

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
ANDREW BLECHMAN
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

6:30 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

2. GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – TOWN MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

MOTION: Deb Phillips to go into Executive Session and return at 7:00 PM into Open Session

SECOND: Steven Bannon

ROLL CALL VOTE:

DANIEL BAILLY	-	YES
STEPHEN BANNON	-	YES
ANDREW BLECHMAN	-	YES
DEB PHILLIPS	-	YES
SEAN STANTON	-	yes

MOTION CARRIED VOTE: 5-0

- Union Labor Contracts (M.G.L. c.30A, sec. 21 (3))

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 13, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Andrew Blechman spoke about the Community Preservation Committee and said that they are working hard to get some things completed before the Town Meeting. Andrew will have an update soon.

B. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR.

The calendar was presented and accepted.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Jennifer Tabakin gave the following reminder:

- CITIZEN PETITION SUBMITTAL:

OPENS JAN. 27, 2014 @ 8:30AM; CLOSSES FEB. 5, 2014 @ 4:00 PM

Jennifer reminded all that there is an information session about the plastic bag reduction bylaw on January 29 at 10:00 AM – Town Hall.

On January 29 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Crissey Farm, there will be a Solar 101 meeting. This will give residents information about the benefits of solar energy and how to install solar panels on their homes.

Jennifer said that there was a good turn out by employees for the CPR training.

Mass DOT has opened bid for the Main Street Construction project. The Town Manager and staff will be meeting with the State for updates. Work will commence in the spring. Jennifer has had meetings with the Chamber of Commerce about initiatives around construction to keep businesses running.

Jennifer asked for a schedule change in the FY 15 Budget. She pointed to paragraph 4 in the Budget Policy that says that copies of the proposed budget be submitted by 2/7 to the Selectboard, Finance Committee and available to the public. The budget workshop is to be held 2/12. Jennifer requested that the 2/7 date be changed to 2/12.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to amend the Budget Policy to reflect the change of date.

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: nothing to report

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. FY 2014 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), APPLICATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD, TO ESTABLISH HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND TO CONDUCT DESIGN ENGINEERING FOR STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT. (Discussion/Vote).

(a) Open the Public Hearing

MOTION: Deb Phillips to open the public hearing

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

(b) Explanation of the Project by Town Planner

Town Planner, Chris Rembold, presented information about this grant application. Pursuant to the Community Development Strategy and Master Plan, the Town is seeking CDBG funds from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in order to establish a Housing Rehabilitation Program. This grant is due on 2/14.

Chris Rembold said that Great Barrington is taking the lead on the Housing Rehabilitation Program with the town of Sheffield. Such a joint application for a regional issue will increase our competitiveness for this grant program. If successful, the two towns will share the Housing Rehabilitation Program, with Great Barrington taking the lead. Both towns will also use CDBG funds for infrastructure design: Great Barrington for engineering design for stormwater improvements on Front Street in Housatonic near the mills, and Sheffield for accessibility improvements to town buildings.

The maximum award amount is \$1 million, which will cover the administration cost, the housing grant cost and the 2 infrastructure programs, as mentioned.

Per the grant agency rules, the Chairman of the Selectboard is, by default, the Environmental Certifying Officer and Relocation Officer. Staff recommends that the Selectmen designate the Town Manager with these responsibilities.

(c) Questions / Comments from Board

Dan Bailly asked if this is specific to 'slum and blight' areas only.

Chris Rembold responded that the Housing Rehab. Program will be targeted to Housatonic, which includes this area, but some work can occur outside that area. Sheffield doesn't have a specific target area so the whole town is a target.

Andrew Blechman asked how this will affect a homeowner.

Chris Rembold responded that a low or moderate income homeowner that needs repairs done (this would be mostly code issues but may also include some energy issues) would have an assessment done of the work needed and if the funds are rewarded, the owner would get reimbursed for the work completed.

Jennifer Tabakin replied that this will improve the housing stock.

(d) Questions / Comments from the Public

David Magadini said that he has reviewed the documents about this topic and feels that these projects are not for Housing Rehabilitation purposes. He said that ADA compliance and storm water projects are not 'housing rehabilitation.'

