

Jennifer Tabakin
Town Manager

E-mail: jtabakin@townofgb.org
www.townofgb.org



Town Hall, 334 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-1619 x2
Fax: (413) 528-2290

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

GREAT BARRINGTON SELECTBOARD and FINANCE COMMITTEE

JOINT FY 18 BUDGET MEETING

TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET

MONDAY MARCH 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM

PRESENT:

SELECTBOARD:

SEAN STANTON
STEVE BANNON
DAN BAILLY
ED ABRAHAMS
BILL COOKE

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

WALTER ATWOOD
EGUENE CURLETTI
JANET LEE
THOMAS BLAUVELT

TOWN MANAGER
TOWN ACCOUNTANT

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

II. FY 18 Budget.

Public Safety

- Police

The Town Manager noted an increase in the administrative assistant's salary. The position went from part time to full time and has taken on an outreach component. The additional outreach is meant to assist with community policing initiatives. There are two gentlemen going through the Police Academy training, leaving one additional full time vacancy for FY18. The increase in office equipment is to purchase new chairs for the conference room. Dan Bailly inquired about the subscriptions line. Ms. Tabakin listed the

subscriptions as Mass Law Book, MA Chief Association, Police Association, PAPMA is the accreditation software. Dan Bailly asked where overtime salary comes from. Bob Patterson, Town Accountant responded that overtime comes out of the regular salary budget. Mr. Atwood asked what the increase in additional equipment will be used for. Ms. Tabakin said that it will pay for additional body armor vests. Tom Blauvelt asked who provides the administrative support for Communications/Emergency Mgmt. Ms. Tabakin said that Karen Smith is responsible for these tasks. Pittsfield Communications is contracted to maintain and repair the radios.

- Fire

The Fire Department has requested \$15,000 for a consultant study in order to analyze quality of service, identify areas of improvement, and provide advice on how to move forward with long-term goals. Dan Bailly asked how many volunteer firefighters we have on staff. Chief Burger said there are 32 volunteers on the roster, but only about 15 are active volunteers. Dan Bailly asked what would be an ideal number of volunteers. Chief said 45 but he would be satisfied with 25 active volunteers. The FY17 budget requested two new full time positions, only one was funded. The second position was left out of this year's budget until the consultant study provides feedback on whether or not a second position is necessary. Dan Bailly raised the issue of maintaining the hydrants. Mr. Bailly asked to receive copies of the reports on repairs or flushing.

- Inspectional Services

There is an available position for a secondary building inspector. The Town Manager reported an enormous amount of growth in the Town resulting in more inspections and permitting. Additional staff in the Building Department is needed to help with the huge increase in development. Mr. Stanton agreed that this additional building inspector is important. It may prevent potential businesses from walking away from Great Barrington because they could not get a building permit. There is a vacancy for the weights and measures inspector, a stipend of \$3,700.

- Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer stipend has zero increase for FY18.

III. Citizen Speak Time.

None.

IV. Adjournment.

On a motion made by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly with a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jurczyk
Recording Secretary

