

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016
6:00 PM – JOINT MEETING SELECTBOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON - VICE CHAIR
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON - CHAIR

FINANCE COMMITTEE:
MICHAEL WISE - CHAIR
THOMAS BLAUVELT, VICE CHAIR
EUGENE CURLETTI
LEIGH DAVIS
WALTER ATWOOD

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

6:00 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Michael Wise called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2. Finance Committee: Approval of November 24, 2015 meeting minutes

MOTION: Bud Atwood to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2015 finance meeting

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

3. Recommendation on the FY 2017 Budget

Ed Abrahams said that the consultant line was cut from \$64,000 to \$25,000 which will mean that a lot won't happen as a result. A person is needed to help plan how to govern into the future.

Bud Atwood replied that \$25,000 will cover what needs to be done.

Bill Cooke stated that if the amount is raised and some is not used, it will go back into free cash.

Jennifer Tabakin said that this is to anticipate the future. Many things are being automated, which will pay off in the end. She said that it is important to work smart in order to keep systems in place.

Leigh Davis asked the Town Manager if this line will be in future budgets.

Jennifer Tabakin replied that she does not foresee that it will be.

MOTION: Ed Abrahams to increase the consultant line item to \$36,500.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 3-2 Dan Bailly and Sean Stanton against

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the General Government budget as amended.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 3-2 Dan Bailly and Sean Stanton against

Dan Bailly said that the Selectboard has a fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers to keep taxes low.

Sean Stanton said that the Selectboard needs to be succinct in the direction for the future.

PUBLIC SAFETY

There was discussion about a parking enforcement officer.

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to accept the Public Safety budget as presented.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Public Safety budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Burger reviewed his budget requests.

He spoke about the importance of maintaining equipment instead of being reactive to problems that may arise.

Weekly equipment checks are needed. Chief said that organization and coordination is most important and improvement is needed in this aspect. More education and training is needed. Additional policy creation is also needed.

MOTION: Will Curletti to amend the Fire Department budget to \$75,000.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 4-1 Bud Atwood against

MOTION: Bill Cooke to approve the Fire Department budget as amended by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

Bud Atwood said he feels that the Fire Department is well maintained now.

Steve Bannon responded that the volunteers don't have the time to do the work done previously.

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Dept. of Public Works budget.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Public Works budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

PUBLIC HEALTH

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Public Health budget.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Public Health budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

COMMUNITY SERVICES

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Community Services budget.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Community Services budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

RECREATION

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Recreation budget

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Recreation budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MISCELLANEOUS

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Miscellaneous budget

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Misc. budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Wastewater budget.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Wastewater budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

CAPITAL

Will Curletti said that he does not think the license plate reader is a necessity right now.

Michael Wise asked if 2 consoles are needed before we know if we will be the primary dispatch center.

Chief Walsh responded that that there are 2 911 centers and we need the consoles to back them up.

MOTION: Will Curletti to approve the Capital budget.

SECOND: Tom Blauvelt

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Capital budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

4. Vote on Financial Articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

MOTION: Steve Bannon to authorize a ballot question for Prop. 2 ½ in accordance with the Budget Policy, as follows: "Shall the Town of Great Barrington be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay costs of purchasing and equipping a new fire truck, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?"

SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 1

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #1
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #1
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 2

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #2
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #2
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 3

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #3
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #3
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Articles 4 – 8 were approved when voting on the general budget, as per Town Accountant.

Warrant Article 9

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #9
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #9
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 10 – Schools

Peter Dillon said that there has been \$150,000 in savings. The projected solar saving were incorporated into the budget.

Tom Blauvelt said that there has been a 48% growth over time.

Peter Dillon responded that state aid is going down and they do not have access to free cash.

He added that the regional amendment committee is in discussions about assessing the formula.

Dan Bailly said we have a great school system but the majority of the tax increase comes from the school. He said we can't fix the bridges that the busses go over if we keep cutting to offset the school budget.

MOTION: Will Curletti to send a positive recommendation on Warrant Article 10
SECOND: Leigh Davis
VOTE: 3-2 Bud Atwood and Tom Blauvelt against

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send a positive recommendation on Warrant Article 10
SECOND: Ed Abrahams
VOTE: 3-2 Sean Stanton and Dan Bailly against

Warrant Article 11

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #11
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #11
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 14

The Finance Committee previously voted on this article
MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #14
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 15

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #15
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #15
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

Warrant Article 16

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt to approve Warrant Article #16
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve Warrant Article #16
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

5. Citizen Speak Time: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The Finance Committee and the Selectboard adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary