

RESULTS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 29, 2020

Town of Sheffield

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The 287th Annual Town Meeting was held at Mount Everett Regional High School, 491 Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, June 29, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Moderator William Tighe. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Moderator Tighe introduced the town officers seated at the front table, Board of Selectmen Rene C. Wood, Martin C. Mitsoff and Robert C. Kilmer, Jr.; Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard, Town Council Mark Reich, Finance Committee Chair Colin Smith. He additionally recognized Julie Hannum Ken Smith, and Nadine Hawver in the attendance as Finance Committee members. Additionally Ken Smith, Planning Board Chair. Moderator Tighe recognized Emily Davis, who did not seek reappointment to the Finance Committee, and he acknowledged all Essential Workers during this time of COVID-19. There were 141 of the Town's 2,367 voters in attendance.

Due to COVID-19 Town Meeting was held later than usual and several precautions were in place to provide the safest, most efficient environment possible. Spacing, wearing of masks and cleaning of microphones were all implemented. Amid many concerns that were expressed prior to this gathering, the evening, procedurally, was successful.

The Town, for the first time implemented the use of clicker technology from Turningtechnologies for the purpose of voting. Gregg Alexander a representative from the company was in attendance for instruction and support. Essentially each vote was secret, with the result showing on a large screen. The motions were read and seconded as usual, with an allotted amount of time to vote. Votes were cast via push button, one for yes; two for no. The response from voters leaving the meeting was positive.

On a motion by William Tighe, seconded by Rene C. Wood, to dispense with the Town Clerk's reading of the Warrant, *motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 1: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Martin C. Mitsoff, to raise and appropriate \$3,340,150 for the purpose of funding those budgets listed in the Warrant, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2021. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

Moderator.....	\$ 200	Energy.....	\$128,500
Selectmen's Office.....	\$196,476	Board of Health.....	\$ 43,565
Board of Assessors.....	\$ 96,263	Visiting Nurse Association.....	\$ 4,000
Treasurer/Collector.....	\$112,430	Council on Aging.....	\$120,160
Town Clerk.....	\$ 67,084	Veterans Benefits.....	\$ 65,000
Elections & Registration.....	\$ 19,700	Library.....	\$186,398
Conservation Commission.....	\$ 2,450	Historical Commission.....	\$ 750
Planning Board.....	\$ 2,900	Memorial Day.....	\$ 1,200
Commission on Disabilities.....	\$ 300	American Legion.....	\$ 500
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	\$ 1,000	Care of Soldier's Graves.....	\$ 1,400
Town Buildings & Grounds.....	\$146,400	Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm. \$	200
Town Report & Communications \$	6,000	Agricultural Commission.....	\$ 1,000
Legal Services.....	\$ 25,000	Interest on Loans.....	\$ 1
Dispatch Services.....	\$ 10,910	Berkshire County Retirement.....	\$250,910
Police Department.....	\$502,152	Worker's Compensation.....	\$ 18,500
Fire Department.....	\$ 73,020	Insurance & Bonding.....	\$ 72,000
Inspectional Services.....	\$ 46,987	Group Health (32B) Insurance.....	\$446,000
Fire Hydrants.....	\$ 25,000	Employer Medicare.....	\$ 27,000
Animal Control.....	\$ 12,500	Financial Services.....	\$ 5,000
Highway Department.....	\$395,234		
Snow Removal.....	\$226,120		

ARTICLE 2: On a motion by Colin Smith, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2021, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 and Chapter 71, Section 52 of the General Laws: Moderator, \$200; Selectmen, Chairman \$2,719; Selectmen, two members at \$2,354 each; Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, 4 members at \$500 each. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 3: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to pass over this article. Jesse Carpenter, Dennis Sears and Amy Murray objected to passing over this article. Rene C. Wood stated that if they wanted to vote on the article, they could motion to do so. Town Council Mark Reich clarified the process to vote on the article rather than pass over. Some discussion continued, Amy Murray motioned, seconded, to vote on the article. John Bruno motioned to move the question, it was seconded. This motion required a 2/3 vote for passage. *The motion to move the question passed as declared by the moderator. The vote to pass over article 3 was defeated.*

On a motion by John Bruno, seconded, to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating and Transportation Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 to raise and appropriate \$7,152,733 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget. Discussion ensued. Marie Massini-Reynolds motioned to move the question, it was seconded by Nadine Hawver. The motion required a 2/3 vote for passage. *The motion to move the question passed, as declared by the Moderator. The vote to accept the budget, Article 3, passed as declared by the moderator.*

ARTICLE 4: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr. seconded by Martin Mitsoff, to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Roof and Boiler Debt for Fiscal Year 2021, and to vote to raise and appropriate \$155,474 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 5: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, and to vote to raise and appropriate \$152,475 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 6: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Rene C. Wood, to raise and appropriate \$26,000 to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2021. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

On a motion by Julie Hannum, seconded, to vote on Article 23, and return to Article 7. *The motion passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 23: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to appropriate the sum of \$659,247 for the costs of acquiring a new pumper truck and related departmental equipment and assets, including the payment of any costs incidental or related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and further, to provide that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes hereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved hereunder in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; or, in the alternative, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c 44, §21C, or any other enabling authority, to enter into a lease purchase financing agreement for the acquisition of said equipment and assets, the term of such agreement not to exceed 20 years, being the useful life of the equipment as determined by the Board of Selectmen, and to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$106,973 for the first year payment of such lease purchase financing agreement. The motion required a 2/3 majority for passage. *The motion passed as declared by the Moderator.*

ARTICLE 7: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded by Rene C. Wood, to Raise from Solid Waste Disposal Enterprise Fund Revenues \$127,750 for the disposal and management of solid waste, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action to effectuate the purpose of the article, including but not limited to entering into agreements in excess of three years for such solid waste disposal and management. *The motion passed by majority.*

ARTICLE 8: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 9: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Rene C. Wood, to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen to any office or position under its supervision at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 10: On a motion by Colin Smith, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members as Title 5 and Perc Test Witnesses for Septic System Inspections, and Sanitation Inspections under its supervision in accordance with G.L. c. 268A, Section 21A for Fiscal Year 2021 and to set the salary for those positions at \$40 per Title V Inspections and \$100 per Perc Tests in accordance with the provisions of G.L.C. 41, Section 4A. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 11: On a motion by Robert J. Kilmer, Jr., seconded by Martin C. Mitsoff, to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 12: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to transfer \$228,527 from Free Cash to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 13: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to transfer \$750 from Free Cash to the Emergency Response Fund. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 14: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded by Rene C. Wood, to raise and appropriate \$11,000 to compensate firefighters for training. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 15: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to transfer \$25,000 from Free Cash for the repair of a fire truck. *The passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 16: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Nadine Hawver, to approve this article, as written, in the Warrant.

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Plumbing Inspector	\$25,000
Gas Inspector	\$20,000
Electrical Inspector	\$20,000
Fire Safety Inspector	\$20,000
Board of Health	\$25,000
Senior Transportation	\$15,000
Senior Center Programming	\$10,000
Tax Title Fees	\$10,000

The motion passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 17: On a motion by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., seconded by Martin C. Mitsoff, to transfer from \$10,000 from Free Cash for Rest of River legal expenses. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 18: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, for repairs at the Transfer Station, including any incidental and related costs. These funds will be transferred from Retained Earnings. *The motion passed by majority voter.*

ARTICLE 19: On a motion by Martin C. Mitsoff, seconded by Rene C. Wood, to approve this Article as written in the Warrant. Discussion ensued. *(This Article pertained to the Stretch Energy Code, see Warrant for language.)* This was a by-law amendment requiring a 2/3 vote for passage. *The motion failed as declared by the Moderator.*

ARTICLE 20: On a motion by Kenneth Smith, seconded by Rene C. Wood, to approve this article as written in the Warrant *(This article updated the use chart of the Zoning By-laws. See Warrant for language).* This was a zoning by-law amendment which required a 2/3 majority for passage. *The motion failed as declared by the Moderator.*

ARTICLE 21: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Martin C. Mitsoff, to pass over this article. *(This article pertained to establishing a By-Right Solar Photovoltaic Overlay district. See Warrant for language).* *The motion to pass over this Article passed by substantial majority.*

ARTICLE 22: On a motion by Rene C. Wood, seconded by Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., to accept Chapter 166 of the Acts of 1998 entitled "An Act Establishing A City or Town Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund", as written in the warrant. *The motion passed by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 24: (Citizen's Petition) On a motion by petitioner Sarah Natan, seconded by Amy Damers, to adopt TOWN OF SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS RIGHTS OF THE HOUSATONIC RIVER BYLAW (Please see Warrant for complete language of this Article). Following a presentation of this article by the petitioner, discussion ensued. A motion was made to move the question, it was seconded. *The vote to move the question passed by majority vote.* The vote was then taken on the article. *The article failed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk, CMMC