

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011  
7:00 P.M. – REGULAR SESSION BOARD ROOM**

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

**7:00 P.M. – Public Session – Board Room**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. April 6, 2011 BOS & Fin Com Jt. Meeting (Public Hearing).

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve minutes from the April 6, 2011 BOS & Fin Com. Jt. Mtg.

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Andrew Blechman abstained)

B. May 23, 2011 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve minutes from the May 23, 2011 as amended

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Andrew Blechman abstained)

**3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

A. BOS – DISCUSSION RE: MEETING WITH VARIOUS  
BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

Alana Chernila asked if we are paying for time when we receive faulty legal advice.  
Kevin O'Donnell said that he will follow up with the Town Attorney about this.

Deb Phillips said a great job was done on the Ethnic Fair.  
She announced that there is a GB Challenge that includes 9 hikes led from the simplest to the hardest which is the 5 mile hike on the Appalachian Trail. She said that booklets are available to log hiking hours. Deb thanked the Great Barrington Trails and Greenways for making this happen.

Andrew Blechman said that he was at a conference in which speaker DeLeo was present.  
He said that he spoke to him in regards to the amount that the Town charges for 'choice –

in' students. He asked House speaker DeLeo if more can be charged. Speaker DeLeo said that he was unaware that this was a problem. Andrew suggested that the Board send a letter regarding this situation.

Sean Stanton said that the Board should talk to the School Committee about it at a joint meeting.

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

Kevin O'Donnell announced that the Town has officially launched a blog. It can be found at <http://gbplanning.wordpress.com/>

It will give updates on the comprehensive plan and this was at no cost to the Town.

He said that they are going forward with a P&S Agreement for the sale of the old Fire Station.

Kevin reminded dog owners to get their dog licensed. The fine for unlicensed dogs is \$50.

Kevin O'Donnell said that Bud Atwood has distributed hard copies of the survey re: the Main Street Reconstruction Project to the local businesses. It is in electronic format and posted on the Town's website [www.townofgb.org](http://www.townofgb.org) for business owners to complete. There is no expense to the Town.

A contract has been executed for the playground equipment that is being installed behind Town Hall. With the Town signing the contract, prevailing wage was required. The Town worked with Iredale to reduce the overall cost.

#### **A. PRESENTATION OF SENATE CITATION IN RECOGNITION OF TOWN'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.**

Kevin O'Donnell said that Senator Downing presented the Town with a 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation, which he gave to Betsy Andrus, Co-chair of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for display.

#### **B. BOS – DECLARE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF FIRE TRUCK FOR BORROWING PURPOSES. (VOTE)**

In order to anticipate borrowing, the suggested life expectancy of the fire truck that was approved at the May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting is 20 years.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon that the maximum useful life of the fire truck to be financed with the proceeds of the \$190,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed May 2, 2011.

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

#### **C. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL ON AGING (COA) BY LAWS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

In section 219-8 of the COA by-laws, it was asked that clause 5 be removed and changed to '3 unexcused absences resulting in the position being considered vacant.'

**MOTION:** Alana Chernila to approve the changes to the COA by-laws of section 219-8 as amended.

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

David Magadini said that he proposed amendments at the last meeting and asked what the status is of these amendments.

Sean Stanton replied that they did not have a chance to talk about it and the Board can't discuss it without a meeting. He stated that there were some interesting ideas.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. BOS TO CONVENE AS SEWER COMMISSIONERS - TO SET SEWER RATES FOR FY 2012.**

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to open public hearing

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

b. Explanation of Project

Kevin O'Donnell said that they have established rates for FY2012 which also involves the in-house transfer of \$ 65,200 to the General fund. He said that he is not proposing to raise from the current rate but the Board did ask for other options. He outlined the numbers if the rates were raised and how much extra cash it would bring.

Sean Stanton said the concern is that it impacts everyone. He said that our average sewer rate is much lower than the State medium.

Stephen Bannon said that if they increase the rate next year, they can try to level off instead of a big jump later.

Kevin O'Donnell said that the \$450 chart is such that they can maintain that rate until FY15 until they have to make an adjustment.

Deb Phillips said that the only way to not begin to increase rates now is that they will have to commit to raising it next year and commit to raising taxes next year. She said that she'd rather start paying now than have a huge bill later. She said that she would like to look at several budget items more critically to determine if we raise taxes next year.

Lauren Sartori clarified that the rates are based on dwelling unit not the number of bathrooms.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition

George Beebe – 615 South Egremont Rd. suggested that the Board wait and see if the economy improves and if it does, they can raise the rates. He said that there is no need to add on to the burden of the people during these times.

David Ryel – 85 Christian Hill Rd. – stated that a few years back, sewer rates doubled. He said that the residents are looking at increases again. He added that increases in property taxes and sewer rates are killing the town. He suggested that perhaps the Town can consider a monthly payment plan.

Michelle Loubert said that she agrees with the other two residents who previously spoke. She said that many people are wondering if they can afford to live in this Town.

She suggested that the Board give people a break and hold off on raising the rates in light of the property tax increase.

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to close the public hearing

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

Sean Stanton asked what it would cost to bill monthly rather than yearly.

Lauren Sartori said that it would not be possible. It would cost too much to bill monthly.

e. Motion re: Findings

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon that the sewer rates remain set at \$370

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon that the Board acting as the Sewer Commissioners vote to set the sewer rate at \$370 per EDU and approve the allocation of the indirect costs in the amount of \$65,200 for FY2012 from the Enterprise fund.

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

**7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

A. PETER DUMONT FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT AT 119 HOLLENBECK AVENUE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve driveway permit

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

B. GREAT BARRINGTON FISH AND GAME FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR JUNE 19, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM AT LONG POND ROAD. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED.* (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve license with fee waived

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

C. GREAT BARRINGTON FISH AND GAME FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR JULY 9, 2011 FROM 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM AT LONG POND ROAD. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED.* (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license with fee waived

**SECOND:** Stephen Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

D. BUTTERNUT BASIN INC./DAVID RYEL FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR JULY 2, 3 AND 4, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM AT 382 STATE ROAD (BASE AREA). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve license

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

E. BUTTERNUT BASIN INC./DAVID RYEL FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR AUGUST 20, 2011 FROM 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM AT 382 STATE ROAD (BASE AREA). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

F. BUTTERNUT BASIN INC./DAVID RYEL FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR AUGUST 26, 27 AND 28, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM AT 382 STATE ROAD (BASE AREA). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

G. BUTTERNUT BASIN INC./DAVID RYEL FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR OCTOBER 22 AND 23, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM AT 382 STATE ROAD (BASE AREA). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

H. BUTTERNUT BASIN INC./DAVID RYEL FOR ONE DAY SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR JULY 3, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM AT 382 STATE ROAD (BASE AREA). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

I. BUTTERNUT BASIN INC./DAVID RYEL FOR ONE DAY SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR AUGUST 28, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM AT 382 STATE ROAD (BASE AREA). (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

J. RAILROAD STREET YOUTH PROJECT/PAUL MC NEIL FOR TEMPORARY ONE DAY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR JUNE 21, 2011 FROM 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM AT MEMORIAL FIELD SKATE PARK. *FEE WAIVER REQUESTED* (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license with fee waived

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. REPORT FROM LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES – KARIN BEEBE.**

Karin Beebe spoke as President of the Library Board of Trustees on their behalf.

She stated that the Board updated the Library bylaws. She stated that the responsibility of the library doesn't fall under the Town Manager, and the Board would like to work together for the betterment of the Library.

Stephen Bannon asked who approves the changes in the Bylaws.

Karin Beebe replied that the Library doesn't answer to the Town Manager and the Bylaws don't have to be taken to the Town Meeting. She also stated that the Library Director is not on his list of responsibilities.

Karin Beebe stated that they would like to take back their 'power' to be an effective Board. Deb Phillips said that she would like time to read the packet of information that was presented by Karin Beebe. She said that the documents (Charter and the Bylaws) contradict each other.

Alana Chernila said that she was shocked in the manner in which Karin Beebe is coming to them. She said that she thought that the reason for the controversy is because the Charter is vague. She said that there are a lot of open questions that the BOS need to participate in.

Karin Beebe said that the Board of Trustees, all voted on the changes unanimously.

Sean Stanton said that they may need to go to the legislature or the Town Meeting, but the issue is solvable.

Karin Beebe said that this is a process.

Alana Chernila stated that the Board of Selectmen is a partner with the Library Trustees on this matter and that they will both figure out how to go through the process legally.

Sean said that he, Kevin O'Donnell, and Karin Beebe will meet with the Town's legal counsel and possibly the Library Board of Commissioners about this matter.

### **B. APPROVAL OF ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE EVENTS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve the road closures as requested

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

### **C. APPROVAL OF NEW 2010 CENSUS RE-PRECINCTING. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)**

This Re-precincting was done with a minimal amount of changes and only 78 people in total were affected. These people will be notified of the change by mail.

**MOTION:** Stephen Bannon to approve the 2010 Census Re-precincting

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**VOTE:** 5-0

D. BOS/PLANNING BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD ASSOCIATE MEMBER. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin advised that Planning Board is requesting to table the appointment after the Planning Board meets with the applicants.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to table the matter

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

E. BOS – APPOINTMENT OF DOWNTOWN PARKING TASK FORCE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell advised that 8 people came forward to be part of the task force and there is a vacancy for 1 more to make it 9.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the proposed list of parking task force members.

**SECOND:** Alana Chernila

**VOTE:** 5-0

F. SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT OPTIONS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Joe Sokul stated that he received alternate bids for sidewalk replacement. He said the cost of using concrete on Hollenbeck and South St. would be \$93,322 and for asphalt is \$40,597. He said that concrete looks better and lasts a bit longer.

Andrew Blechman said not to forget 'who we are.' It is the little things that people notice and said that the Town needs to keep its character. He suggested that asphalt be used for multi-use trails and connecting spots but to use concrete in towns.

Joe Sokul said that he is presenting the price for both, but he is not advocating total use of asphalt. He said that concrete lasts a lot longer in a sidewalk situation.

Andrew Blechman said that he is not against asphalt and suggested that the areas that are concrete should remain.

All suggest concrete on Hollenbeck and South Streets.

9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:

Andrew Blechman said that he attended a great conference that spoke a lot about the open meeting law. He said that he is pleased to see that we are doing everything that the conference spoke about especially the transparency that the Board focuses on.

Deb Phillips said that the Board needs to talk about the hours of operation of establishments serving alcohol; when the doors close versus the last drink being served. She suggested that this be put on the next agenda.

10. MEDIA TIME:

Eileen Mooney asked if there were any discussions about moving the handicapped crosswalk that is in the front of the post office in Housatonic to where it used to be.

Sean Stanton replied that they have heard both sides to this and said that Joe Aberdale, the owner of Housatonic Pharmacy prefers that it is NOT moved back.

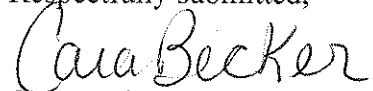
Andrew Blechman said that he heard this topic more than any other when he was talking to residents of Housatonic.

Kevin O'Donnell said that this will be a future agenda item.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Alana Chernila, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cara Becker

Recording Secretary