

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013  
6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**           STEPHEN BANNON  
                          ANDREW BLECHMAN  
                          ALANA CHERNILA  
                          DEB PHILLIPS  
                          SEAN STANTON  
                          KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER – not present

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. DISCUSSION RE: INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR THE TOWN MANAGER CANDIDATES.**

Michael Wise, Chairman of the Town Manager Screening Committee, presented the three finalists to the Board of Selectmen. They are Ronald San Angelo former Town Manager (Mayor) for the Borough of Naugatuck Ct., Michael Sullivan former Mayor of Holyoke and Jennifer Tabakin former Office of Deputy Mayor for Economic Development/ Capital Project Development for New York City Office of the Mayor.

Deb Phillips thanked the screening committee for their service.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to extend the contract of the Collin Center until the proposed full length of the contract.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

The Collin Center thanked the Selectboard for choosing them and Mary Aicardi said that she will be of service to answer any questions that they may have.

Mary suggested a formal interview of the finalists with her guidance in regards to the questions. She said that other towns also have coffee hours for the candidates to meet with the department heads and suggested a tour of Great Barrington.

Mary said that the same questions should be asked of all candidates to ensure fairness, however, there can be specific follow-up questions based on their resumes.

Deb Phillips read her proposal of the breakdown of the day with the candidates. Deb suggested that Christine Ward and Chris Rembold act as the tour guides.

It was suggested that 3x5 index cards be available so that people can write their questions down. The Selectboard can then decide if they are going to ask the question of the candidate.

Peter Dillon, Superintendent of Schools, said that anyone that has gotten this far in the process won't interview poorly, so the Selectboard needs to go deeper. He suggested that the Selectboard use the 'in-box' method where the Selectboard would think of approximately 20 challenges that could take place. The candidates will be given some time to prioritize these items in order to see what their priorities and assumptions are. Peter said that there could be 45 minutes to an hour allotted for the formal interview and one hour for the 'in-box' activity. The questions should line up with the Selectboards vision for what the position may be.

There was discussion about the schedule.

The schedule was planned as follows:

8:30 am – 10:00 am tour

10:00 – 11:30 meeting with department heads

11:30 – 12:00 coffee with the Selectboard

12:00 – 1:00 lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Public time in the library

2:00 – interviews

All agree to send their suggested questions to Deb Phillips to compile.

Peter Dillon said that he will share the school in-box questions that were used in their interview process as a model.

Michael Wise said that he will share questions that were asked in the screening process; indicating which were good and which were “duds.”

Alana Chernila will ask Kate Deviny if the library meeting room is available on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30.

Mary from the Collin Center will invite the candidates.

All agree to change the Calendar of meetings to:

March 11 – All day candidate interviews

March 12 – 6:00 Deliberations

March 13 – 7:00 Regular BOS meeting

March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting – cancelled

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. January 30, 2013 Special Sustainability Meeting

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the January 30, 2013 special sustainability meeting minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

B. February 11, 2013 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the February 11, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 Steve Bannon abstained as he was not present for this meeting

### **4. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

A. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR.

Nothing discussed

Selectmen scheduled meetings were changed – see section 2

B. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Alana Chernila thanked those who reached out via E-mail and phone in support of Selectmen compensation.

### **5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Town Manager not present

### **6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

A. BRUCE CASTINO – UPDATE RE: FIRE HOUSE PROJECT.

Bruce Castino said that there has been a great deal of bullying by Town Officials. He added up the time spent by town officials bullying. It added up to 500 hours.

Bruce said that Kevin O'Donnell stated in a past meeting that the financials in his case were all taken care of and said there was no name calling. Bruce then said that Bud Atwood responded by saying 'if I didn't like the contract, sue the town.'

Mr. Castino stated that he has documentation, witnesses, etc. of what took place, and how he was bullied. He is looking forward to sitting down with the Selectboard to end the situation.

Michelle Loubert asked if the Town Manager candidates will also tour Housatonic.  
Sean Stanton said that Housatonic will definitely be included.

David Magadini said that he saw the town financial report which included the town management order of government. He said that it is incorrect. David showed the current breakdown and gave the selectboard his version of the breakdown.

#### **7. LICENSES OR PERMITS: None**

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN FY 2014 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

Joe Sokul said that this is an ongoing process. It is a fair price and continued participation is warranted.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to participate in the FY 2014 Household hazardous waste collection

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

##### **B. REFERRAL OF PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT (REVISION TO SECTION 9.5.6 OF THE ZONING BYLAW) TO THE PLANNING BOARD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to refer this item back to the planning board.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

##### **C. BOS – CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT MGL. c.39, s.23D, THE “MULLIN RULE” AT THE MAY 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to put item 8c on the warrant and add the Selectboard, Conservation Commission, ZBA, Board of Health and Planning Board.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

##### **D. DISCUSSION – RESCHEDULING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS PER EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.**

**MOTION:** Alana Chernila to keep the election schedule as presented by the Town Clerk

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

#### **9. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **A. 9<sup>TH</sup> EXTENSION TO THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR THE CASTLE STREET FIRE STATION.**

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to approve the Ninth extension to the purchase and sale agreement.

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

##### **B. BOS – VOTE TO AUTHORIZE TOWN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION OF ELECTRICITY PROGRAM WITH HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to participate in the municipal aggregation of electricity program

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

Andrew Blechman said that he hopes, in the future, that other towns will join our program.

C. DISCUSSION RE: POSITION ON POSSIBLE GUN REGULATORY LEGISLATION – NEXT STEPS.

Alana Chernila said she spoke to Joe Aberdale for a long time and it was very informative. She then met with citizens who got together to structure a regulation for the town. Alana said that several people are interested in talking about this. She suggested that the Selectboard look at what other towns are doing. Alana suggested that the conversation be formed around the issue of gun safety.

Steve Bannon asked Alana Chernila to talk to Kevin O'Donnell about creating a committee that has a specific charge that she has outlined. Alana Chernila agreed to speak to Kevin.

D. DISCUSSION RE: LOCATION OF 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.

Sean Stanton said that his skepticism about the location for the Town Meeting at the Mahaiwe was 'squashed' when he saw the space. He said it is comfortable and there is good opportunity for interaction. Sean said that there needs to be further conversations about moving vehicles from town parking lots to create as much parking as possible. He also mentioned the possibility of someone directing traffic.

Andrew Blechman said that it was a very positive meeting. The town moderator and town clerk were positive and enthusiastic. Andrew said that he also spoke to Pastor Van who seemed relieved and optimistic. Pastor Van wants to make sure that seniors have easy access. Andrew said that he has spoken to George Ryan of Wheeler and Taylor, who is unsure if he will make his parking lot available that evening since he has never been given a chance to bid on town insurance. Andrew thanked all those who are making their parking lots available.

Sean Stanton suggested that a banner be put up across Main Street about town meeting.

Steve Bannon spoke about the 'mini town-meeting' that is planned for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Fire Station.

Andrew Blechman said that it should be televised. He reminded the Selectboard that they need to ask the T.V. Station in order for it to be televised.

Andrew suggested creating a one page 'cheat sheet' explaining what the warrant articles are.

There was extensive discussion regarding the need for babysitting and the details surrounding it.

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to have volunteers run child care for the town meeting, or else don't have childcare.

**SECOND:** Andrew Blechman

**VOTE: 2-3 Alana Chernila, Deb Phillips and Sean Stanton against**

**MOTION FAILED**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to allocate up to \$200 for town meeting night to somebody who is willing to take responsibility for creating an environment where parents can leave their children for a period of time during town meeting.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE: 4-1 Steve Bannon against**

Steve Bannon said that he will follow up with Superintendent Peter Dillon about the key club or Early Education class providing child care during town meeting.

Andrew Blechman said that he is working with the High School to put together civic classes and is encouraging kids to come and vote.

E. DISCUSSION RE: MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

Joe Sokul said that they are still receiving comments on the 100% plan.

He stated that the load center is not equipment provided by National Grid; it is part of the contract and will be bid as part of such.

Manhole covers are being removed near Rite Aid and Gorman and Norton.

Joe said that he is waiting for utility cost from the state on all of the utilities that have to be removed as part of the project. Once these numbers are known, the plan can be looked at to see if anything needs to be cut. Joe said that construction may begin this Fall 2013.

Easement work has begun.

Steve Bannon suggested that any further discussion about the load center happen after it is determined if we need it.

**10. SELECTMEN'S TIME:** None

**11. MEDIA TIME:** David Scribner asked Joe Sokul what the optional items are in the Main Street Reconstruction plan.

Sean Stanton replied that they are things like bike racks and benches. However, these things are now a part of the items that are paid for by the state.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker".

Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary