

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015
6:00 P.M. – JOINT MEETING SELECTBOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

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

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MICHAEL WISE
BUD ATWOOD

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Sean Stanton called the meeting to order.

2. REVIEW FY 2015 AUDIT REPORT.

Pat Squillante presented the FY 2015 audit report.

It was reported that there were no journal entry corrections needed to be made. Ms. Squillante assured the Selectboard and Finance Committee that their decisions have been based on sound information given by Lauren Sartori.

There was a review of the General Fund. It was reported that there is very little in receivables. 3% of the net tax levy is tax liens and 12% is undesignated, which is very healthy at \$2.9 million.

Ms. Squillante explained that OPEB grows incrementally and will be recorded the same in FY16 and FY17. In FY 18 the recording will change to a one time recording instead of incrementally.

There was discussion about whether to fund OPEB. Ms. Squillante said that not having an OPEB trust is rare and suggested that we have something.

Lauren Sartori agreed. She said that doing so would demonstrate that we are serious about it.

Ms. Squillante suggested putting away as much as you can afford.

The management letter was reviewed.

There was a change made in the way that collections were posted and deposited. This was reviewed with the Collector's office.

A more formal risk assessment process is being developed.

A holistic view of roles and responsibilities needs to be taken while planning for the future.

Lauren Sartori spoke about the changes that will be made to Health plans to reduce costs.

7:00 PM – REGULAR SESSION

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve November 23, 2015 regular meeting minutes

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS: None

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Housatonic School – Update.

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, reported that much research has been done to determine purposes for the building. She said that the building has been shown to those with interest and will continue to be shown.

Jennifer said that she is trying to address any roadblocks that there may be to developing the building. She is looking at success in a broader view; not to just get the property on the tax rolls. She hopes for the successful and coordinated use of the building given its location.

There will be a Bridge St. project meeting on 1/6/16 at 6:00 PM in Town Hall. The Town Manager asked the Selectboard, homeowners and business owners to participate.

The tree committee has received a \$2000 grant from the Dept. of Conservation Resources.

The Town Manager reported that she has met with the Library Union about opening the Ramsdell Library on Sundays. They were agreeable. She asked for volunteers from the staff to work on these days but no one was willing to do so. Jennifer said that someone may be hired to do so exclusively or a volunteer may be used to do so.

Sean Stanton said that he would like to hear what the Trustees think about this.

Ed Abrahams said that the Trustees feel that this is moving in the right direction.

Steve Bannon said that the Selectboard needs to know how much staff is needed, what the cost would be and where the money would come from. He requested a presentation addressing these items.

The Town Manager responded that hours would not be reduced from other days and there is money available from unspent salary funds. This change was going to be a pilot and then a vote would be taken about it becoming permanent.

MOTION: Ed Abrahams to allow Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, to proceed with the pilot program as described during the months of January, February and March with the library open from 1-4, (shift would be 12:30 – 4:30), and to come back at the completion of the pilot to determine the future of the program.

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 3-2 Steve Bannon and Dan Bailly against

Jennifer Tabakin distributed materials relative to an Act to Modernize Municipal Finance, which was proposed by Governor Baker and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli asked the Selectboard to review it.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Continuation - Removal of a public shade tree at 97 VanDeusenville Road on Town owned property shown on the Great Barrington Assessors' Map 3, Lot 69. The tree scheduled for removal is a 33 inch diameter oak tree. (Discussion/Vote)

A. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon to re-open the public hearing

SECOND: Dan Bailly

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ED ABRAHAMS

DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON
VOTE: 5-0

- a. Explanation of Project
Joe Sokul explained that he contacted National Grid who has withdrawn their request.
- c. Speak in Favor/Opposition: None
- d. Motion to Close Public Hearing
MOTION: Steve Bannon to close the public hearing
SECOND: Dan Bailly
ROLL CALL VOTE:
ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON
VOTE: 5-0
- e. Motion re: Findings
- f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table
MOTION: Steve Bannon to accept the withdrawal of request
SECOND: Dan Bailly
ROLL CALL VOTE:
ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON
VOTE: 5-0

B. To discuss the submittal of and receive comments on the FY16 Community Development Block Grant Application for the Towns of Sheffield and Great Barrington. Residents and interested individuals from both Great Barrington and Sheffield are encouraged to attend and participate. Written comments will be received by the towns through December 29, 2015.
(Discussion/Vote)

- a. Open Public Hearing
MOTION: Steve Bannon to open the public hearing
SECOND: Dan Bailly
ROLL CALL VOTE:
ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
BILL COOKE
SEAN STANTON
VOTE: 5-0
- b. Explain the Project
Chris Rembold explained that the town will be going after the 4th Community Block Grant in order to continue the housing rehab program. This keeps with the Master Plan Strategy.

The Town of Sheffield will lead this grant. Our portion of the grant will be to continue the low and moderate housing program that is going on currently. We will also seek funds to complete an environmental assessment of the Housatonic School and assess how it relates to a Community Center.

There is a survey that the public is asked to fill out to assist in this process. Sean Stanton asked that the survey be sent out to the media to distribute.

c. Take Comments – None

d. Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon to close the public hearing

SECOND: Dan Bailly

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ED ABRAHAMS

DANIEL BAILLY

STEPHEN BANNON

BILL COOKE

SEAN STANTON

VOTE: 5-0

e. Vote to Endorse

MOTION: Steve Bannon to endorse the FY16 CDBG application.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to authorize the town manager to enter into the interlocal agreement.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to allow the town manager to sign any pertinent paperwork.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. George Laye/The Guthrie Center for a Change of Date on the One Day Beer & Wine Liquor License from November 25, 2015 to December 17, 2015. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the license with date change

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

B. **2016 NEW ANNUAL COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSES:** (Discussion/Vote)

- Hamilton Pereira/Batch 7 At 41 Inc. d/b/a Manhattan Pizza Co. at 490 Main Street

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Juliet Popper/Derek Sisco/Eat Drink Be Well, Inc. d/b/a The Well at 312 Main Street

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

C. 2016 NEW ANNUAL WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE:

(Discussion/Vote)

- Derek Sisco/Juliet Popper/Eat Drink Be Well, Inc. d/b/a The Well at 312 Main Street

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the license

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

D. 2016 ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS: (Discussion/Vote)

Jennifer Tabakin reviewed the annual renewal policy per M.G.L.

She also spoke about enforcement of licenses throughout the year.

- Common Victualler Restaurant All Alcoholic

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Common Victualler Restaurant Wine and Malt

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Common Victualler Wine and Malt Without Food

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Package Store All Alcoholic

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Package Store Wine and Malt

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Club All Alcoholic

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Common Victualler

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed with hour changes as noted

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Innholders

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Lodging House

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Amusement

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Bowling Alley

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Motion Picture

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Class II Auto

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Class III Auto

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Weekday Entertainment

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed with changes as noted

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Sunday Entertainment

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve those listed with changes as noted

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SB – To approve and authorize the Chair to sign the application to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for 2016 District Local Technical Assistance. (Discussion/Vote)
Chris Rembold explained that we receive DLTA funds from the State every year. This program administers to BRPC the funds to get things done.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to authorize the Chairman and Town Manager to sign DLTA applications.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

B. SB – 2016 Regular Meeting Calendar. (Discussion)
The meeting scheduled for 10/11/16 was rescheduled to 10/17/16.

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini questioned the meeting start time and said that he arrived at the start time and the meeting had already begun.

10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME:

None

11. MEDIA TIME: Eileen Mooney asked if there is a date for the open meeting law session. Jennifer Tabakin responded no.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary