

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014
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. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS: SEWER ABATEMENTS (January 1 – June 30, 2014)

Joe Sokul presented the list of sewer abatement applicants. Joe stated that many of the applicants are the same as last year. Joe recommended a total abatement of \$2760.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 11, 2014 Selectboard and Planning Board Joint Meeting

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve the September 11, 2014 minutes

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

September 29, 2014 Selectboard, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks Commission and Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force (LMITF) Joint Meeting

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the September 29, 2014 minutes

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-0-1 Sean Stanton abstains

4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. GENERAL COMMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Dan Bailly stated that elections will be next Tuesday. He said that Peter Dillon was trying to get the school vote to take place during the same hours as the general election; he asked if this was achieved.

Jennifer Tabakin responded yes.

Jennifer also announced that free flu shots will be given out at the same time.

B. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR.

The calendar was given to the Selectboard.

5. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. JENISE LUCEY/BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER FOR PERMISSION TO USE TOWN ROADS FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK ON APRIL 12, 2015 STARTING AT THE HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY CENTER ONTO PLEASANT STREET, FRONT STREET AND THEN TO VAN DEUSENVILLE RD. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Stephanie Dolson represented Berkshire South. She said that 120-150 people are expected. This will benefit Youth Fitness and Wellness Programs.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to grant permission

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

- B. VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. TO PLACE MANHOLE NO. 21A ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF CASTLE STREET, THE CENTER OF WHICH IS LOCATED AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 65 FEET WESTERLY FROM THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN STREET, SAID MANHOLE HAVING THE APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS OF 5 FEET WIDE BY 5 FEET LONG AND BY 5 FEET DEEP. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jennifer congratulated Mark Pruhenski, Town's Board of Health Agent who took the job of a Town Administrator in Whately, Mass. She expressed that the Town is losing a valuable employee. Mark will continue in Great Barrington until the 2nd week of November. Jennifer said that she will ensure that there is no gap in between his departure and a new employee.

Jennifer congratulated Kim Shaw who took the job at the Stockbridge Police Department.

Applications are still being accepted for the positions that are currently posted; Animal Control Officer and Building Inspector.

Jennifer announced that staff will begin training on the new online building permitting program. The Fire Dept. is training on the new ladder truck which is now in service.

Police Chief Walsh and Fire Chief Burger will be the lead on Ebola prevention. This program will follow the Massachusetts Department of Health.

The new weather station is up on the Fire Station at 37 State Road. A 'weather bug' app can be downloaded to access this information.

The new 4 hour parking signs will be up by 10/31/14.

A. UPDATE ON POLICE UNION CONTRACT

Jennifer Tabakin announced that the police union contract has been signed. It is consistent with the approach that was taken with other unions. A new policy for 'light duty' was added.

B. FY 2016 BUDGET SCHEDULE.

Jennifer Tabakin distributed a flyer from the Mass. Municipal association regarding platform positions. Jennifer spoke about the timing on getting the word out before the governor finalizes his/her budget.

C. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

Jennifer Tabakin encouraged the Selectboard to take a position on the much needed funding for infrastructure.

Deb Phillips said that they should meet with legislators and asked if the Selectboard should put something together in order to talk about our needs.

Jennifer agreed that there should be a meeting scheduled with delegation. The meeting should focus on Chapter 90 road funds. She suggested that the platform should be that Great Barrington could use an equal share of funding. Great Barrington serves as a hub for Southern Berkshire County; however only full time residents are included in the equation to determine funds.

Deb Phillips asked that Jennifer get back to the Selectboard with a timeframe for when they should schedule the meeting and what information is needed to have a successful meeting.

D. TOWN MEETING BANNER UPDATE

Jennifer reported that a banner would cost \$450, with the installation cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000. This is not in this year's budget. This is an expensive project due to the regulations requiring an engineer to put it up.

Sean Stanton asked if there is a way that the town can take on this cost and have it cover all banners that go up over a certain time period. Then a permit fee can be charged for each banner that goes up.

Jennifer suggested that members of the Selectboard meet with the sign makers and installers to coordinate this effort or come up with a solution to the problem.

Deb Phillips said that the fire department used to put up banners and would get re-certified every 3 years. It seems like this has changed. She said that someone should have the conversation with an engineer and find out the details. Deb said that she is not convinced that there is a need for inspection every time a banner is put up.

Sean Stanton said that he is not willing to pay this amount for installation when the fire department can do it.

Ed Abrahams said that he will get the information and come back to the Selectboard by the next meeting with answers.

E. ONGOING CAPITAL PROJECTS.

Joe Sokul reported that the Wastewater Treatment plant phase one is under way. The cost is \$3.8 million. The completion date is anticipated to be October 2015.

Joe spoke about the energy grant and stated that \$109,000 worth of work has been completed, with more to come. The project is in the final phase and is anticipated to finish in another month.

There is a project planned for the North Plain Rd. retaining wall. The cost is \$13,000 lower than anticipated. The project will take place in the spring of 2015.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she is pleased with the Main Street Reconstruction project work thus far. The current area of the project, St. James Place is the most difficult area and it is going smoothly.

Joe Sokul responded that this work will set us up for future drainage projects in the Castle Hill area.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. GB LETTER TO EPA RE: HOUSATONIC RIVER CLEAN UP. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin presented the letter to the Selectboard. The letter includes input from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to approve and send the Great Barrington letter to the EPA.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

B. RENEWAL OF CONSTRUCTION ZONE IMPACT AREA FOR MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin explained that this renewal will allow for business and construction related signs.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to renew the construction zone impact area for the Main Street Reconstruction Project to expire October 27, 2015.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN TREASURER/COLLECTOR AS CUSTODIAN OF PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY FORECLOSURE OF TAX TITLES – MGL. CHAPTER 60 SEC. 77B. (DISCUSSION/VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin presented the list of properties that the town has owned since foreclosure. There are 14 lots that are mostly empty. She recommended that they are put up for auction and back on the tax roll.

Jennifer recommended that Sandy Larkin, Treasurer/Collector be appointed as custodian of such properties. Sandy will work with the Town Manager to manage and oversee the auction.

Sean Stanton asked if they are buildable lots.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she can't comment on this; an interested builder would have to do the research on this.

Dan Bailly asked about the vast difference in valuation.

Jennifer Tabakin responded that these numbers were given as the assessed value at the time of foreclosure. Jennifer Tabakin explained if nothing were to sell, the town would only be out \$1350, which is the maximum fee.

Sandy Larkin said that the auctioneers will inform all of the abutters of the auction.

Dan Bailly asked about the properties with structures on them.

Jennifer responded that they are working on the foreclosure of those that are tax delinquent and they will then consider auctioning.

MOTION: Sean Stanton to appoint Treasurer/Collector, Sandy Larkin as custodian of properties acquired by tax title foreclosures for the purpose of disposing of the property through an auction procedure.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 5-0

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini requested that the porta-potty be put back in the Town Hall Park immediately. He said that there are still people who use the park at this time of year.

Steve Bannon responded that this was only budgeted through the summer months.

8. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: None

9. MEDIA TIME: None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Sean Stanton, seconded by Steve Bannon, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary