

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
JOINT MEETING
GREAT BARRINGTON SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 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. Wrap Up - FY 13 BUDGET

Kevin O'Donnell reviewed some FY12 budget items. He said that legal fees were higher than anticipated due to the litigation regarding Rogers Rd. and the ZBA hearings.

Kevin O'Donnell requested the Finance Committee to approve a transfer of \$40,000 for FY12 to cover this cost from the reserve fund.

Kevin said that there is Police overtime due to there being a full police force and the need for training. He asked the Finance Committee for a transfer of \$21,000 for this.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve the transfer of \$ 61,000 from the reserve fund

SECOND: Mark Lefenfeld

VOTE: 4-1 Jim Stark against

Jim Stark asked to see the request and the supporting details, in writing

The building permit fee cap of \$10,000 was reviewed. There is a \$35 fee for work that is less than \$5,000. The fee between \$5,000 and \$10,000 is \$7 per thousand.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to increase the minimum from \$5,000 - \$10,000 for a building permit and eliminate the maximum cap.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

All agree that this will take effect immediately

Other options will be discussed at a later meeting.

All agree that Kevin O'Donnell brings back the fee summary at the public hearing.

Andrew Blechman asked about the stormwater improvements; how long can it be deferred and what kind of expenses are involved.

Kevin O'Donnell said that it would be \$3.8 million over 5 years. This would require no action through FY14.

Andrew Blechman asked if there was a mandate to do this work.

Joe Sokul said that there is no mandate. He said that many pipes are old clay pipes. A plan was created to get the water, from particular poor drainage areas, into the street to be treated. He added that some of the work is being done as part of the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

Steve Bannon said that this won't have an impact until FY13 because the \$600,000 has already been approved.

Lauren Sartori said that she will put \$605,000 in the FY12 column to make this clear.

Alana Chernila asked to go over the Senior Center building use and a timeline for action.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he has requested a needs assessment, which Rebecca is working on. He said that 'tighter use' of the building is needed. Kevin is compiling a building use policy for the March meeting and will meet with the Council on Aging regarding the position evaluation study.

When asked how this process works, Kevin said that he will create an RFP to get a consultant for a position evaluation and then decide what budget implications there may be.

Deb Phillips said that there will be a raise in salary for the assistant by July 1 that will require a new job description.

Steve Bannon said that it isn't always possible to get a quality full time person, so they may need to hire 2 part time people. There may be the need for benefits as well.

Alana Chernila asked what role the Council on Aging has in the process since they are paying for the consultant.

Steve Bannon said, given the scope of services that the Senior Center provides, the Council on Aging has a big influence on who the consultant talks to.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the consultant will talk to a lot of people. Kevin will fast track the RFP to get it out this fiscal year so the consultant can get work done this fiscal year.

Alana Chernila suggested that the Council on Aging look at the RFP and have the option to give feedback. Kevin said that he will send them a copy for suggestions.

Rebecca said that she does not know anything about the department analysis that Kevin spoke about.

She said that it was her intention to share a front-line view of the operations of the Senior Center. Rebecca said that it is hard to know how to narrow the scope of services based on what the town will support.

Sean Stanton suggested researching if there is an insurance company that may be willing to give money to keep the Center open and vibrant.

Deb Phillips said that a good consultant will know this information.

Tom Blauvelt said that he feels that the salary for the Director of the Council on Aging is inadequate.

Lauren Sartori said that the study will address this issue.

There was discussion about Veteran Services. We get reimbursement from the state and Lauren Sartori said that they are considering joining a larger district.

Mark Lefenfeld said that he received a list of the 10 biggest delinquent real estate tax payers. He said the amount is over \$200,000 and asked if the total is going up and what can be done to collect the money.

Lauren Sartori said that this amount has been consistent over the years. She said that those who don't pay have a lien on their property. Lauren said that the on-line credit card payment option may facilitate payments. She said that a personal property auditor will be hired to assess.

Bud Atwood asked at what point the town takes the property.

Lauren Sartori responded that Sandy Larkin has lawyers who take care of this, but the town has to think about whether taking the property will be a liability to the town.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will generate a report explaining the process from delinquency to taking the property.

Sean Stanton requested that the Selectmen receive the top10 list. He also asked that this topic be put on a future agenda so they can discuss a particular house in Housatonic.

Jim Stark asked Joe Sokul for a copy of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project
Jim said that he has trouble supporting the CIP for the Wastewater Treatment Plant given the 'current inequitable rates.'

3. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Mark Lefenfeld, seconded by Andy Moro, the Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 7:25 P.M.

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board of Selectmen adjourned its meeting at 7:40 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 typed name and title.

Cara Becker
Recording Secretary