

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015
6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: STEPHEN BANNON
 DEB PHILLIPS
 DANIEL BAILLY
 ED ABRAHAMS
 SEAN STANTON - Absent

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

TOWN LABOR COUNSEL (BRIAN MASER) – VIA TELEPHONE

6:00 PM – PUBLIC SESSION – BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Deb called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to go into Executive Session for Library Union Negotiations [(MGL. c30A, sec. 21(3))] and Return to Open Session

SECOND: Dan Bailly

Roll Call Vote:

STEPHEN BANNON	-	yes
DEB PHILLIPS	-	yes
DANIEL BAILLY	-	yes
ED ABRAHAMS	-	yes

Prior to discussion, the Board consulted with Brian Maser, Town’s labor counsel to determine whether it’s appropriate to have a representative from the Board of Library Trustees in the meeting and whether Ed Abrahams can be present in his dual role as member of the Selectboard and the Board of Library Trustees.

Town Counsel’s Opinion:

The Chair of the Library Board of Trustees should not be present at the meeting. Only members of the Selectboard should be present, with the Town Manager and Counsel. Board of Library Trustee Holly Hamer left the room.

Jennifer Tabakin gave the background information

There was a request from the Board of Trustees to open the Ramsdell library on Sundays. The TM agreed to discuss the proposal in the future, with the Selectboard and union.

There was a second request to approve a film showing at the library on a particular Sunday, which is typically done on Wednesday. The TM did not give permission to hold this event.

On Sunday morning, the newspaper had an article that the library was opening which was a surprise because the Trustees said they had canceled the prior listing of the event as per the TM directions.

Due to publicity and to be considerate of the public, TM agreed to open the Ramsdell Library on that Sunday for this one occasion, instead of having people notified at the door.

TM reached out to Town Labor Counsel to discuss process for contacting the Union to negotiate regarding Sunday opening. Then the Selectboard Executive Session was scheduled to get direction. Prior to this Exec Session, the Union filed a labor grievance stating that the Town Manager did not bargain in good faith during contract negotiations.

Motion: Steve Bannon to direct the Town Manager to inform the Union that there will be no change in library hours without impact on bargaining.

Second: Dan Bailly

Discussion:

Direction was given to the Town Manager to settle the grievance and continue discussion with the Library Trustees regarding what they want before negotiating any possible changes with the Union.

Roll Call Vote:

STEPHEN BANNON	-	yes
DEB PHILLIPS	-	yes
DANIEL BAILLY	-	yes
ED ABRAHAMS	-	yes

Motion Carried: Vote 4-0

Statement from Brian Maser – Library should not open on Sundays until the time when everyone is ready to properly notify the Union to sit down and bargain

Motion: Dan Bailly to adjourn and return to public session

Second: Steve Bannon

Roll Call Vote:

STEPHEN BANNON	-	yes
DEB PHILLIPS	-	yes
DANIEL BAILLY	-	yes
ED ABRAHAMS	-	yes

Motion Carried: Vote 4-0

The Executive Session adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Deb Phillips, Chair