(e) Close the Public Hearing

MOTION: Deb Phillips to close the public hearing

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

(f) Motion / Support Grant Application

MOTION: Deb Phillips to support the grant application

SECOND: Steven Bannon

(g) Vote

ROLL CALL VOTE:

DANIEL BAILLY	-	YES
STEPHEN BANNON	-	YES
ANDREW BLECHMAN	-	YES
DEB PHILLIPS	-	YES
SEAN STANTON	-	yes

MOTION CARRIED VOTE: 5-0

B. BOS – DESIGNATION OF TOWN MANAGER AS THE RELOCATION OFFICER FOR THE
FY 2014 MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to designate the Town Manager as the relocation officer

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. NICK AND BIRDIE JOSEPH D/B/A THE BISTRO BOX FOR 2014 ANNUAL COMMON
VICTUALLER LICENSE AT 937 SOUTH MAIN STREET (IN FRONT OF BOGIES)
APRIL – OCTOBER FROM 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the license for 7 days a week; 10:00am – 9:00 pm.

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. BETSY ANDRUS/SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE CHAMBER FOR ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR MARCH 5, 2014 FROM 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM AT BERKSHIRE SOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER, 15 CRISSEY ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the license

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER/JENISE LUCEY FOR PERMISSION TO UTILIZE TOWN ROADS IN HOUSATONIC FOR 2ND ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK ON APRIL 6, 2014 FROM 7:00AM – 11:30 AM STARTING ON PLEASANT STREET, FRONT STREET AND VAN DEUSENVILLE ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to grant permission

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

D. SAUD GUTIC/PLAV, LLC D/B/A MARIO'S TUSCANY GRILL & BAR FOR 2014 ANNUAL COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE AT 47 RAILROAD STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the license

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

E. GREAT BARRINGTON FISH AND GAME FOR A ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2014 FROM 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM AT 338 LONG POND RD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to approve the license

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BOS – REFERRAL OF PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Chris Rembold and Jonathan Hankin reviewed each proposed amendment.

There will be a public hearing on March 13th about these items.

MOTION: Deb Phillips to refer the proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. BOS – APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Deb Phillips to support the Town Manager appointment of Jeff Cohen to the Conservation Commission

SECOND: Steven Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. DOWNTOWN PARKING TASK FORCE/BETSY ANDRUS – UPDATE/PRESENTATION.

Betsy Andrus said that the leading complaint from businesses is that there is not enough parking.

Betsy presented the 'spot saver' program. Local business owners will be asked to take a pledge to not park in essential spots. There will be alternative spots for the owners to park in.

The parking task force voted to change unlimited parking to 4 hour parking.

Betsy presented an update map to explain.

This plan will be utilized during Main Street construction and not beyond.

There will be an ad campaign and website with this information.

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini suggested that Town Hall stay open one night for the citizens who wish to submit a petition and can't make it during business hours.

Patricia Ryan, representing the Waste Water Setting Committee, said that they have not received a written response to their request for a copy of the RFP that was submitted, within 10 days.

Sean Stanton responded that there is some confusion because an official RFP was never put out.

Michele Loubert said, regardless of the confusion, there must be a response to a request in writing as per law and there was none. Michele referenced the meetings on October 28, December 9 and January 13 in which the term 'RFP' was used.

Jennifer Tabakin responded that she has been very responsive to all of their calls and E-mails and has been supportive of what they are working on. Jennifer said this information is in procurement and cannot be released to the public. She will put this in writing as per their conversation. She objected to the suggestion that she is not responsive; she and Joe Sokul have spent a lot of time with them on this matter. Jennifer said that she would like a cooperative relationship and mutual respect.

Sean Stanton said that they are within their right to request public records. He added that he doesn't feel that this is cooperative and this does not make him feel cooperative.

Pat Ryan said that they have been patient as they asked for the information back in December.


10. SELECTMEN'S TIME: None

11. MEDIA TIME: None

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary