

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
JOINT MEETING
SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014
6:00 P.M. – FIRE STATION**

PRESENT: DAN BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
ANDREW BLECHMAN
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

Finance Committee: Bud Atwood – not present
Tom Blauvelt
Leigh Davis
Sharon Gregory – Chairperson
Mark Lefenfeld

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

Dan Bailly asked for a schedule change since March 5th is Ash Wednesday.
All agree to re-schedule the meeting to March 7, 2014 at 5:30 PM.
Jennifer Tabakin will send the updated calendar to the Selectboard.

2. Review Capital Improvement Program.

Jennifer Tabakin explained that there is a new column that was added to the spreadsheet called 'potential funding.'

Jennifer reviewed the CIP budget.

Joe Sokul explained the road improvement/sidewalk and drainage budget of \$970,000.

Andrew Blechman said that there is still water 'pooling' in front of the Housatonic the Post Office.
There continues to be drainage issues.

Joe responded that he has not received any complaints, but will look into it.

Sharon Gregory spoke about the \$217,000 budgeted for the Main Street Reconstruction saying that it needs to be tighter.

Joe responded that he will get a closer number, but this is already budgeted.

Joe Sokul spoke about the mausoleum cost at the Mahaiwe Cemetery. He said that it needs work and is dangerous. If the owners are not found, the town can budget the work.

Sharon Gregory suggested re-visiting the cemetery fees.

Deb Phillips requested more information about perpetual care costs.

Steve Bannon requested the breakdown of the cemetery budget since it is not used solely for this.

Dan Bailly asked what the Chapter 90 fund reduction is from last year.

Joe Sokul responded that it is \$2000.

Sean Stanton said that he wants to make sure that all is being done to get recruits for the volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Chief Charlie Burger, responded that word of mouth helps the most.

Tom Blauvelt asked Fire Chief Burger if the Housatonic Fire Station should be kept open.

He responded that it does need to stay open. It services Housatonic and Great Barrington. The Housatonic trucks are the first to go out during the night shift. Keeping it open also helps with the insurance rating.

Sean Stanton said that he would like to see 50 volunteers. He suggested a future discussion about the need for more volunteers and how to go about getting them.

Chief Walsh reported that, for the last 2 years, he has completed projects from donations and hasn't had to come to the taxpayers.

Chris Rembold said that there is no CPA process yet. The committee is crafting an application. The committee is also talking about prioritizing town projects first.

There was discussion about the Waste Water Treatment Project.

Joe Sokul said that phase one of the project is out to bid. There is more interest in the project this time around. Joe said that the 5 year plan is \$13.2 million, which includes design work and construction.

The project evaluation form has been submitted to DEP and will need to be re-submitted in August.

Joe recommended getting authorization for the funds even though there is continued discussion about how to make the project smaller by breaking it into pieces.

Tim Drumm said the EPA will request permits as to what needs to be done. He said the hope is that this project budget will shrink.

3. Adjournment

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Andrew Blechman, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:55 p.m.

On a motion by Mark Lefenfeld, seconded by Tom Blauvelt, the Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary