

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014
6:45 P.M. – EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

6:45 PM – Open Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – TOWN MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

MOTION: Deb Phillips to go into Executive Session to return to public session

SECOND: Steve Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE :

ED ABRAHAMS – yes

DANIEL BAILLY – yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

- **Appointment of Special Counsel for ZBA appeal (M.G.L. c.30A, sec. (3))**

MOTION: Steve Bannon to allow Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, to appoint Rich Dohoney as Special Counsel for ZBA appeal.

SECOND: Sean Stanton

VOTE: 5-0

7:00 PM – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER - The Selectboard returned to public session at 7:05 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 12, 2014 BOS and Fin Com Joint Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the March 12, 2014 minutes

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Ed Abrahams abstained

April 28, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the April 28, 2014 minutes

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Ed Abrahams abstained

3. REORGANIZATION

A. WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED SELECTMAN

Sean Stanton welcomed Ed Abrahams to the Selectboard.

B. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOTION: Dan Bailly to nominate Deb Phillips for Chair of the Selectboard.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to nominate Sean Stanton for Vice Chair of the Selectboard.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

4. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD

Ed Abrahams thanked the Selectboard for the warm welcome.

Dan Bailly said Massachusetts SBA has approved the school renovation committees request to re-propose the school renovation project. This will go to the school board on May 22. He encouraged all to attend the meeting.

Steve Bannon said that the School Committee has invited the Finance Committee and Selectboards of all three towns to attend the meeting.

Sean Stanton said that voter turnout was good but would like to see better results. He will share suggestions regarding how this can be achieved when the time comes.

Deb Phillips thanked Sean Stanton for being the Chair for these past years.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jennifer Tabakin welcomed Ed Abrahams and congratulated all those who won their elections.

Jennifer announced that Monday was the closing on the sale of the Fire House. She said that she is looking forward to seeing that building restored. Jennifer commended the future owner for his patience and perseverance.

Jennifer presented a resolution that expresses support and concern regarding the closing of North Adams Regional Hospital. She read the proposed resolution.

Sean Stanton suggested that there be an addition expressing the importance of Fairview Hospital, as well.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to support North Adams Regional Hospital but not to sign a resolution.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

Jennifer Tabakin will draft a letter expressing this support.

Jennifer Tabakin said that there is no definitive start date for the Main Street Reconstruction.

Jennifer thanked the highway department for their hard work filling potholes. 150 tons of patching mix has been used. The state has given additional funds to continue this work.

A. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- LEE ROGERS/CULTURAL COUNCIL – REVIEW OF GRANT AND AID PROCESS.

Lee Rogers gave some history as to how this process was created. The Cultural Council, in the recent past, has made recommendations to the Town Manager as to who would receive funds.

Deb Phillips suggested looking at what services are given by applicants and make decisions based on this information.

Jennifer Tabakin suggested moving the deadline in order to allow more time to receive applications.

She would also like to bring the recommendations back to the Selectboard for their feedback.

- MALCOLM FICK/SOLARIZE GB/EGREMONT PROGRAM – PRESENTATION.

Malcolm Fick spoke about Solarize Mass.

Great Barrington has achieved the highest tier in the program. 45 property owners have signed up so far.

Malcolm announced that there will be another informational meeting on Saturday from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Town Hall.

- PLANNING FUTURE AGENDAS

There was discussion about when to schedule particular items.

It was agreed that the Selectboard should talk about what they want to speak to the other towns in the school district about. After making an agenda, a meeting will be set with them.

All agree to a Strategic Planning Priorities meeting on June 2 at 6:00 PM.

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

- A. JACKIE WENDLING/AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY; RELAY FOR LIFE FOR TWO (2) TEMPORARY WEEKDAY OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES STARTING AT 6:00 PM ON JUNE 20, 2014 TO 3:00 PM ON JUNE 21, 2014 AT MONUMENT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the licenses

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- B. GATEWAY BERKSHIRE REAL ESTATE & SERVICES, LLC FOR 2014 REAL ESTATE SIGN LICENSE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the license

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- C. VFW JAMES A. MODOLO POST #8348 AND THE ADAMS-BUDZ POST #8183 FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MONDAY, MAY 26, 2014 IN HOUSATONIC AT 9:00 AM AND IN GREAT BARRINGTON AT 11:00 AM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to grant permission

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- D. NATIONAL GRID AND VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. FOR PERMISSION TO INSTALL ONE STUB POLE 14-84 AND ANCHOR ON TACONIC AVENUE BEGINNING AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET EAST OF THE CENTERLINE OF THE INTERSECTION OF OAK STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve installation with provision that the stump also be removed

SECOND: Sean Stanton

VOTE: 5-0

- E. SASA ARMOR/WALKER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, INC. FOR TWO TEMPORARY WEEKDAY OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014 FROM 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM AND SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2014 FROM 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM AT BOGIE'S RESTAURANT & PUB, 935 SOUTH MAIN STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to table until the next meeting

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. BOS – TO VOTE THAT THE MAXIMUM USEFUL LIFE OF THE LOADER APPROVED BY THE MAY 5, 2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IS TEN (10) YEARS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Steve Bannon that the maximum useful life of the loader to be

financed with the proceeds of the \$160,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed May 5, 2014 (Article 4) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c. 44 section 7 (9) to be 10 years.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

B. GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ANNOUNCEMENT OF ART SHOW.
Dan Bailly said that the Historical Society is trying to get people downtown during construction. Sharon Gregory announced that there will be an art show and sale at the Mason Library to celebrate the beauty and assets of Great Barrington. There will be over 25 artists and a silent auction.

C. ROGER FLEURY – PRESENTATION OF “SKILL TOUCH” VIDEO GAME.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

No presentation made

D. BOS – APPOINTMENT OF BOS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Sean Stanton to appoint Ed Abrahams

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

James Harris – 105 Taconic Ave – asked the Selectboard to reconsider the \$30 recycling charge. He stated that there is already a tax for ‘carting.’ He pointed out that the town is banning plastic bags for the good of the environment, so free recycling should continue this message. Mr. Harris said that this is the perfect time to decide on this issue since the stickers haven’t been printed for the new year.

Sean Stanton requested a break-down of fees in terms of revenue.

Jennifer Tabakin suggested looking at the big picture in regards to the transfer station.

Deb Phillips asked that Joe Sokul come to the next meeting to discuss.

James Harris also requested that the annual report come out sooner. It would be helpful to have a month before Town Meeting.

Deb Phillips said that it will be looked into.

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME: None

10. MEDIA TIME: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Sean Stanton, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary