

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011
6:00 P.M. – FIRE STATION**

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

Finance Committee

BUD ATWOOD
TOM BLAUVELT – CHAIRMAN
MARK LEFENFELD
ALICE REILLY – not present
JIM STARK – not present

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. JOINT MEETING – BOS AND FIN COM RE: FY 13 BUDGET POLICY.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell went through the changes to the budget policy point by point.

POINT 7: FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The change under #7, bullet 6 was discussed.

MOTION: Deb Phillips that #7, bullet point 6, should include only the first sentence. "Town Manager is authorized to submit a FY13 budget with the property tax levy as mandated by the State Law."

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Bud Atwood that #7, bullet point 6, should include only the first sentence. "Town Manager is authorized to submit a FY13 budget with the property tax levy as mandated by the State Law."

SECOND: Mark Lefenfeld

VOTE: 3-0

Point 7, Bullet 9

MOTION: Mark Lefenfeld to accept the amended version that reads "Authorize no new full time Town personnel beyond authorized levels for FY12."

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 3-0

POINT 8: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MOTION: Deb Phillips to strike what the line is through in point 8.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Bud Atwood to strike what the line is through in point 8.

SECOND: Mark Lefenfeld

VOTE: 3-0

POINT 9 – TAX LEVY

MOTION: Steve Bannon to keep only the first sentence and strike the line in bold print.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Mark Lefenfeld to keep only the first sentence and strike the line in bold print.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 2-1 (Bud Atwood against)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to adopt FY 13 budget policy as amended

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Mark Lefenfeld to adopt FY 13 budget policy as amended

SECOND: Bud Atwood

VOTE: 3-0

Kevin O'Donnell reviewed the dates of the budget workshops and said that there will not be a workshop on February 20 (President's Day) and there will be a workshop on February 21 instead.

Deb Phillips said that there is a Master Plan Committee meeting on February 23.

All agree to cancel the meeting on February 23.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Finance Committee

- March 22, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve March 22, 2011 minutes

SECOND: Mark Lefenfeld

VOTE: 3-0

- September 7, 2011 Joint Meeting

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve September 7, 2011 minutes

SECOND: Mark Lefenfeld

VOTE: 3-0

- September 14, 2011 Joint Meeting

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve September 14, 2011 minutes

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 2-0-1 Mark Lefenfeld abstains

- October 11, 2011 Joint Meeting

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve October 11, 2011 minutes

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 2-0-1 Mark Lefenfeld abstains

Board of Selectmen

- September 14, 2011 Joint Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve minutes

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Andrew Blechman abstains

- October 5, 2011 Strategic Planning Priorities Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve minutes

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

- October 11, 2011 Joint Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve October 11, 2011 minutes with amendment as discussed

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Andrew Blechman abstains

4. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

Deb Phillips asked if the Boy Scouts are out of the old Fire Station.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that the last e-mail he received from Ed McCormick said that they were moving out. Kevin said that he offered the new Fire Station as an alternate location for the scouts.

Deb Phillips asked about the progress on a 'building use' policy.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that he is working on it and it will be given to the Selectmen by the last meeting of the year.

Deb Phillips spoke about the Fire District construction that will take place next year and said that she would like to see us working together regarding planning and communication during this process.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that the Chamber of Commerce has formed a mini-committee to work with the Town on the Main St. Reconstruction Project. He will meet with them when the formation is complete and invite a representative of the Fire District to attend as well.

Alana Chernila asked if there is a way to open up the communication.

Sean Stanton said that they are a separate entity but there could be better coordination.

Joe Sokul said that communication with the Fire District has increased tremendously, which has helped in day to day operations.

Deb Phillips said that she would like to hear about projects ahead of time so the Board can have a sense of what is going on.

Steve Bannon said that this could be a great 'dry run' for the Town and the downtown merchants to work together on a smaller project and show how the bigger project can be handled.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. COMPARISON OF SINGLE FAMILY AVERAGE VALUES. (DISCUSSION)

Kevin O'Donnell presented the Board with information from about 32 cities and towns relative to tax rate. These reflect single family homes only. Williamstown has the highest tax rate and we are the 2nd highest.

Kevin reminded the Board to keep in mind the level of services that Great Barrington provides and that North Adams, Lenox and Pittsfield have a split rate. Kevin O'Donnell said that we are not as dependent on State Aid in comparison to other towns.

Chris Lamarre said that the average county tax bill for FY11 is \$2881. The average state tax bill for the same properties is \$4537. Chris said that the state ranking for FY11 shows us in the top third.

Sean Stanton pointed out that we are moving down in rank.

MOTION : Deb Phillips to declare a local emergency to health & safety pursuant to MGL C. 44 sec. 31 to allow for immediate deficit spending authority until other financing sources, such as emergency borrowing or appropriations from available funds, can be put in place to cover the spending and request approval from the DOR-Director of Accounts to authorize the liabilities the Town of Great Barrington incurs for the emergency purpose without an appropriation due to the snow storm that occurred October 29, 2011.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

Vote: 5-0

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

A. LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tom Blauvelt spoke on behalf of the Library Trustees and the Library Director Search Committee.

Tom said that the Search Committee has concluded its search and has forwarded 2 candidates to Kevin O'Donnell for interviewing.

Tom said, contrary to the misinformation that has been spread, both candidates have a Masters of Library Science Degrees.

Tom thanked Kevin O'Donnell, on behalf of the Search Committee, for his advice and assistance with parliamentary procedures and overall support.

Tom said that there will be no further meetings of the Search Committee.

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. ENORE & URSULA CEOLA FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT AT 131 HURLBURT ROAD.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve Driveway permit with conditions as set by the Conservation Commission

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

- B. HOLLY HAMER/TRUSTEES OF THE GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR DECEMBER 2, 2011 FROM 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM AT MASON LIBRARY, MAIN READING ROOM, FRONT ENTRY. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED.* (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Tabled until the November 14th, 2011 meeting.

- C. JENISE LUCEY/BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2011 FROM 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM AT 15 CRISSEY ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license with fee waiver

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

- D. LEE ROGERS/BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2011 FROM 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM AT BARD COLLEGE OF SIMON'S ROCK (DINING HALL), 84 ALFORD ROAD, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. HOLIDAY STROLL - UPDATE.

Ed McCormick said that this is the last event of the 250th Anniversary Celebration. He said that the Holiday Stroll will take place on Saturday, December 10 beginning at 3:00 P.M. It will conclude with a fire works display. A schedule of events for the day was presented.

- B. MONUMENT MILLS REVITALIZATION (MMR) PROJECT/NICK KELLY – PRESENTATION.
(DISCUSSION)

Stefan Greene, Walt Codnohufsky, Rob Hoogs, and David Guenette presented a thorough design plan for the revitalization of Monument Mills.

Sean Stanton asked if there is any information about the greater mill buildings.

The reply given was that they have reached out to the other Mill Building owners and to Steve Muss.

'There was a good response to the communication.'

Alana Chernila asked if this project was going forward sooner rather than later.

Stefan Greene said that they will meet with the DRT to get comments, with the BOS and Planning Board to get acknowledgement of merit and then apply for special permits. He said that their approach will be beneficial because they have control over the property with a team in place to move the project ahead.

Andrew Blechman said that the last time they met, Mr. Greene said that there would be a meeting with Mr. Muss. He asked if this is part of the bigger plan that Mr. Muss is presenting.

Stefan Green replied that there is no reason why their plan won't fit into the master plan. He said that they have cooperation from the other Mill owners. He commented that there is no formal agreement with Mr. Muss.

Steve Muss said that he was never presented with an agreement; only the Mill owners were. He said that Mr. Kelly's plan is meaningful and that they need to proceed. He said that his plan was to 'color the town'. He said good luck and congratulations to the Kelly team.

C. AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC)
RE: NEW ENGLAND LOG HOMES. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell said that he has just received important documents regarding this agreement. Kevin said that there are some issues that the Financial Coordinator pointed out and this paperwork was needed for clarification. Kevin recommended that they approve the agreement subject to the Town Manager and Town Attorney's further review.

Tim Geller asked that the Selectmen include in the provisional approval any change in the budget, which has to be approved by HUD.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he does not want to delay the process, but there are some monetary changes to be reviewed so he recommends approval subject to review.

THE BOARD AGREES TO MOVE THIS AGENDA ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING, NOVEMBER 14.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. HEALTH AGENT – TECHNICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING INFORMATION AT HOMELAND SECURITY. (DISCUSSION)

Mark Pruhenski said that he went to the FEMA base training in Alabama, which was mostly hands on. He said that it was very informative and he would go again.

B. BOS – APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER TO THE BERKSHIRE PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to appoint Claudia Ryan as an associate member to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. BOS – RECOMMENDATION TO THE ZBA ON THE SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION OF EDWARD S. LUCAS, LINDA A. LUCAS AND JENNIFER A. LUCAS TO BUILD AN ADDITION ONTO A PRE-EXISTING, NON-CONFORMING DWELLING AT 32 SUMNER STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to send a positive recommendation to the ZBA on the special permit application

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 5-0

D. REPORT FROM THE DOWNTOWN PARKING TASK FORCE.

Bud Atwood presented the recommendations made by the Parking Task Force.

Bud Atwood stated that there are 975 parking spots in town with most of them being private.

There was discussion about the 2 hour parking limit.

Steve Bannon suggested that overnight parking remain and to clear the cars out in the morning.

Bud Atwood presented a board designed with parking solutions that could be put on the website or in kiosks. He suggested that they could also be mounted on the side of buildings.

Alana Chernila asked if there was discussion about paying for parking.

Bud Atwood responded that the Task force felt that it didn't seem like it would work. He said that it may be possible to have the 2 upper lots with kiosks.

Sharon Gregory said that they will observe the changes that will be made and re-assess in the future.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to accept the recommendations of the Parking Task Force with the exception of overnight parking

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

Kevin O'Donnell said that money has been put aside for signs.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to make the 2 parking spots behind the entrance to Gorham and Norton's 30 minute spots.

SECOND: Deb Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

10. SELECTMEN'S TIME

Alana Chernila announced that she will not have office hours any longer. She said that she feels that communication between the Board and residents has increased. She encouraged people to email, attend meetings or call.

Alana spoke about the closing of the BCAC location. She said that BCAC is looking for South County Board members.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he spoke to the Vice Chair of BCAC who said that they are restructuring. He said that the Board will now include 1/3 public, 1/3 low income, and 1/3 private individuals.

Kevin said that CHP and Construct will have hours. Both of these organizations will accept applications for fuel assistance. He said that the Senior Center will now offer one day a month – Thursday; 9a.m. – 12 a.m. in which people can book an appointment with someone from BCAC to apply for fuel assistance.

Alana Chernila said that it seems as though many services have been lost at a time when people need them the most. She asked the Board to be aware of this and see if there are any needs that the Town can help with.

Andrew Blechman asked if Mr. Muss has stepped down from making the Master Plan because Mr. Kelly wouldn't work with him. He said if so, it is a great loss to Great Barrington and Housatonic.

11. MEDIA TIME:

Trevor asked when the parking changes will be in effect.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that it will take 4 to 6 weeks to put up signs and get the information out.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:05 p.m. to go into Executive session and not to return to Public session.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RE: SALE OF OLD FIRE STATION

(M.G.L. c.30A, sec.21(a)6.)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to adjourn to Executive session as stated above

SECOND: Deb Phillips

ROLL CALL VOTE:

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

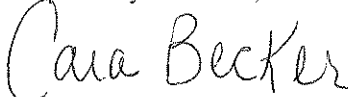
ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

VOTE: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary