

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015  
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION  
TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** ED ABRAHAMS  
DANIEL BAILLY  
STEPHEN BANNON  
BILL COOKE  
SEAN STANTON – Not present

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Vice - Chairman, Steve Bannon, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to approve the 10/13/15 minutes

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE: 4-0**

October 26, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to approve the 10/26/15 minutes

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE: 4-0**

November 2, 2015 SB and Fin Com Joint Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to approve the 11/2/15 joint meeting minutes

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE: 3-0-1 Bill Cooke abstains**

**3. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS: Sewer Abatements (January 1 – June 30, 2015)**

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to convene as the Board of Sewer Commissioners

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE: 4-0**

Joe Sokul presented the list of abatements. He said that there were only a few new requests.

Dan Bailly asked how demolished buildings are taken off the rolls.

Joe responded that a 'demolished' permit has to be presented.

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to accept the sewer abatements for the period of January 1 – June 30, 2015.

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE: 4-0**

**4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

Bill Cooke said that the website revision is almost complete. A week will be set aside for Selectmen comments.

Ed Abrahams said that the CPC is finalizing the list of recipients. Now is the time for public comments.

Dan Bailly reported that the Community Conversation Meeting will be held at the Fire Station on 11/18/15 at 6:30.

Steve Bannon said that the Parks Commission is finishing up the Housatonic Park Project. The final touches, such as picnic benches, will be completed in early spring.

## **5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jennifer Tabakin announced that the Great Barrington Police Department received their re-certification award. She said that this is an enormous step for Great Barrington. We are the only Police Department in Berkshire County to have achieved this level.

Steve Bannon said, on behalf of the Selectboard, we are proud and congratulate all who are involved. Chief Walsh made some comments about the process. He looks forward to achieving full accreditation within a year.

Jennifer Tabakin stated that the process for Sergeant selection will begin in the next 2 weeks. There will be a test and a sole assessment.

Jennifer said that she has been working on restructuring the Sergeant's contract to make the position more desirable. This position is non-union.

Jennifer spoke about the pedestrian crossing on Rte. 7 near the Senior Center. She, Joe Sokul and Chief Walsh met with residents in the area to discuss their concerns about the crosswalk. Many of the items that were identified have been addressed. A pedestrian warning sign has been placed in the middle of the road and bushes have been cut back.

Joe Sokul said the lighting in this area is being assessed.

Jennifer said that residents want 'walkability' in the area. She will look into more ways to improve the sidewalks in the area.

Jennifer gave an update regarding some changes that were researched regarding the Main Street Reconstruction Project. She said that an estimate will be coming for moving the pedestrian pole at Castle and Main St. This work would not be done until spring.

There will be testing of light levels at Castle and Elm Streets. An additional light assessment is desired. 2 estimates were provided for painting the traffic poles. The paint would last approximately 8-10 years. A rough cost estimate is \$40,000. More discussion about this to follow.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. Special Permit Application of 79 Bridge Street Realty, LLC, 247 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, for a hotel use in a B3 zone, more than 45 hotel rooms, redevelopment in excess of 20,000 square feet in the B3 zone, and work in the Floodplain Overlay District and the Water Quality Protection Overlay District Zone II, in accordance with Sections 3.1.4, C(8), 7.10.2, 9.4.9, 9.1, and 9.2.12, respectively, of the Great Barrington Zoning Bylaw, at 79 Bridge Street, Great Barrington. (Discussion/Vote)

a. Open Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to open the public hearing

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

ED ABRAHAMS  
DANIEL BAILLY  
STEPHEN BANNON  
BILL COOKE

**VOTE: 4-0**

The Town Manager distributed a letter from Kopelman & Paige about their opinion regarding zoning. Discussion about this will take place at the next public hearing.

- b. Motion: **Continue Public Hearing to December 16, 2015, 7:00 pm, location - TBD.**

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to continue the public hearing to December 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Monument Valley Middle School.

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

ED ABRAHAMS  
DANIEL BAILLY  
STEPHEN BANNON  
BILL COOKE

**VOTE: 4-0**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Malcolm Fick – Update on the 2016 Solarize Mass Program.

Malcolm Fick gave a summary of the Solarize Mass Program to date. He spoke about some frustrations and shortcomings about the process.

There is a new campaign and the state has introduced a solar loan project. There is under 3% interest rate on a loan.

Mr. Fick said that the Town needs to decide whether to participate by January. There would need to be a leader and volunteers. He will do a survey monkey to see what the interest level is.

Jennifer Tabakin asked if we could coordinate with another Town.

Mr. Fick said that he isn't sure other Towns are participating.

The Selectboard asked that this item be put on the next agenda.

- B. SB – Approval of FY 17 Financial Budget Policy. (Vote) – **This item was tabled.**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Jenise Lucey/Berkshire South Regional Community Center for permission to utilize Town roads for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk on April 3, 2016 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am starting at the Housatonic Community Center, Pleasant Street and continuing onto Front Street and VanDeusenville Road. (Discussion/Vote)

**This item will be put on the next agenda.**

- B. BerkShares – Request SB to endorse the 2016 Entrepreneurship Program.  
(Discussion/Vote)

Alice Maggio explained this program.

The goal is to draw more business to the area and to be business friendly.

The program will offer a business planning course for young people taught by business people from town.

A survey will also be done in the Town of Great Barrington to identify business opportunities. Ms. Maggio will work with Chris Rembold and BRPC to find potential ways to spend money on local production.

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to endorse 2016 Entrepreneurship Program

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE: 4-0**

- C. National Grid for permission to install three new solely-owned poles (pole 41-84, 46-84 and 49-84) on Van Duesenville Road in order to remove existing pole to tree guy wire support cables. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to grant permission to install three new solely-owned poles.

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE:** 4-0

- D. National Grid and Verizon New England for permission to install one new jointly owned pole (0-50) on Main Street in Housatonic approximately 40' west of existing pole #1, side of road. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Dan Bailly to grant permission to install one new jointly owned pole

**SECOND:** Ed Abrahams

**VOTE:** 4-0

**9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

David Magadini requested that the porta-potty at the Town Hall be put back.

Mike McGuire read a letter that he submitted to the Selectboard about the proposed hotel stating that he is opposed to the project.

Carol Diehl read her opinion about the proposed hotel. She asked the Selectboard to prevent the hotel development.

**10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: None**

**11. MEDIA TIME: None**

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Dan Bailly, seconded by Ed Abrahams, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary