

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

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

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Deb Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 10, 2014 Joint Meeting with Planning Board

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2014 joint meeting

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

November 10, 2014 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2014 regular meeting

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

December 8, 2014 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2014 regular meeting

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

December 22, 2014 Special Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2014 special meeting as amended

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton abstained; not present at this meeting

3. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD

Deb Phillips suggested that a Strategic Planning Meeting take place before the budget meetings.

The Selectboard agreed to schedule the meeting on January 26 at 6:00 PM. This will take place before the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting.

4. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY/EMILY CHRISTIAN FOR AN ANNUAL BIKE MS RIDE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. JEFFREY COHEN FOR A LICENSE FOR KEEPING, STORAGE OF CRUDE PETROLEUM OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR EXPLOSIVE OR INFLAMMABLE FLUIDS OR COMPOUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 148, SECTIONS 9 AND 13 OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS AT 55 HURLBURT ROAD, GREAT BARRINGTON. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Sean Stanton to open the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project

Erick Carlson, Carlson Propane, explained that Mr. Cohen would like to put in four 1,000 gallon propane tanks for various uses. Mr. Carlson said amounts above 2,000 gallons require a license.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition: no comments

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Sean Stanton to close the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

e. Motion re: Findings

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the findings of fact

SECOND: Steve Bannon

Roll Call Vote:

ED ABRAHAMS – yes

DANIEL BAILLY – yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON – yes

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Passed

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the license

SECOND: Steve Bannon

Roll Call Vote:

ED ABRAHAMS – yes

DANIEL BAILLY – yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON – yes

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Passed

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FOR POSSIBLE PURPOSES OF:

1) THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN HOUSATONIC AND

2) THE CONTINUATION OF A HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM TO SERVE LOW TO MODERATE INCOME OWNER-OCCUPANTS. RESIDENTS OF GREAT BARRINGTON ARE

INVITED TO ATTEND; ANYONE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND AND GIVE COMMENT MAY FORWARD THEIR COMMENTS TO CHRIS REMBOLD, TOWN PLANNER, 334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230 OR EMAIL crembold@townofgb.org. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Sean Stanton to open the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project

Chris Rembold handed out an informational page to those present.

He explained that the CDBG grant funds will be used to construct storm water infrastructure in Housatonic and to continue the housing rehabilitation project.

Chris explained that \$913,000 will be applied for by our town alone; \$600,000 will be used for storm water drainage work on Front Street between Main and Pleasant. This will be done to address the flooding problem.

Chris Rembold introduced Patricia Mullins who helped to write and administer the grant.

Ms. Mullins explained that BRPC has worked with municipalities in the past and, as administrators of the grant, they are the line of communication between the town and state agency.

Dan Bailly asked if someone can apply for grant funds a second time.

Pat replied that this is possible and they would not have to go through the entire process again.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition: no comments

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Sean Stanton to close the public hearing

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

e. Motion to support CDBG grant application as presented

MOTION: Sean Stanton to support the CDBG grant application as presented

SECOND: Steve Bannon

Roll Call Vote:

ED ABRAHAMS – yes

DANIEL BAILLY – yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON – yes

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Passed

f. Motion to designate the Town Manager as Environmental Officer

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the Town Manager as Environmental Officer

SECOND: Steve Bannon

Roll Call Vote:

ED ABRAHAMS – yes

DANIEL BAILLY – yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

DEB PHILLIPS – yes

SEAN STANTON – yes

VOTE: 5-0

Motion Passed

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jennifer Tabakin reported that our Chapter 90 money has increased. The new Governor released the fully allocated money for Chapter 90. The FY2015 money will increase from \$419,000 to \$628,000. The next step will be to decide what the priority will be in regards to road work. We can then choose to decrease the borrowing that was needed to supplement Chapter 90 money.

Jennifer reported that the Building Department 's online building permits system is up and running.

Jennifer congratulated Ellie Smith who has worked for the town for over 10 years and is now retiring. She said that she is grateful for her hard work. Ellie will be missed.

Jennifer welcomed new employees, Karen Joe Sicotte, Animal Control Officer, and Heath Agent, Jayne Smith.

Jennifer said that the Housatonic School has brought some interest. She will give a report about this at the next meeting.

Deb Phillips asked if an informational meeting has been scheduled for contractors.
Jennifer Tabakin said that she will schedule the meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SB AND PLANNING BOARD – JOINT APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER
TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2015.

(DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Sean Stanton to appoint Jeremy Higa as an Associate member to the Planning Board

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. SB – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE GB CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR A TERM
TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2015. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Ellen Shanahan introduced herself and expressed her interest in this position.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to appoint Ellen Shanahan to the GB Cultural Council

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

C. SB – HOUSATONIC SOLAR PROJECT TAX AGREEMENT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin said that the agreement is expected to be signed in the next few days. A report will come at a future meeting.

D. SB – DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin explained that, in the past, this was done to allow committee members to not have to adhere to full conflict of interest guidelines. Jennifer suggested that this be done in a comprehensive way instead of a per need basis.

Jonathan Hankin presented a full list of other committees to include. He said that there is no downside to doing this as they would still be bound by conflict of interest but this will allow them to make a living while volunteering.

After discussion, the Selectboard agreed to vote only on the list that the Town Manager presented. They will discuss the others at a later date.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Agricultural Commission as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Design Advisory Committee as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Historic District Commission as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 4-0-1 Dan Bailly recused

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Technology Committee as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the Animal Control Officer as a Special Municipal Employee pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Conservation Commission as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Historical Commission as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Tree Committee as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the Assistant Building Inspector as a Special Municipal Employee pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Cultural Council as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Parks Commission as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-0-1 Steve Bannon recused

MOTION: Sean Stanton to designate the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Chapter 268A of the Massachusetts General Law.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

E. UPDATE ON RECOMMENDED CPA PROJECTS. (DISCUSSION)

Jennifer Tabakin listed the projects recommended for CPA funding.

Dan Bailly asked if these projects will be voted upon individually at the Town Meeting or as a whole.

Chris Rembold replied that they don't know yet.

Sean Stanton recommended that the applicants be told that there will be a vote on the projects on the Warrant. They should be notified regarding when this will take place.

Ed Abrahams said that the committee will do a self-evaluation of the process.

F. UPDATE ON PUBLIC AUCTION OF TOWN FORECLOSED PROPERTIES.

Jennifer Tabakin reminded citizens that there will be a property auction on January 30th at 1:00 PM at Town Hall. There is a list of properties available and how to contact the auctioneer via town website.

Jonathan Hankin said that the wording regarding deposits is unclear.

Jennifer said that she will get clarification.

8. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None

9. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: None

10. MEDIA TIME: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Sean Stanton, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Becker".

Cara Becker
Recording Secretary