

RESULTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Town of Sheffield
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MARCH 18, 2024

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Sheffield was called to order on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the Mount Everett Regional High School auditorium, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield. Town Clerk Felecie Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. There were 93 of the Town's 2,635 registered voters in attendance. Town Clerk Joyce opened the meeting as the position is currently vacant, due to resignation. The minutes were taken by Nicole Parker, the Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk, until Town Clerk Joyce could swear in a new moderator. Julie Hannum volunteered her services as Moderator for this meeting. Town Clerk Joyce made the motion to nominate her, it was seconded. *With a show of hands, the motion passed by majority.*

Select Board Chair Robert C. Kilmer, Jr. cast one vote for Julie Hannum, it was seconded. *With a show of hands, the motion passed by majority.* Moderator Hannum accepted the nomination and Town Clerk Joyce swore her in. Moderator Hannum lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the head table, Select Board Chair Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., Select Board Member Nadine A. Hawver, Select Board Member Rene C. Wood, Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard, Town Counsel Matthew Feher and John Comeau, an engineering consultant from Weston & Sampson. She also recognized the Town Clerk and staff who assist in the logistics of running Town Meeting. Moderator Hannum then gave an overview of the Warrant and explained that there would first be a presentation of the proposed site and highway garage renovation by the Select Board and engineering firm and then an opportunity for discussion and questions. She reminded voters that they would have three minutes to speak, must state their name and address and present their green voting right when it is their turn to speak.

Moderator Hannum discussed the method of voting for the evening which would be by electronic system for the Warrant article and explained how to use the Echo 360 electronic polling devices and lead the assembly in a test vote. For all other votes, votes would be by a show of hands.

ARTICLE 1: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr. to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, gift and upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board deem appropriate, for general municipal purposes, the fee or lesser interest in all or a portion of the land and improvements thereon located at 48 Sheffield Business Park, identified as Assessor's Parcel ID 8-4-2.1 and more particularly described in a deed recorded with the Berkshire South Registry of Deeds in Book 1636, Page 46; and, further, appropriate the amount of \$1,050,000.00 for the purpose of so acquiring said property, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, S7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds and notes therefore; and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements, execute any and all instruments, and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this vote.

At this point Nadine A. Hawver, Select Board member, offered an overview of the Highway Garage project. Nadine then introduced John Comeau, design engineer for Weston & Sampson. John offered a Power Point presentation accompanied by verbal descriptions of the project. Once the Weston & Sampson overview was completed, Select Board member Nadine A. Hawver continued the discussion of the project, including the phases of renovation and construction, as well as, the financial breakdown and current cost estimates and financing options that will be sought.

At this juncture, Moderator Hannum opened discussion. There were many questions regarding cost, traffic, storage of equipment, input from the Highway Department, zoning verification, the consideration of future expansion and water safety.

James Kelly, moved the question. It was seconded. Moderator Hannum called for a show of hands. *The motion passed unanimously to move the question.*

The vote on Article 1, which required a 2/3 vote, passed, as called by the Moderator.

The meeting was dissolved at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Parker, Assistant to the Town Clerk

Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk, CMMC