TOWN OF WHEELOCK
JOINT MEETING SHEFFIELD & WHEELOCK SELECTBOARDS
July 7th 2026, 6pm at Wheelock Town Hall

Present: Wheelock And Sheffield Selectboard members: Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson, Chuck Dill, Erik Lavallee, Kate Berry-Buonanno, & Ben Robinson. Sheffield Town Clerk Erika Lavallee and recorder Meaghan Rinehart. A filled assembly was present in person with several via Zoom.

Call to Order by Ann: 6pm

Any changes to agenda: Hannah Morris, Wheelock Village Store
David Lee
Transfer Station Contract

Adopt minutes of prior joint meeting
Erik moved, seconded by Chuck to adopt the minutes of 4/4/26
Mike would like the minutes amended to reflect that he prefers personnel issues be discussed in Executive Session.
Erik motions, seconded by Chuck to adopt minutes with amendment.
All in favor, so voted.

Keniston-Dane scholarship request, Eli Hooker
Eli Hooker presented his case regarding taking a gap year and requesting scholarship eligibility. He completed his Bachelors in 3 years at Norwich University, thereby not needing all the scholarship for which he would have been eligible during 4 years. He is taking a year off to earn money and rest before pursuing a Masters degree. Sally Wood-Simons, fund administrator, explained that such requests have been given in the past. Erik motions, seconded by Mike to provide the continuing scholarship. All in favor, so voted.

Shane Lanpher, Vol. Fire Chief, Forest Fire Warden statutory change
Shane explained there is a new state statute in effect July 1 designating a town's Fire Chief as Fire Warden. The Chief may designate the position, but that person must be a Fire Dept. member. Sheffield's Warden is a member; Wheelock's is not. Shane explained the reason for the new statute was to ensure the Warden was trained in the Incident Management System, but he thought the roll-out to affected officials was very poor. For the present Shane will hold the Fire Warden role, but he will not be issuing any fire permits due to his workload. He will be attending an

information training the following day, and will provide updates.

David Lee

David Lee requested that problems and issues be resolved in a neighborly manner. He requested that the no-trespass order at the Transfer Station against his son (also named David Lee) be lifted. He presented information regarding a VT Supreme Court case State v. Morris 165 Vt. 111 (1966). Erik explained the incident occurred on the first Saturday at the Transfer Station with the new sticker policy in place. Erik and other selectboard members had been present to explain the new system. All interactions except that with the young Mr. Lee were friendly and civil. Young Mr. Lee spoke up, then left the assembly. At the conclusion of the discussion it was decided to stay the order.

Erik motions, seconded by Chuck to keep order in effect.
All in favor so voted.

TRANSFER STATION Transition from bags to stickers

Mike and Kate read questions prepared by an employee. Most answers were provided by Erika who manages the finances.

1. What was the main driving forces of this policy switch? How is it going to be more beneficial/effective/efficient in comparison to the PPB (pay per bag)/Town Bag option?

The main driver was cost, safety and to be able to provide a better accounting. At this time Hannah Morris from the store gave her feedback on how it was working out for them and ways to improve. She stated it has been difficult dealing with grumpy customers, and tracking sticker sales is difficult. She expressed willingness to see it through as is for 6 months. Board members suggested getting a bar code imprinted on the next stickers ordered so the store could add it to their inventory system.

2. Why was the policy change not discussed (in depth) and voted on at the town meetings?

It was not required to be voted on in town meetings. The public meeting set up to discuss this had no attendees expressing concern.

3. What is the recommendation for people who cannot afford to throw away a bunch of bags but cannot lift bigger bags?

If someone needs help just ask.
Erik motions, seconded by Kate to get a sign made to honk for assistance. All in favor, so voted.

Shane suggested that adding fill in front of the compactor would be the easiest way to lower the height of the first concrete step, making it easier for people to get on the platform to put in their bags.

4. If there is a deficit in sales, how is the joint selectboard prepared to handle it? Is it going to be an increase in taxes as a result of increased appropriation, or an increase in sticker prices?
A deficit is not projected at this time. Budget will not change.

5. Why are stickers unable to be returned for resale?
Inventory control.

6. What were sticker sales in June?
Stickers $3682
Bags $1988
To date ahead of budget.

Transfer Station Contract
The only change in the proposed draft was moving from bags to stickers.
Mike motions, seconded by Erik to sign the amended contract. All in favor, so voted.

Video camera proposal(s)
After discussing proposals from Pye-Barker and from Jonathon Potter of Wheelock, the joint boards went with Pye-Barker as it needed no internet service. Ben noted that the monthly service charge stated in the proposal would not apply.
Mike motions, seconded by Erik to go with Pye-Barker.
5 in favor, so voted, with Ben recusing.

Compactor part
Chuck explained the compactor is old, repaired temporarily and needs a new pump. He had explored options. Mike motions, seconded by Erik we get a new pump from Casella who will install it. All in favor, so voted.

Letter to non-residents
It was brought to the boards recently that someone who is no longer a Wheelock resident or property owner had used the Transfer Station. A draft letter, from both selectboards, making them aware the Transfer Station is only for use of Wheelock and Sheffield residents, was reviewed. It was decided that the selectboard chair from the town of the former resident will write the letter, sign it on behalf of the joint boards, and send it to Erika for mailing and recordkeeping.

Carol Rossi requests at next meeting to consider changes to Bulky Day.

Chuck motions, seconded by Erik to adjourn.
All in favor, so voted.

Meeting adjourned 7:49pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Signatures:

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Ann Lawless

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Mike Richardson

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Chuck Dill

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Erik Lavallee

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Ben Robinson

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Kate Berry-Buonanno