

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012
6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: STEPHEN BANNON
 ANDREW BLECHMAN
 ALANA CHERNILA
 DEB PHILLIPS
 SEAN STANTON
 KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Tom Blauvelt – Chairman
Mark Lefenfeld
Andy Moro
Jim Stark

Not Present: Bud Atwood

6:00 PM - PUBLIC SESSION - BOARD ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Kevin O'Donnell presented the CIP to both Boards. He stated that the direction of the Board was to develop a CIP for FY 13 with the same impact on the tax levy as FY12. Kevin said that the tax levy impact in FY 12 equaled a total of \$343,500. He stated that there would be no increase to the tax levy. Kevin O'Donnell presented a detailed breakdown of the CIP 2013.

In regards to the Main Street Reconstruction Project, Kevin spoke about the roads and said that the State indicated that a uniform 2% grade is required. This will increase the engineering and construction cost. The Town will be responsible for the engineering cost. The engineering component should be covered partially by Chapter 90 funds. As a result, some previously planned repaving projects for FY12 may be cancelled. Kevin said that the DOT has given \$550,000 to put in the Main Street Project for the Storm Water Project. He said that there may not be a need to borrow as much as was authorized at Town Meeting. There are 12 bridges that are our responsibility to repair.

Kevin O'Donnell spoke about Dewey School Courthouse. He said that ADA upgrades are needed, but there are no Federal earmarks available. The State is willing to 'entertain' a 10 year lease. The State has plans and 'specs' for the ideal courthouse which will be sent to Kevin soon.

Andy Moro asked if the improvements that are needed to be made will be rolled into the rent.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that we will recoup the expenditures in the lease.

Lauren Sartori said that the State pays for most of the utilities.

Kevin said that there is money in the CIP to bring in a consultant to do a study on the building.

Kevin O'Donnell said that Ramsdell Library improvements have been moved back. There are no grants available until 2017. The \$22,000 expenditure planned for schematics for the building is not necessary with grants so far in the future.

Kevin O'Donnell explained how the CIP is funded.
He stated that \$450,000 is available in the stabilization fund. Kevin also reviewed grant money.

Kevin O'Donnell reviewed the projects in the CIP.

Sean Stanton suggested that Lake Mansfield Rd. become a one-way road with a pull-off.
Joe Sokul said that engineers are being interviewed and that all options will be reviewed.

Chris Lamarre said that \$35,000 (\$15,000 for the software package and \$25,000 for the consultant) is being proposed to be spent in FY13 on an improved software package and consultant to do an audit of the personal property tax. There is an 8 to 1 return expected in the first year. The goal is to get business establishments to pay their fair share and to manage this data.

Andrew Blechman asked how long the \$25,000 is valid for.

Chris responded that this will establish a base line and they can elect to have this service come in every 3-5 years, if needed.

Steve Bannon asked where the computer hardware upgrades from the last fiscal year stand.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the police project is completed.

Lauren Sartori responded that the Library project will be completed by the end of March.

Steve Bannon asked how she determines how much to put in the budget for this, if research hasn't been done.

Lauren Sartori said that she takes the number of computers that they have and projects the need. She said that a hardware consultant will give a price in terms of what is needed.

She added that any money not used for the project would go back into free cash.

Andy Moro said that the #6 Fire truck needs to be replaced. He said that it would be a major investment to replace the ladder truck. Andy feels that there are too many fire trucks and some should be taken out of the replacement program.

Kevin O'Donnell said that Seekonk Rd. repairs are being paid for by FEMA. We are responsible for \$83,000. The construction is planned for early spring.

Kevin O'Donnell said that a public works garage should be a long term topic to be discussed. He said that a facility is needed to put all of the equipment inside. Money has been budgeted for 2014.

Joe Sokul said that there is money in the budget designated for bridges and it's for the design.

Joe said that the bridges on Bridge St. and Cottage St. are the first ones to be looked at. \$800,000 for 2015 is designated for repair of one of bridges, not replacement.

Kevin O'Donnell presented street construction plans.

Sean Stanton said that he feels that Main Street in Housatonic can't wait until 2015.

Andrew Blechman said that Haley Rd. should come out of the plan.

MOTION: Andrew Blechman to remove Haley Rd. from FY13 road improvements

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Mark Lefenfeld to remove Haley Rd. from FY13 road improvements

SECOND: Jim Stark

VOTE: 3-0-1 Andy Moro opposed

Deb Phillips asked where the money that would have been used for Haley Rd. would go.

Joe Sokul said that he would look at the list, see which streets are the worst and where the most phone calls are coming from, to determine where to move the money to.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will come back to the Board with street updates and other options for the money.

Andrew Blechman stated that some sidewalks are 'barely that', for example, Gilmore Ave. He said that this is a key walking area; however, it is not on any plan through FY17. Andrew said that he would like to see a focus on sidewalks; this is a health, safety and quality of life issue.

Sean Stanton said that a report should be sent to Rep. Pignatelli stating where the Town would like to be and show how we are unable to get to that point because we are one of the highest taxed and need more money from the State.

Deb Phillips said that she would like to see a comprehensive plan regarding walkability so that work is done in an organized fashion and with a plan in mind.

Kevin O'Donnell said that this will be directly addressed by the Master Plan but won't be done by the end of the year. He suggested that money still be put in the budget for when the plan is complete so that it is allocated.

Steve Bannon said that he would like to direct the Town Manager, at a later date, to take money out of free cash.

Kevin O'Donnell reviewed the budget for the Wastewater Treatment plant. He said that \$12 million is budgeted over the next 5 years.

Deb Phillips asked if anything was cut to keep the budget level funded.

Kevin O'Donnell replied no.

Tim Drumm reviewed the Wastewater Treatment plant budget.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:15 P.M.

On a motion by Mark Lefenfeld, seconded by Jim Stark, the Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary