

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012  
6:15 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

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

**6:15 PM** -

- **CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RE: SALE OF OLD FIRE STATION**  
(M.G.L. c.30A, sec.21(a)6).

**MOTION:** Steve Bannon to go into executive session as stated above to reconvene into public session

**SECOND:** Deb Phillips

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ANDREW BLECHMAN – yes

ALANA CHERNILA – yes

DEB PHILLIPS - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

**MOTION CARRIED: VOTE 5-0**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

January 18, 2012 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve January 18, 2012 minutes as amended

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

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

January 23, 2012 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve January 23, 2012 minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

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

January 25, 2012 BOS & Fin Com Joint CIP Meeting.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve January 25, 2012 minutes

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

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

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

A. LAKE MANSFIELD IMPROVEMENT TASK FORCE (LMITF)/DEB PHILLIPS – UPDATE.  
Deb Phillips reported that the Lake Mansfield improvement plan has 4 areas:

1. Water quality improvement and assessments – a storm water mitigation plan is being devised for Knob Hill Rd. and improvements to the boat launch area are also planned. Cost estimates will be completed in FY 2012. Deb said that the water testing at Lake Mansfield proved that the lake water was healthy all summer.

The task force acknowledges the need for an updated lake assessment.

2. Protecting the buffer zone and sensitive habitats – they are creating a mowing policy to protect sensitive habitats and control erosion.

3. Beach accessibility – use of the Lake Mansfield recreation area has increased and a speed ‘hump’ has been recommended to be put in at the crosswalk to slow traffic. The speed ‘hump’ will be put in April 2012.

Deb said that tail-head kiosks have been installed.

4. Public safety – talks to the degradation of the Lake Mansfield Road and the resulting danger to motorists and bicyclists.

Deb Phillips thanked all who have done the work.

Deb Phillips asked for a re-appointment of the Lake Mansfield Task Force and its members; Christine Ward, Ron Dlugosz, Deb Phillips, Joe Sokul, Jessica Dezieck, Nina Evans, Dale Abrams, Suzanne Fowle, and Chris Rembold, Amanda Sewall.

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the members of the Lake Mansfield Task Force: Christine Ward, Ron Dlugosz, Deb Phillips, Joe Sokul, Jessica Dezieck, Nina Evans, Dale Abrams, Suzanne Fowle, and Chris Rembold, Amanda Sewall

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

Alana Chernila asked for the calendar of meetings to determine which Board members will go to each meeting.

Alana said that there are 2 couples that volunteered for the Swap Shack and asked what the plan is to move forward.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he will contact the volunteers to get their thoughts.

Alana asked for an update regarding pawn brokers.

Kevin O'Donnell replied that he will meet with Police Chief Walsh at the end of the week to discuss.

Alana asked if any more information was gathered regarding the crosswalk in Housatonic in front of the Post Office.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he is getting information about the history of the crosswalk.

Alana spoke about the meeting on February 27 and said that the various Boards will need clarification. She suggested that the Boards be presented with a few questions that they should consider before the meeting, as well as, giving them details about what the discussion will entail.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he and the Chairman will create an E-mail.

Steve Bannon asked about the progress in regards to accepting credit cards at the transfer station.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he has the information and he will follow up with this.

Steve Bannon said that there have been discussions regarding a building use policy and asked when it will be complete.

Kevin O'Donnell responded that it will be completed at the end of February or the beginning of March.

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

Kevin O'Donnell said that there are still vacancies on the Cultural Council, Parks Commission, and the Town Charter Review Committee. Volunteers are still needed for the 'Swap Shack.' Anyone who may be interested is encouraged to get in touch with Kevin O'Donnell.

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

A. CLAUDIA SHAPIRO AND DANNY BELL. – not present

**6. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

- A. HONOR S. BLUME/GREAT BARRINGTON KENNEL CLUB FOR ONE DAY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 FROM 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM AT JAMES A. MODOLO VFW, 800 SOUTH MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230 (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- B. HONOR S. BLUME/GREAT BARRINGTON KENNEL CLUB FOR SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2012 FROM 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM AT JAMES A. MODOLO VFW, 800 SOUTH MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230 (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve license

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

- C. TERRI ANDERSON/RELAY FOR LIFE EAGLETON TEAM - REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD LUMINARIA CEREMONY FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE ON SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2012 FROM 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM ON THE FRONT LAWN OF TOWN HALL AND THE SIDEWALKS OF MAIN STREET. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve request

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE:** 5-0

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. TED CARMAN/MONUMENT MILLS REDEVELOPMENT – UPDATE.

Ted Carman, representing the Monument Mills Redevelopment team said that the feasibility study has been completed and this project is conceptually feasible. He said that there was a meeting with many of the Housatonic neighbors, which went well.

Mr. Carman said that leading market analyst; Steven Kay was hired to see if this project is financially possible.

The plan includes market-grade apartments, as well as, affordable units.

One foreseeable problem is the lack of gas in the streets. This is a big feasibility issue and he asked for the Board's help with this. Ted said that water is also a concern, but gas is the largest concern.

Sean Stanton said that research should be done regarding getting more gas lines.

Alana Chernila said that she would like continual updates as they move forward.

Jonathan Hankin asked what amenities are being created for the town.

Mr. Carman said that the plan itself will be open with an area along the river and a park area. Housatonic residents may also be able to use some of the amenities such as the pool or exercise room.

- B. PWED GRANT FOR SIDE STREETS – RAILROAD STREET. (DISCUSSION)

An updated presentation was given regarding the Railroad Street plan. The sidewalks will be widened to 8 feet on both sides of the street, with a 21 ft. thru-lane. There will also be 8 ft. wide parallel parking.

Joe Sokul said that he has been in touch with National Grid who said that they will install new lights that would be more appropriate than building mounted lights.

Deb Phillips said that it is important to have a confident vision for the future since this project won't be implemented for 3 to 5 years.

Alana Chernila said the back area of Railroad St. is in need of work.

Kevin O'Donnell said going beyond the scope will keep us from getting the PWED money.

Joe Sokul said that he will ask for an extension and he will know if it has been granted by the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sean Stanton recommended inviting merchants to a meeting regarding this plan, if the extension is granted. The Board all agreed that there should be a larger discussion about Railroad St. and the future.

C. APPROVE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR FORMER FIRE STATION.  
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips that the Board approves the purchase and sale agreement between the Town and 20 Castle St, LLC for the sale of old Castle Street Fire Station, and executes the agreement upon signature by 20 Castle Street, LLC.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

D. BOS – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AT LARGE TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to approve the appointment of Patrick Fennell, Paul Gibbons, David Ryel, Michael Wise, Eileen Mooney and Ira Kaplan as members at large to the Charter Review Committee

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to add Sean Stanton as a member at large to the Charter Review Committee

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

Kevin O'Donnell said that 8 more members are needed and asked anyone who may be interested to contact him.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. BOS – RECOMMENDATION TO ZBA ON THE SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION OF ROGER G. IMHOFF JR. TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION INSIDE A GARAGE THAT STRADDLES A PROPERTY LINE AT 390 STATE ROAD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to send a statement that the Board of Selectmen does not have concerns about the special permit.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

B. AUTHORIZE ADOPTION OF HEALTHCARE PLAN DESIGN MGL chapter 32B sections 21-23.  
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips to invoke the law of the rule of necessity since the Board lacks a quorum because of conflict of interest of members. Specifically, the fact that gives rise to that conflict, is that members of the Board of Selectmen receive health insurance through the town of Great Barrington. The rule of necessity is being used to take a valid vote.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips that the Town of Great Barrington elects to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under MGL chapter 32B, sections 21-23.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

C. SPEED LIMIT/ROAD WEIGHT LIMITATIONS PROCESS. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Kevin O'Donnell said that there is a process to changing speed limit signs. The executive summary outlines the process needed to change a speed limit signs. A study would be required and approval by the State is also needed to change a speed limit sign.

Kevin said that signs can be added, but it is a process to change.

Weight limit signs are approved by the DOT.

D. REFERRAL OF ZONING AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD.  
(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips that the two zoning amendments presented to the Board be referred back to the Planning Board for public hearing.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

E. REFERRAL OF PROPOSED LANDOWNERS PETITION FOR ZONING AMENDMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

**MOTION:** Deb Phillips that the citizen petition be referred back to the Planning Board.

**SECOND:** Steve Bannon

**VOTE: 5-0**

Chris Rembold will check to see if abutters should be notified and Kevin O'Donnell said that he will post this information on the website.

**9. SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

Alana Chernila asked what happened to the recommendations from the Parking Task Force. She said that the recommendations were supposed to be in effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kevin O'Donnell said that there was a mistake on the sign draft that was made and it will be corrected.

The Board agreed that the wording on the sign should be changed from "restricted parking" to "weekend and evening parking."

There was discussion about changing the colors of the parking spots designation.

Deb Phillips said that she will follow up with the task force.

**10. MEDIA TIME:**

Eileen Mooney asked if the P&S agreement for Castle St. Fire Station has been approved by the buyer.

Sean Stanton responded that it has been approved and signed.

Trevor Jones asked if the Fire Station TIFF is contingent on the contract being approved.

Kevin O'Donnell said it is a condition in the contract and must be brought to the Town Meeting for approval. If it is not approved, we have met our obligation to the P&S agreement.

Trevor asked if the Board had any reaction to the time it took to sign the P&S agreement.

Sean Stanton replied that both sides are very happy to have an agreement.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Deb Phillips, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker  
Recording Secretary