the Board will appoint three members of the public. Discussion ensued. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Alicia Dulin to the Community Development Strategy Committee, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously. Discussion ensued regarding choosing the other two members for the Community Development Strategy Committee. Selectman Wood moved to appoint Phyllis Webb and Martin Mitsoff to the Community Development Strategy Committee, seconded by Chairman Hannum. Selectman Dobson abstained. The motion carried 2-0. Chairman Hannum thanked all of the applicants.

UPDATE ON PRIMAX PROPERTIED APPEAL:

Chairman Hannum stated that the Board has been meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals to discuss strategy for this appeal. The Board had hoped for more information from the case management conference but the conference was short and uneventful. Chairman Hannum stated that as of June 30, 2013, \$5,000 has been spent on this issue and that \$2,000 has been spent for the month of July.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Wood stated that she was happy to see how many people came to the Community Development Strategy information session. Chairman Hannum stated that she was also pleased that the information session was well attended. Selectman Dobson asked if Primax Properties was discussed at the Community Development Strategy Information Session. Selectman Wood stated that Primax Properties was not discussed.

Selectman Dobson asked about attendance at Sheffield in Celebration. Chairman Hannum stated that Sheffield in Celebration and the Steak Roast were great and well attended.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard stated that the dates have been set for the Fall Bulky Waste, the dates are as follows:

Friday October 18, 2013 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Saturday October 19, 2013 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sunday October 20, 2013 8:30 AM-2:00 PM

Coupons may be obtained in the Town Administrator's office

Selectman Wood moved to set the dates for the Fall Bulky Waste as outlined by the Town Administrator, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator LaBombard wanted to remind residents that the mowing of roadsides along Route 7 are not the Town's responsibility, they are the State's responsibility. If a resident thinks that there is an issue they can call the Town Administrator's and we can facilitate getting the roadside mowed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Butler requested to speak and Chairman Hannum asked Ms. Butler if she was going to speak on a new issue. Ms. Butler replied yes and began to read a letter regarding zoning enforcement. Chairman Hannum interrupted Ms. Butler and asked her to submit the letter to the Board and stated it was a topic that she had already brought to the Boards attention.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Sheffield Friendly Union submitted an application to erect a sign on the Village Green on October 7th for the “Pie for All” at Dewey Hall event to be held October 13th. The sign will be removed on October 13th. Selectman Wood moved to approve the Temporary Roadside Event Sign Permit to The Sheffield Friendly Union for the Pie for All at Dewey Hall to be held on October 13th, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Wood moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy concerning Primax Properties and not return to Open Session, seconded by Selectman Dobson. The motion carried as follows:

Chairman Hannum-Aye

Selectman Wood-Aye

Selectman Dobson-Aye

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

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:

E-mail from Lauren Hyde regarding Town Park event
Transportation Advisory Committee Representative Letter
Board Vacancy List
Application and Resume for Probationary Firefighter
MMA 6th Grade Essay Contest Letter and Sign up Sheet
List of Community Development Strategy Committee Applicants and Letters of Interest
Temporary Roadside Event Sign Permit – Sheffield Friendly Union – Pie for All at Dewey Hall