

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
JOINT MEETING  
GREAT BARRINGTON SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21, 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  
                          BUD ATWOOD  
                          MARK LEFENFELD  
                          ANDY MORO  
                          JIM STARK

**6:00 PM - PUBLIC SESSION - BOARD ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. FY 13 BUDGET**

    a. Parks / Recreation

Kevin O'Donnell stated that the Parks and Recreation operational budget is down by \$500. There are some items in the CIP and there is money in the budget for the contract for the summer recreation programs.

Sean Stanton asked if the FY12 projects have been completed yet. (Construction of fitness trail, wood chips, etc. on South Street)

Joe Sokul responded that the wood chips have been distributed in Housatonic.

Steve Bannon said that the equipment for the fitness trail has been picked out.

Alana Chernila asked how their project list compares to the desires of the Parks Commission.

Steve Bannon responded that these are the items that have come up. He said that they are happy to have the money and will use it wisely.

There was discussion among the board about getting more equipment for seniors such as benches, concrete card tables, etc.

Joe Sokul spoke about the cost of the basketball court at the Housatonic playground and the need for the work.

    b. Public Works

Kevin O'Donnell said many of the private roads are our responsibility to plow. (We do not maintain these roads.)

There was discussion about Haley Rd. and why it is plowed by the town

Sean Stanton requested the history on Haley Rd.

Joe Sokul said that he will get the information.

Andrew Blechman asked if there is a 'no idling' policy for public works.

Joe Sokul responded that the trucks are stopped when at a site and only idle when they are re-loading.

Alana Chernila said that there the Town adopted an ant-idling policy.

Andy Moro asked about lighting at the crosswalks. He said that they are dark.

Joe Sokul said that crosswalks with lighting are part of the Main Street Reconstruction Plan.

Sean Stanton directed the Town Manager to make sure that all light bulbs are working in the crosswalk lights.

Kevin O'Donnell said as part of the energy audit, they will look at light bulb size and brightness.

Deb Phillips asked about the increase in salary for the Tree Warden.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that the Tree Warden, Mike Peretti, is spending more time at tree committee meetings, the tree ad-hoc group meetings and with the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

Kevin said that he is doing more than before.

There was discussion about the cemetery budget.

Bud Atwood said that there is not a large income from lot sales, and cremations have increased.

Andrew Blechman said that non-resident numbers are increasing and these fees should be increased.

Joe Sokul said the resident rates are competitive. The non-resident fee is about \$1200. Joe said that most of the cost for cemeteries is salaries.

Andy Moro asked about item 177(Public Works Clothing). He asked if this included safety boots.

Joe Sokul replied that it does include safety boots. \$300 is allotted per year, per employee, which should allow employees 2 pairs of boots.

Andy Moro said that there should be a policy about the type of boot that is allowed to be purchased and worn. (Andy suggested steel toe / steel shank boots)

Andy Moro asked about line 179 (Public Works Licenses) asking if this is a CDL. (Commercial driver's license)

Joe Sokul responded that it is a Hoist and CDL.

Andy said that medicals should be done for CDL's every 2 years.

Joe said that medicals are done initially in order to get a CDL and is also required for a hoist license. He feels confident that those who do the job are qualified.

Andy Moro said that he and Joe Sokul had a discussion regarding the benefits of a propane run lawn mower. There would be a savings on maintenance and an increase in the longevity of the mower.

Joe Sokul said that the older machines can't be converted so they are looking seriously at one for next year.

Joe said that the mower purchased last year can be converted.

Bud Atwood asked the Energy Committee if they are looking into L&G (Natural Gas) for town vehicles.

He said that many states are going in this direction. Bud said that this would be a cost savings.

Alana Chernila said that the Energy Committee will look into it.

Jim Stark asked Joe Sokul if the amount allotted per year on roads includes sidewalks.

Joe Sokul responded that it does and it also includes crack-sealing.

Jim asked Joe if he expects to catch up.

Joe said in 5 years they will have caught up and will then do preventative maintenance with crack sealing.

Sean Stanton spoke about guardrails saying that he wants to make sure that they are not being replaced just because they are already there. He feels that there are areas that don't need guardrails. (He gave the example of Monument Valley Road)

Andrew Blechman said that he would like to see a visual chart of K-05 which breaks down sidewalks, curbs, lighting, etc

Deb Phillips asked if the Board is committing money to certain topics at this time.

Sean Stanton said that the Board can have a conversation during the Strategic Planning Priorities meeting regarding the use of funds for particular projects.

c. WWTP

There was discussion regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The FY13 sewer rates were presented with an increase rate from 370 to 460. This will maintain us for 4 years where an increase to 700 will maintain us for 5 years.

Lauren Sartori clarified that approving the sewer budget will set the rate at a minimum of 460.

Jim Stark spoke about the daily flow chart and said that there are two spikes. He said this has gone on for a while and asked if there are any plans to address it.

Tim Drumm replied that some issues are items that wouldn't be cost effective to address.

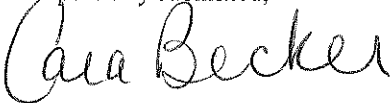
Andrew Blechman said that he loved the information that was sent to residents about phosphates and rags. He suggested that High School Students be asked to get involved by creating a cartoon or other form of communication about this as well.

**3. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Bud Atwood, seconded by Mark Lefenfeld, the Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 8:18 P.M.

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board of Selectmen adjourned its meeting at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary