

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011  
6:00 P.M. – EXECUTIVE SESSION  
7:00 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

**PRESENT:** WALTER ATWOOD  
STEPHEN BANNON  
ALANA CHERNILA  
DEB PHILLIPS  
SEAN STANTON  
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

**6:00 P.M. – EXECUTIVE SESSION –TOWN MANAGER CONFERENCE ROOM  
REVIEW LABOR CONTRACTS [(CH 30A, SEC 21 (3))]  
7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips: To accept the minutes from December 13, 2010 – Workshop Meeting.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips: To accept the minutes from December 13, 2010 – Regular Meeting with changes as discussed.

**SECOND:** Bud Atwood

**VOTE:** 5-0

**3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/ STATEMENTS:**

Sean Stanton announced that the GB 250<sup>th</sup> Committee is holding a Beard Growing Contest. If you are interested, go to the 'Snap Shop' tomorrow (Jan 11, 2011) clean shaven to have a picture taken and to register for the contest. The final day of the contest is July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and judging will take place based on 4 categories: longest beard, the most naturally colorful beard, bushiest beard and most creative beard; with prizes awarded.

**4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

A. BOS and Great Barrington members of the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee – Joint Appointment.

Peter Dillon extended his appreciation to John Grogan for his years of service and recommended for the vacancy Christine Shelton, who has children in the school system and has been an active member of the PTA. He appreciates her willingness to participate. The School Committee unanimously supports this appointment.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the appointment of Christine Shelton to the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

David Magadini stated that there has been an absence of birds that usually 'grace' the Town bandstand. He said that it would benefit the Town if the Board would promote more birds; 'it is not a park without birds' and asked for a birdfeeder to be purchased. He also said that the tables in the bandstand are inaccessible because of the snow and feels that this should not be the case.

Jenny Clark stated that there is a local group that has been discussing the GB Reconstruction project and talking about each update. They can be found on the internet by a google search under Main Street citizens group. She also asked what is involved if the Town decides to "walk away" from this project, and asked if the Town has the ability to vote it down.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that this is still our project until the job is turned over to the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Sean Stanton said that this is an ongoing process.

Alana Chernila said that there are and have been a lot of checks in the system.

Stephen Bannon stated that the Board sees the heartbeat of the Town and hopes that this will continue.

Alan Kalish – Vault Gallery – stated that the biggest misconception is that the merchants are the ones that are resisting and, in fact, many who are resisting are the residents.

He also stated that there are 220 signatures that were gathered from those who are concerned about the project, of which 30 are businesses. He feels that the Board needs to go forward with this in mind.

Sean Stanton replied that many of the people that signed the petition did so for the sake of democracy. He said that the Board will continue to hear peoples' concerns and will do what is best for the Town.

Dave Jakes – Monument Valley Road - asked if the Town can use the State money to support merchants and suggested that the Town brings back a 'Barrington Bucks' program in order to support the Town. He also asked if the State will allow tax exemptions?

Sean Stanton said that they will research the tax exemption idea.

## **6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

A. Renewal of 2011 Common Victualler Restaurant License for Hong Kong Buffet/Hong Yang at 345 Main Street.

**MOTION:** Bud Atwood to approve license for Hong Kong Buffet/Hong Yang.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

B. Renewal of 2011 Flea Market License for Charlotte R. Isaacs/FRANC (Foundation for Aid for Needy Children) at 935 South Main Street (Bogie's Property). *Fee Waiver Requested*

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license for Charlotte R. Isaacs/FRANC with a fee waiver.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

C. Sanderson House/ Bryan Sanderson for 2011 Lodging House License at 1079 Main Street, Housatonic

**MOTION:** Alana Chernila to approve the 2011 Lodging House License for Sanderson House/Bryan Sanderson.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Discussion Main Street Construction Project

Deb Phillips suggested that a parking task force be created to look at current parking as well as parking after the completion of the project.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to create a parking task force that is comprised of merchants, building owners and residents to look at the current parking situation, being the parking situation during construction, and parking after the project is complete.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he will put together a Resolution outlining the duties of the Task Force to be presented at the next Board meeting.

Stephen Bannon asked to have another meeting before the Town Meeting to revisit the whole Main Street project.

Sean Stanton agreed that it would be a great idea for the people to catch up on the project and for the Board to see what the complete presentation looks like.

The dates presented were January 26, 2011 and February 1, 2011 (as a snow day) at 7:00 PM.

Stephen Bannon asked what the format of the meeting will be?

Sean Stanton replied that the Board should express why this project is important, explain the process and how the Board got to this point, where we are in the process, and where we need to go. He also said that they should explain what happens next if the Town does not go through with the project.

Stephen Bannon suggested that they go through the whole presentation and Sean agreed.

Sean Stanton asked that the presentation be 35-45 minutes total.

Nick Stanton suggested that Jon Dietrich re-print the 'print' (lay-out) of the whole project and have it posted in the Town Hall for reference.

Sean Stanton said that it should be in the Town's stairwell prior to the meeting and at the meeting site the night of the presentation.

Michael Ballon stated that the economic impact was not addressed at all. He said that if the Town decides to go forward, there needs to be a plan to help merchants. He also presented an e-mail from a resident regarding the project.

Stephen Bannon suggested that a fact sheet be created.

Deb Phillips said that the fact sheet should include some numbers regarding cost and a timeframe as to when certain parts of the project will take place.

Alana Chernila said that we should gather information from other Towns who have completed projects and also talk about the benefits of the project.

Deb Phillips said that they should also look at creative ways to draw people into the Town even during construction.

Sean Stanton said that they should talk about the cost of implementing the plan versus not implementing the plan.

Deb Phillips agreed to spearhead the information fact sheet.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Approval of Brownfields Tax Abatement Agreement between the Town of Great Barrington and Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire, Inc. for New England Log Homes, 100 Bridge Street.

Tim Geller stated that they 'unearthed' the signed Town MOU. He emphasized that the tax agreements take place because of contamination issues on a site. He also stated that they need an updated agreement and need to address current and future tax liabilities.

B. Approval of AFSCME Local 204 DPW Union Contract.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that the DPW Union Contract has been negotiated and has been ratified by the Public Works Department. He recommends that the Board approves the 3 year contract.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve the DPW Union Contract.

**SECOND:** Bud Atwood

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **9. SELECTMENS TIME:**

Bud Atwood asked if the warrant for the Special Town Meeting will be approved at the next meeting. Kevin O'Donnell replied yes.

Sean Stanton reminded everyone about the beard growing contest.

## **10. MEDIA TIME:**

None

## **11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Stephen Bannon, seconded by Alana Chernila, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cara Becker*

Cara Becker

Recording Secretary