

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

SEAN STANTON, CHAIR

DEBORAH PHILLIPS

STEPHEN BANNON

DANIEL BAILLY

ANDREW BLECHMAN

TOWN MANAGER: JENNIFER TABAKIN

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. Town Manager's Report:
Jennifer asked to begin with the adoption of the FY 15 Budget.
3. New Business:

A. BOS Adoption of FY 15 Budget and Vote:

Total General Government:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$1,317,442.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Total Public Safety:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$2,036,943.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Total Department of Public Works:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$1,967,957.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Total Public Health:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$75,513.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Total Community Services:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$374,207.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Total Cultural/Recreation:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$570,585.
SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 5-0

Total Insurance:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$1,825,369.
SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 5-0

Total Debt:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$1,767,380.
SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 5-0
(Borrowing \$857,280 with the interest \$143,280)

Total Retirement:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$743,658.
SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 5-0

Total Misc/Fund Transfers:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$7,433.
SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 5-0

Total Wastewater Treatment Plant:

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$1,845,055.
SECOND: Stephen Bannon
VOTE: 5-0

D. WARRANT ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 5 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$129,400 or any other sum for the following General Fund Capital Items and appropriate \$450,000 or any other sum from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash for sewer fund capital items.

A general discussion was made on the Bike path feasibility study noting the line item should be under the DPW. Stephen Bannon noted that parks have been systematically improving the parks equipment and installing sewer and water lines at Olympian Meadows.

The park improvements line item of \$45,000 is for the following:

\$10,000 for woodchips

\$10,000 for infrastructure to the skate park

\$5,000 for replacement of aging playground equipment at Grove Street Park

\$5,000 Accessibility Renovation at Memorial Field

\$10,000 for Playground equipment at Olympian Meadows

\$5,000 for Playground equipment at Housatonic Playground

Jennifer noted that the Bike path feasibility is to do a study to see if the bike path, which is a priority in the master plan, is feasible and what the details of that would be. That way we would have an estimate as to how much it would cost and the work is in place so you can apply for grants. It was suggested to put the Bike path feasibility in DPW rather than Parks.

VOTE ON ALL BUDGET RELATED ARTICLES (1-12) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF #9 WHICH IS THE BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend all budget related articles with the exclusion of Article 9 – Berkshire Regional Hills School District.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 9:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$12,113,258 for the operating assessment and \$499,905 for the capital assessment for a total of \$12,613,163 of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District or take any other action relative thereto.

Jennifer noted that she sent a draft letter to the Stockbridge and West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen to develop a method to reconcile any differences between the amount we have estimated as a minimum local contribution and the final amount of the minimal contribution and to express our interest in making sure the state can give us the actual numbers early to avoid the reconciliation issue. The second thing was to start a process to review the regional agreement. Stephen Bannon noted that is a Selectmen's decision and should be on a future agenda.

The third thing is to have a meeting with Town of Great Barrington and the Superintendent of the School District to go through a comprehensive list of ways we could potentially share services. We have begun that with the operations director at the school and we are looking into the details of our pricing of electricity, energy, the way we purchase gasoline, etc.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend \$12,613,163 for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District assessment.

SECOND: Andrew Blechman

VOTE: 3-2 – Dan Bailly and Stephen Bannon voted against.

Jennifer noted that there is a ballot question about putting an exemption on the Community Preservation Act for class 3 commercial properties and class 4 industrial properties. This was voted on last year at town meeting and approved, but the process is that it has to go to a ballot question. The reason it wasn't in the initial approval of the CPA in 2012 is because this commercial exemption was not an option to vote on it at that time. (Page 2: of the warrant). The \$100,000 exemption is already there for the residential property but not the commercial and industrial property.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to add this to the ballot.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 13

To streamline the existing process for requesting deviations from parking and loading regulations to avoid the potential need for two separate special permit applications and different granting authorities. If you have a special permit pending you are allowed to ask for your parking approval at the same time. Currently you would have to have two separate hearings on the two issues. Chris Rembold noted that the Planning Board had a public hearing on all the zoning articles and unanimously recommended.

MOTION: Andrew to recommend.

SECOND: Deborah Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 14:

To waive room limits in the case of redevelopment or reuse of historic structures.

MOTION: Andrew to recommend.

SECOND: Deborah Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 15:

To allow two family dwelling units by right as recommend by the Master Plan.

MOTION: Andrew to recommend.

SECOND: Deborah Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 16:

To allow accessory dwelling units by right, and as an accessory to two-family uses. Currently ADU's are permitted by right only in R2 and R4 and only when they are accessory to a single family dwelling unit.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 17:

The Purpose of the amendment is to clarify which water bodies are subject to the 300 foot or 500 foot regulations. The existing definition is unclear and appears to assign both distances to anything upstream of the drinking water supply gallery.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 18:

To provide for the placement of registered medical marijuana dispensaries in accordance with the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana Act in suitable locations in the Town.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 19:

To amend the Town Charter by replacing the existing charter, as set forth in chapter 184 of the Acts of 1992 with a new charter in the form set forth in the report of the Charter Review Committee.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 20:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 4, Article III of the Town bylaws, in order to reduce the membership of the Great Barrington Conservation Commission from seven to five members.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 21:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into renewable energy purchase and/or net metering credit purchase agreements, including solar energy and related net metering credits for terms of more than three years.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 22:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 35 of the Town bylaws, Section 35-6 in order to increase the membership of the Parks and Recreation Commission from seven to nine members.

MOTION: Deborah Phillips to recommend.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

PETITION ARTICLES:

Article 23: That the Town develops a scope for the study of feasibility and impact of concerting the present flat fee billing system for Great Barrington sewer users to a system based primary on actual metered water consumption.

Article 24: for the Town of Great Barrington to accept a portion of the way known as Kalliste Hill and the way known as Omega Road. Attorney Richard Dahoney was present to update the board on the petition article. He noted there was already a public hearing and it was fully reviewed by Joe Sokul. There is a punch list of things that need to be done and the understanding was that it had to be done by town meeting. He noted due to weather conditions and the yet to commence construction season we are anticipating that that may be a major problem. He spoke to the Town Manager about passing over the vote until the next town meeting thereby giving them the entire construction season. There is also the potential of a performance bond. It was

advised that they are not ready for the town meeting vote. The selectmen's office is checking to see if it could be pulled from the warrant.

Article 25: To move the Great Barrington Town Meetings back to Monument Mountain Regional High School.

**B. BACKGROUND ON NEW PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES:
THE FOLLOWING WERE PULLED FROM THE WARRANT:**

Special Tax Agreement for Solar Renewable Energy – Jennifer said we have been briefed on a solar project that is being proposed by a developer who has purchased one parcel of land south of the paper mill in Housatonic and another site on Van Deusenville Road. He has approached the Town seeking a tax agreement. We are starting a discussion process with the developer and if we can come to an agreement, the process is that it would have to be approved at a town meeting. There is no agreement now.

The Civil Service age limit for Police Officers. We will be discussing the pros and cons of that during the year.

Home Rule Petition for Infrastructure Revenue/Gas Tax: Such a tax would be difficult to approve on a town basis because it would need to be passed on a state basis. The petition was to be able to appropriate targeted funds to support Great Barrington's need for money for roads and bridge repairs by adding a penny on to the gallon tax.

C. OTHER ISSUES/UPDATES

Wired West Request for Support – There was a request previously made to borrow some money and they want the Town to sign on. We did not get the full information.

There is going to be a hearing on the Municipal Electrical Aggregation. This is in response to a warrant that was passed in 2012 that had the Town enter into an agreement with Hampshire Council of Governments to aggregate the electrical service for the entire town. This doesn't involve town buildings. This involves getting a bulk rate price for the entire town. That means local residents and businesses would benefit from a reduced rate. It is not on the current warrant, but just want people to be aware of it. The hearing will be Tuesday, April 15th in the City of Northampton's Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. The municipal aggregation plan and notice of public hearing is posted for the Town of Great Barrington.

Update on Shared Resources with Berkshire Hills Regional School District – Jennifer noted it is ongoing, nothing definitive currently, but will be followed up.

E. Discussion – Format for the Mini town Meeting – The meeting is set for April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. It was suggested to have CTSB televise it.

Jennifer reviewed the Fiscal year 2015 Budget dated 4/2/14.

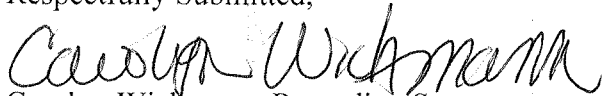
MOTION: Stephen Bannon to adjourn.

SECOND: Deborah Phillips

VOTE: 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Carolyn Wichmann, Recording Secretary