

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

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

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

7:00 PM – OPEN MEETING

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 24, 2015 SB and Fin Com Joint Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the March 24, 2015 joint meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the December 14, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

December 16, 2015 SB Special Permit Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the December 16, 2015 special permit meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

Bill Cooke announced that the 2nd Lake Mansfield Rd. community forum will be held at Monument Valley Middle School this Wednesday at 7:00PM.

Ed Abrahams said that the first Sunday opening at the Ramsdell Library was successful. This schedule will continue through March.

Ed spoke about the make-up of the Community Preservation Committee, which consists of a maximum of 9 members; 4 of which are mandated by law. He said that the positions that are flexible are 2 citizens at large, a Selectboard representative and a Finance Committee representative. Ed reported that the Community Preservation Committee recommended that it is kept as is.

Steve Bannon announced that the next School Regional Agreement Amendment Committee meeting will be held on 1/19/16 at 6:00 PM in the Stockbridge offices.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, asked all to sign up for the new reverse 911 system called CodeRed. You can sign up through the CodeRed icon on the main page of the town website. The South County Assist Resource List has been updated and is available on the town website. Jennifer reported that the financial transparency report will come out on the website soon. The Town Manager reported that the Bridge St. design meeting was very successful. There will be more meetings to follow. Chief Walsh had a successful follow-up meeting with residents on traffic, which meeting was held at the Senior Center. Jennifer thanked Police Officer Paul Montgomery, who has retired, for his many years of service.

The open meeting law training has been postponed until March. A date will be determined.

5. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. Joseph Muller and Jamie McCormack for a Driveway Permit between 101 Park Street North (Route 183) and cemetery (Pelton Brook), Great Barrington. (Discussion/Vote) Nick Anderson, representing Berkshire Engineering, presented the plan for the new driveway.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the permit with conditions added.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

B. Karen Clark/Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire for 2016 Annual Weekday Entertainment License at 1089 Main Street, Housatonic. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to continue until the next meeting so the applicant can attend. The Board had some concerns.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Sewer Rate Study. (Discussion/Vote)

Pat Ryan said that the goal of the study was to distribute expenses equitably. She said that she feels that the water meter option was not researched enough. She also said that David Prickett did not look at meshing the numbers of the two water companies. He did not look at the clerical or computer costs and reported that an EDU was 127 gallon a day. Ms. Ryan said that her use for 2015 is 70 gallons a day. This means that 'I would pay more than I should have to.'

Engineer, David Prickett, said that he did have data from both companies and all users. He reported that only 11% use less than 127 gallons a day on average.

Michelle Loubert said that Housatonic water rates are going to go through the roof which will impact the data presented.

Ed Abrahams said that there is not a big marginal cost for water; if we cut back as a community, it will not affect the cost to use.

Pat Ryan responded if the bottom line is fair then the rest can be split evenly.

Sean Stanton said that we can define what an EDU is to make more sense.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the continued use of the current rate system and have a detailed analysis and annual updates of the sewer billing codes including a review of the current sewer abatement guidelines.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. SB – Recommendation to ZBA on the Comprehensive Permit Application for “100 Bridge Street” submitted by Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire at 100 Bridge Street (the former New England Log Homes property), Great Barrington, MA. (Discussion/Vote)

Tim Geller presented the revised plans of ‘100 Bridge St.’

He explained that this project will create 90 new jobs.

Charles Roberts reviewed the plans and the allocated parking spots.

Ed Abrahams questioned the entrance and exit.

Dan Bailly commented on the 40-B permitting process.

Tim Geller clarified the 40B process.

Jennifer Tabakin said that the town has been a partner with this project in many ways, including a financial partner. She said that the plan has been looked at comprehensively.

Steve Bannon asked why more housing isn’t included and less commercial.

Tim Geller responded that the long term plan of the town is to bring commercial down into the area.

Dan Bailly asked if there are applicants for affordable housing.

Tim replied that the waiting list for construct housing is deep.

David Magadini said that this project is not for the people of Great Barrington; it is for people who don’t live here. He said that affordable housing is needed for those in Great Barrington who have marginal needs. He suggested single unit housing.

There was discussion about diagonal parking on Bridge St. and the possibility of making the area wider so as to not back into traffic.

Jennifer Tabakin suggested more elevation plans to show the height of buildings, as well as, a landscape design to show the public space portion of the site.

The Selectboard would like to hear comments from the Design Advisory Committee and see the results from the traffic study.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to continue until the 1/25/16 meeting.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None

9. SELECTBOARD’S TIME: None

10. MEDIA TIME: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary