

# **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**John I. Lebeaux, Chairman (2007)**  
**Thomas A. Fiore, Vice-Chairman (2007)**  
**Bruce R. Card, Clerk (2008)**  
**Maurice M. DePalo (2008)**  
**James A. McCaffrey (2009)**

## **MEETINGS**

The Board of Selectmen meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building on alternate Mondays, though meetings are occasionally scheduled at other times and places as circumstances dictate. At these meetings the Board conducts the general business of the Town of Shrewsbury pursuant to the Town Charter and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Board met thirty-six times in open session in 2006.

The meeting schedule, agenda, and minutes are available by visiting or contacting the Selectmen's Office (508-841-8504) or by accessing the Town's Internet Website ([www.shrewsbury-ma.gov](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov)). The regular meetings are broadcast live on Shrewsbury Government Access Channel 30 and are replayed at other times for public convenience.

The Board also holds special meetings and workshops. In January it held its Annual Legislative Meeting with Congressman James P. McGovern, State Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr., and State Representative Karyn E. Polito. This meeting allows the Board and other Town officials to discuss with the Town's legislators how various federal and state policies and programs affect the Town of Shrewsbury. This meeting continues to be an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas, and a wonderful opportunity to convey local concerns to our legislators.

The Board reviews particular issues with the Town Manager and appropriate Department Heads at its workshop sessions. In 2006 the Board held workshop sessions on Affordable Housing (Chapter 40B) Issues, Public Works Priorities, and Financial Issues.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Board continues to produce a cable access television program, Selectmen's Roundtable, on a regular basis. The program's purpose is to allow the Board to present to the public issues concerning the Town in a more informal manner than at the regular meetings. This program is seen at various times on Shrewsbury Public Access Channel 30. New programs air every two weeks.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

On January 23rd Chairman of the Board Philip S. Hammond announced his decision to retire from the Board at the conclusion of his term in May as a result of his recent

change in employment to a company in Boston. For the same reason, Mr. Hammond announced that he would step down as chairman effective February 6th to ensure that there would be a chairman in place who would have adequate time to devote to the fiscal 2007 budget process.

The remainder of the Board wishes to recognize Phil Hammond's dedication to the town in his two terms as a selectman, and prior to that for his service as a member of the Planning Board. His work on behalf of the town, particularly in matters related to land use and zoning, has made Shrewsbury a better place for all who live and do business in town.

The Board reorganized February 6th as follows: John I. Lebeaux, Chairman; Thomas A. Fiore, Vice Chairman; Bruce R. Card, Clerk.

At the May 2, 2006 Annual Town Election James A. McCaffrey was elected to the Board of Selectmen for a three-year term. At its first meeting after the election the Board voted to maintain the same organization put in place in February

## **TOWN MANAGER**

The Board conducted its Annual Evaluation of the Town Manager in December. Town Manager Daniel J. Morgado's overall performance was judged to be excellent to distinguished. The Board continues to maintain very high regard of Mr. Morgado's work as Town Manager. The Board particularly noted Mr. Morgado's excellent performance managing the town's finances, his ability to deliver extremely high levels of service within a limited budget, and his excellent management skills working with the Board, the various other volunteer committees, the employees, and members of the community at large.

The Board also found that Mr. Morgado did not handle the labor-management issues related to the Police Department with his usual high degree of success. With admittedly 20-20 hindsight, the Board found that Mr. Morgado did not provide the early, aggressive intervention that may have diffused the chain of events that resulted in Police Chief A. Wayne Sampson's decision to retire on December 31, 2006.

Town government and the town as a whole continue to greatly benefit from the thoughtful hard work of Assistant Town Manager Michael R. Hale. With Mr. Hale in town hall, Shrewsbury is very fortunate to have another highly skilled and productive municipal manager.

## **ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES**

As the executive body of the Town, the Board of Selectmen oversees the policies of our municipal government. It conducts hearings as the Local Licensing Authority, acts as Appointing Authority, acts as both Road and Water Commissioners, and proposes legislation to the Town Meeting throughout the year. Items of particular note for the year 2006 are listed below.

## **Municipal Budget**

Prior to the commencement of the Finance Committee's budget hearings, the Board took a public position that it would not vote to place a Proposition 2 1/2 Operational Override question on a ballot to increase revenue available for the fiscal 2007 budget. The Board determined that the voters' very strong statements rejecting override questions in 2004 and 2005 made clear that any future override questions could only succeed if spending was first reduced, and if some broad-based examination of expenditures and revenues takes place.

The Board's decision prompted a great deal of discussion and debate on the issue. The Board conducted a very heavily attended Public Hearing in March to hear citizens' comments on the matter.

The fiscal 2007 budget approved by the Annual Town Meeting continued the pattern established in previous years of declining levels of services. The Board expects that pattern to continue unless additional sources of annually recurring revenue are made available. The community will need to determine what services it desires and by what means it wishes to provide them.

Over the course of the winter and spring the Board discussed forming an independent committee to study the town's revenues and expenditures for the next five years. The Board created the thirty member Fiscal Study Committee in April, deciding that eighteen members would be town meeting representatives, two from each of the nine precincts appointed by the Moderator; two members each from the School Committee, Finance Committee, and the Board; and six at-large members selected by the Board. The members of the committee were selected after the town election. Co-chaired by Selectmen Fiore and DePalo, the committee met regularly throughout 2006. It filed its interim report in November, 2006 and is scheduled to file its final report in March, 2007.

## **Appointments**

The 2005 Annual Town Meeting approved making a change to the method by which the Town Clerk is selected from that of an elected position to an appointment by the Board of Selectmen effective May 2006 at conclusion of elected Town Clerk Ann M. Dagle's term. When proposing the change the Board informed the town meeting that its intention was to appoint Mrs. Dagle if she wished to continue in the position at the conclusion of her elected term. In January the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Dagle as Town Clerk for a three year term, expiring in May, 2009.

The Board also participated in the appointments of replacements to fill unexpired vacant terms of members of elected boards and committees. The Board met jointly with the Library Board of Trustees in January. At that meeting Nancy Gilbert was selected to serve as a Trustee until the May, 2006 election. In a joint meeting in November the Board and the School Committee selected John Samia to the School Committee until the May, 2007 election.

## **Fire Department Facilities**

After the failure of the November 2005 Proposition 2-1/2 Debt Exclusion question to

address the department's needs at Headquarters and at the Harrington Ave. station, the Building Committee, chaired by Selectmen Card, proceeded to develop a new alternative.

The Committee recommended a new course of action after holding several meetings and calling a public hearing to gauge the public's priorities. The new plan called for: (1) demolition of the existing Fire Headquarters and construction of a new Fire Headquarters behind the site of the present building; (2) renovation of Station #2, and (3) construction of a new Station #3 on town-owned land on Centech Boulevard south of the Hartford Turnpike (Route 20).

There were two primary differences between this proposal and the failed one from 2005. The proposed headquarters was reconfigured into a building in which the fire trucks would have to back into rather than have the drive-thru configuration proposed in 2005. This change eliminated the provision in the 2005 proposal that the Cemetery Department garage be demolished and replaced. The second difference was the inclusion of the new station #3, not proposed in 2005. Approval of this proposal would call for the present station #3, in Edgemere, to be taken out of service. It is the Board's position that the proceeds of a future sale of that property be used to offset a portion of the project costs.

The proposal to appropriate \$7.4 million was approved by a Special Town Meeting on April 25. At the Annual Town Election on May 2nd voters approved the Proposition 2-1/2 Debt Exclusion question by a vote of 3,217-2,685.

As of this writing both the projects at headquarters and at station #3 are proceeding ahead of schedule, a result of an excellent contractor, Fontaine Brothers, and very favorable weather conditions in late 2006 and early 2007. It is anticipated that all construction will conclude during 2007, satisfying the town's fire facility needs for decades.

### **Removal of Police Chief Position from Civil Service**

The Board called a Special Town Meeting in November at which it received approval to file a Home Rule Petition to remove the police chief's position from Civil Service. Approval of the proposal would grant the appointing authority to the Town Manager, as is the case with all other department heads. A majority of the Board believed that such a change would be beneficial as it would allow a permanent successor to Chief Sampson to assume the position months earlier than by employing the Civil Service method. The majority of the Board also preferred having a wider pool of potential applicants whenever future chiefs need to be selected.

The General Court subsequently approved the Home Rule Petition and Governor Romney signed it into law in late December.

Town Manager Morgado began the process of selecting a new police chief immediately upon the town meeting vote, so that an appointment could be made as soon as the Governor signed a bill that was approved by the legislature. Through the remainder

of the year Mr. Morgado received applications, conducted interviews and screened the applicant pool down to five highly qualified finalists. In late December the five finalists were interviewed by members of the Board and the Finance Committee, department heads, school department personnel, and members of the public at large. This interview group provided its impressions to Mr. Morgado.

At the Board's January 8, 2007 meeting, Mr. Morgado announced his appointment of James J. Hester, Jr. as Shrewsbury's sixth police chief. Chief Hester, a Shrewsbury resident and nineteen year veteran of the Shrewsbury Police Department, was serving as a sergeant at the time of his appointment.

The Board wishes Chief Hester a long and successful tenure in his new position. During the finalist interviews Board members took note of then Sgt. Hester's thoughtful and well-tempered approach to provide public safety and manage the affairs of the police department.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge former Chief A. Wayne Sampson's thirty-four years of distinguished service to this community. As a patrolman, superior officer, and since 1998 as chief, he came to work each and every day intending to provide the highest level of public safety that his abilities, powers, and resources allowed. The town owes him its gratitude for those efforts.

### **Economic Development**

The Board continued its ongoing efforts to increase the non-residential tax base, working in cooperation with various town departments and boards.

The Board proposed and the Town Meeting approved several land swaps of parcels at the intersection of Boston Turnpike with Harrington Ave. and Svenson Rd. These approvals will allow the re-configuration of this difficult intersection as part of the Route 9/Lakeway improvements into a much safer and more practical one. These improvements will both improve traffic flow to the driving public and will contribute to the upgrade of the Lakeway Business District.

With town meeting approval the Board successfully negotiated the town's first Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) agreement as part of Charles River Laboratories' decision to locate its Preclinical Services Massachusetts division to South Street.

The Board's position with regard to economic development is first to work to retain and expand Shrewsbury's existing commercial tax base. In order to so, and to attract new development the Board's intent is to have appropriate infrastructure and zoning in place, and to have the appropriate departments and committees readily available to economic development prospects.

### **Water and Sewer Issues**

The Town continues to react as best it can to series of restrictive regulatory mandates that have tremendous impact to both existing water users and to the town's economic development efforts.

The Board supports environmental protection, but believes there are too many instances in which the mandating agencies lack conclusive scientific evidence and also do not employ the cost-benefit analyses that should be part of all public policy decisions. In a variety of instances the Town seems to be a victim of “one size fits all” policy decisions that do not take into consideration the individual characteristics of different watersheds and different municipalities.

As of this writing the Town has a pending appeal of its new Water Management Act permit. Should no relief be granted the Board expects that mandatory water restrictions will reach levels that will allow little to no outside watering during much of the spring, summer, and fall for the foreseeable future.

In 2006, the Town implemented a series of water conservation measures in response to those mandates. Water saving devices and a variety of educational materials and demonstrations were offered to the public. Acting as the Water Commission, the Board voted to raise water rates as a means to lessen usage and also voted to increase hook up charges and conservation fees to gain revenue to fund many of the mandated actions.

In the wastewater area the Town is approaching the conclusion of the planning stage and soon will begin along with the Town of Westborough a mandatory upgrade of the Westborough Treatment Plant. Constantly increasing cost estimates currently set the project at approximately \$30 million.

On a positive note, during 2006 the Towns of Westborough and Shrewsbury entered into a second thirty year agreement to continue their joint operation of the Treatment Plant. The Plant’s operation has been a tremendous asset to both communities for the past thirty years. The Board is hopeful that the value will continue for at least thirty more.

## **CLOSING**

Overall, 2006 was a successful one for the Town of Shrewsbury. The employees of the Town, the Department Heads, supervisors, and line personnel continue to efficiently deliver a very high level of services to the community. The volunteer efforts of the various boards, committees, and commissions maintain the will of the townspeople. Everyone should be grateful for all these individuals’ willingness to offer their time and service to improve the community. Please refer to their individual reports for detailed information about their activities.

The Board would be remiss if it did not take note of the numerous donations and gifts made to the Town by many of its residents and local businesses. These gifts and donations add to the quality of life of every member of this community. The Board wishes to extend its sincere gratitude on behalf of the Town to each and every resident and business that was willing to do something extra to make Shrewsbury a better place to live and work.

The Board constantly depends on the staff of the combined Offices of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager so that it may properly discharge its duties and responsibilities. Along with Mr. Morgado and Mr. Hale, Janice McCoy, secretary to the Board of Selectmen and Paula Brady, secretary to the Town Manager continue to provide the highest level of support.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Board of Selectmen

**RECAPITULATION OF SELECTMENT'S FEES**  
**January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006**

16	Restaurant - All Alcoholic	\$ 28,800.00
5	Package Store - All Alcoholic	9,000.00
1	Pub Club	1,100.00
6	General Club	5,400.00
4	Restaurant - Beer & Wine	3,600.00
3	Package Store - Beer & Wine	2,700.00
20	One Day - All Alcoholic	700.00
17	One Day - Beer & Wine	605.00
73	Common Victualler	2,555.00
11	Weekday & Sunday Entertainment	339.50
29	Motor Vehicles Class 1, 2 and 3	3,480.00
26	Coin Operated Amusement Devices	1,560.00
27	Advertising	2,700.00
65	Garage	1,625.00
4	Junk Dealers	400.00
	Miscellaneous Licenses:	\$ 735.00
	2 Livery/Limousine	
	2 Special Licenses	
	2 Auctioneer	
	Bowling Alley	
	Lord's Day Licenses	
	Charges for copies of correspondence, etc.	\$ 1,802.34
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 67,101.84</b>

## LICENSES ISSUED AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2006

### All Alcoholic Beverage Pouring Licenses

Restaurant	15	\$1,800.00 each
Innholder	1	\$1,800.00 each
Pub Club	1	\$1,100.00 each
General Club	6	\$900.00 each
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<i>(10) Restaurant All Alcohol Available</i>

### Restaurant Wine & Malt Pouring Licenses

Restaurant	4	\$900.00 each
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<i>(3) Restaurant B&amp;W Available</i>

### Package Store

All Alcoholic	5	\$1,800.00 each
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<i>(2) All Alcohol Pkg. Store Available</i>

### Package Store

Wine & Malt	3	\$900.00 each
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<i>(4) B&amp;W Package Store Available</i>