

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT: WALTER ATWOOD
STEPHEN BANNON
ALANA CHERNILA
SEAN STANTON
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

DEB PHILLIPS- ABSENT

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Bud Atwood: To accept the minutes from September 27, 2010 – Regular Meeting

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

3. SELECTMEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/ STATEMENTS:

None

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nothing to report

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

A. Bruce Castino Re: New Fire Station Facility

Mr. Castino stated that he has given the Board 'study time' to review his situation that he regards as a breach of agreement. He stated that the Board requested information and agreed to meet with him about their findings. He feels that the information is incomplete and was hoping for a fair judgment. He stated that he feels that the Board is 'misguided' and said he feels that the Town Officials went 'above code and law.' He was hoping that they could all agree on a time factor to consider his concerns.

Alana Chernila stated that she has spoken to Mr. Castino about his concerns and suggested in the past that he write a clear explanation of events with a timeline for her review. She asked if he wrote that document?

Mr. Castino stated that he did not; that he had conversations with the Board.

Alana Chernila responded that she can only move forward if she has a clearly written statement regarding what happened. She asked him if he was willing to write the document?

Mr. Castino replied that he would write it, however it should be documented in Town Hall.

Bud Atwood stated that Mr. Castino should take what was offered and end this situation, or else, take us to Court.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that there was a settlement offered to Mr. Castino to put closure to this once and for all.

MOTION: Bud Atwood: to move that Mr. Castino accepts the settlement offer.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon for discussion

Alana Chernila re-iterated that she doesn't feel comfortable voting until she sees a written document with events, dates and people.

Stephen Bannon said that he needs to know what Mr. Castino is looking for in terms of dollars.

Mr. Castino said he is owed \$8,000 plus past bills amounting \$7000.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that the parties agreed to \$8000 to bring closure to the situation and to get a full release.

MOTION: Bud Atwood: moved that Mr. Castino accepts that settlement offer.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 3 – 1 (Alana Chernila opposed)

Rebecca Tamol-Kaye: Prospect St., Housatonic - She spoke in regards to the sale of the Housatonic School. She said that this is a 'quality of life' issue. She stated that residents really care about what happens. She indicated that a sale can't foresee perfectly what will happen to the property, so the decision must really be thought through. She suggested that we think outside the box and even consider moving the school.

Carol Bosco-Baumann: Hart St., Housatonic - spoke to the sale of the Housatonic School. She stated that the decision will affect the character of the Town. She feels that the area should be held as property for the residents of Housatonic in perpetuity. It should be considered an issue of longevity. She stated that she envisions a park with a covered pavilion, better parking, and green landscaping.

Carla Child, Housatonic - she stated that the Housatonic school green is a shared green area. She is concerned that if it becomes a housing development, it will lose the feeling of a shared space. She said that this will be an opportunity to open the school up for a Co-op with a training school.

Ronnie Cunningham: 1051 Main St., she stated that the school needs to stay in Housatonic.

She addressed another issue of the crosswalk between the Post Office and Aberdales having been moved. She said that people aren't using the crosswalk and it should be moved back.

Shea Potoski – Housatonic – She stated that much of the Great Barrington service industry lives in Housatonic. She believes that there needs to be an increase in the tax base and feels that by making the school into housing wouldn't help. She feels that

Housatonic should be made a destination location, in turn, increasing the tax base. She stated that Great Barrington has been able to save money because Housatonic received grants for street work. She said they saved \$750,000 on streets, yet they will sell school for less.

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Special Permit application of Dr. Sharon Bramson for a limited duration to operate a small kennel as a home occupation at 3 Stillwell Street, Great Barrington, MA.

a. Request for continuance to October 25, 2010 meeting

MOTION: Bud Atwood to accept request for continuance

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

b. Motion: to table

MOTION: Bud Atwood to continue the public hearing until October 25, 2010

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

Roll Call Vote

WALTER ATWOOD - yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

ALANA CHERNILA - yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

7. New Business:

A. Sculpture Now/ Ann Jon – proposal to present 2011 outdoor sculpture exhibition. Ann Jon – Executive Director of Art Now- She explained that Sculpture Now started their shows in the Botanical Gardens and then moved to the Norman Rockwell museum. They currently have shows in public areas in Berkshire Towns. They are proposing to come back to Great Barrington in 2011. There is a show currently going on in Lee and she invited the Board to take a look at the type of sculptures and their placement. There is no cost to the Town and Sculpture Now has liability insurance and insurance for the sculptures.

Kevin O'Donnell said that in 2011, the Town will be celebrating the 250th anniversary and the committee is working diligently on the plans. He suggested that Ms. Jon contact the committee to try to incorporate the show within the anniversary plans.

Ann Jon agreed to contact the committee.

MOTION: Stephen Bannon to approve Sculpture Now request pending 250th Anniversary Committee and Parks & Recreation Dept. approvals.

SECOND: Alana Chernila

VOTE: 4-0

B. BOS – Housatonic School Bid Proposal

Kevin O'Donnell stated that the Board tabled the matter 30 days ago because they weren't impressed by the bids submitted by CDC or BRIDGE. In the Executive Summary, he outlined a two step process:

1. Bring closure to RFP process.
 2. Direct Town Manager to create task force pertaining to best use of property.
- Stephen Bannon stated that there needs to be a timeline placed on this while the Board is in tact.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he wants the task force to take 6 months to collaborate and report back to the Board at that point.

MOTION: Bud Atwood to reject the 2 proposals and instruct the Town Manager to create a task force to report back in 6 months.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 4-0

Kevin O'Donnell encouraged anyone interested in serving on the task force to e-mail him.

C. BOS- Position Pertaining to Ballot Questions for November 2, 2010 Election.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he has received responses regarding the 40B ballot question from the other Boards. It is a split decision and he suggests that the Board rejects questions 1 and 3 because he believes that they would have an adverse impact on state revenues, which in turn, will have an adverse effect on Town revenues.

MOTION: Alana Chernila to follow the Town Manager's recommendation opposing the vote on all three ballot questions.

SECOND: Stephen Bannon

VOTE: 3-1 (Bud Atwood opposed)

8. SELECTMENS TIME:

Nothing to report

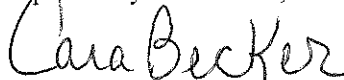
9. MEDIA TIME:

None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Stephen Bannon, seconded by Alana Chernila, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary