

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2014**

PRESENT:

SEAN STANTON, Board of Selectmen
DEBORAH PHILLIPS
STEPHEN C. BANNON
DANIEL BAILLY
ANDREW BLECHMAN
JENNIFER TABAKIN, Town Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 6:30 P.M. at Town Hall. The board adjourned to an executive session in the Town Manager's Conference Room to discuss contract negotiations regarding the sale of the Castle Street Fire Station. The board returned to the main meeting room for open session at 7:16 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, the board approved the minutes for the March 24, 2014, regular meeting. Mr. Stanton did not vote as he had not attended that meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, the board approved minutes for April 16, 2014, regular meeting. Mr. Blechman did not vote as he had not attended that meeting.

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

Mr. Bannon said some stores in town are charging 10 cents for paper bags and suggesting to customers that the money goes to the town. The charge is not a tax, he said. It is the stores' choice what is charged.

Mr. Stanton noted this is Mr. Blechman's last meeting before the annual election and thanked him for his service.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Tabakin commended Haupt Tree Co. for its Arbor Day work at Water Street Cemetery; thanked Christine Ward and Lake Mansfield volunteers for cleanup work there; and noted the DPW had raked and installed picnic tables at Lake Mansfield. She said Salisbury Bank will open its new branch at the corner of Main and Rosseter on May 5. She thanked Bob O'Haver for his work on broadband and wireless. She said the contract has been awarded for Olympian Meadows water and sewer lines and Housatonic sidewalk work has begun. She said a contract has been awarded for Ramsdell Library window restoration and bids are in for surplus police cruisers and other equipment. She said Mass. DOT has awarded the contract for the Main Street reconstruction but there is still no start date. She thanked Shakespeare & Company for bringing its program to Ramsdell Library.

5. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

STEPHEN PEARLMAN/ASTON MAGNA FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC AND LARKIN LTD. FOR TEMPORARY BANNER SIGN OVER RAILROAD STREET FROM MAY 21 TO JULY 21, 2014. Approved on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon.

STEPHEN PEARLMAN/ASTON MAGNA FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC FOR FOUR ONE-DAY BEER AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR JUNE 21 AND 28, 2014, AND JULY 5 AND 19, 2014, FROM 7 TO 9:30 PM AT DANIEL ART CENTER AT SIMON'S ROCK. Approved on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon. Mr. Pearlman said TIPS certification will be provided before the event.

GEORGE LAYE/GUTHRIE CENTER FOR THIRTY ONE-DAY BEER AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSES AS PER DATES PROVIDED AT 2 VAN DEUSENVILLE ROAD. Mr. Laye said six shows will feature Arlo Guthrie, the rest other performers for the Troubadour Series. Approved on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon.

GREAT BARRINGTON COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR MAY 18, 2014, FROM 8 AM TO 4 PM AT BUTTERNUT SKI AREA. Approved on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon.

CONTINUATION OF MAY 1, 2014 ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS — REAL ESTATE SIGNS — COHEN & WHITE, KINDERHOOK GROUP. Approved on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION. On the recommendation of Ms. Tabakin, and with the agreement of Conservation Commission Chairman Andrew Mankin, the board on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, appointed Kate Van Olst to the board. Mr. Mankin said the Conservation Commission is now less interested in a warrant article that would reduce the board's size. He said he is confident a seventh member can be recruited. Mr. Stanton said the Selectmen will move to pass over the warrant article at town meeting.

HOUSATONIC SOLAR 1/KIRT MAYLAND – UPDATE ON SOLAR PROJECT. Mr. Mayland said he proposes two projects, one on 65 acres south of Rising Paper/Hazen Paper in Risingdale (still owned by Neenah Paper) and one on 26 acres south of AmeriGas on VanDeusenville Road. The first is an old landfill site, the second is an old gravel bed where demolition materials have been placed. Fourteen acres on the first site will be used for a solar panel farm, 9.5 acres on the second site. The first site needs a special permit from the Board of Selectmen, the second a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Both sites will be cleaned. Both sites have very low public visibility, Mr. Mayland said.

He said he hopes to sell the energy credits to the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire Regional School Districts and the town of Great Barrington. He said the present rate is 17 cents per kilowatt hour. He said he will ask Great Barrington to be the host entity. He said the project will pay property taxes and he hopes to work out a long-term deal with the town. His agreement for the VanDeusenville Road property is 20 years. He will own the Rising Paper property and it should last for 50 years. He said the two projects

will cost some \$7 million, funded through private investors. He said the plan is to create a hiking trail from Division Street near the bridge northerly into that land. The matter is on the annual meeting warrant, Mr. Stanton said.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME

Mr. Blechman left some parting suggestions for the board: Look into hiring an economic development specialist; promote the town's assets to new businesses; push for a penny gas tax; consider higher fees on new construction; look into getting a grant to run gas lines to the Housatonic mills; push for a bike path. He decried the decline in civility in public debate. He said the town is in good shape.

10. MEDIA TIME

Ms. Tabakin in answer to a question said the closing date on the Castle Street Fire Station is May 8 or 9.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The board on a motion by Ms. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bannon, voted to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

**NEXT SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014,
AT 7 P.M.**

Bernard A. Drew

Bernard A. Drew
Recording Secretary