

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 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 at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the March 14, 2016 Regular meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

March 28, 2016 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the March 28, 2016 Regular meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

3. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS: Sewer Abatements

(July 1 – December 31, 2015). (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to convene as Board of Sewer Commissioners

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

Joe Sokul presented the list of abatements.

He reported that there are a few new applications.

It is a similar amount as in the past.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve as presented

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon to re-convene as Selectboard

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. General Comments by the Board

Bill Cooke said that the Lake Mansfield survey for the improvement project will be up for an additional 2 weeks. He encouraged all to take the survey.

Ed Abrahams said that the Friends of the Library would be happy to report the results of Sundays at the Ramsdell Library in the near future.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, reported that she and Police Chief Walsh have made progress on hiring new reserve officers. Announcement to follow.

The town has received a grant from MassWorks for \$10,000 for the Housatonic School consultant work. The town manager will be in touch with the Selectboard about this.

Jennifer said that there has been continued work to make technology improvements by Karen Fink and Eddie Sporn. There will be continued work on making efficiencies.

The contract is in place for phase 2 of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Trees will be planted over a 2-3 week span on Main St. with 86 trees being planted in total. There will be a maintenance program but the Town Manager said that a solid group of people are needed to maintain watering of the trees. Further discussion to come.

Jennifer thanked the Library for hosting the Police Retirement and Awards Ceremony. She thanked all that helped with it.

Jennifer said that it is time for brainstorming in the area of shared services. There has been preliminary discussions about shared services in the Health Department and participation in the Superintendent round table.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Application of Chu & Chen Group, Inc. d/b/a Koi Chinese Restaurant, Richard T. Chen, Manager to transfer the Common Victualler Restaurant All Alcoholic Liquor License to Koi Asian Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Koi Chinese Restaurant, Hui Zong Zheng, Manager at 302 State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.
(Discussion/Vote)

a. Open Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon to open the public hearing

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

b. Explanation of Project – This is the same operation with a transfer of license.

c. Speak in Favor/Opposition – None

d. Motion to Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Steve Bannon to close the public hearing

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

e. Motion re: Findings:

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Findings of Fact with the findings that the benefits of the proposal outweigh any possible detrimental impacts.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

f. Motion re: Approval/Denial/Table

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the application

SECOND: Dan Bailly

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ED ABRAHAMAS – yes

DANIEL BAILLY – yes

STEPHEN BANNON – yes

BILL COOKE – yes

SEAN STANTON - yes

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION PASSED

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

A. American Legion Murphy Leary Post 298 as follows:

- for permission to hold Poppy Boot Drive on Main Street (between Gashouse Lane and the entrance to JB Hull Oil Inc.) on Saturday, May 21, 2016 (rain date May 28) from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to grant permission

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- to hand out Poppies for donations in Great Barrington and in the Village of Housatonic. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

B. Relay for Life-American Cancer Society/Kerry MacRonald for Two (2) One Day Weekday Entertainment Licenses for June 24 and 25, 2016 from 6:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Monument Mountain Regional High School track and baseball field. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the licenses

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

C. 2016 May License Renewals (Discussion/Vote)

- Real Estate Sign

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve as listed

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- Coin Operated Soft Drink and Food Machines

MOTION: Dan Bailly to approve as presented

SECOND: Ed Abrahams

VOTE: 4-0-1 Steve Bannon recused

Sean Stanton said that he would like these licenses every 2 or 3 years instead of yearly. He asked that Helen Kuziemko look into this possibility.

Sean asked if this is based on State Law.

All agree to pursue.

Suzanne Bump for One Day Beer and Wine Liquor License for Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm at Pleasant and Main, 1063 Main Street, Housatonic. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve with the condition of TIPS certification

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SB – To Authorize Refinancing of Fire Station Bonds. (Discussion/Vote)

Lauren Hobgood asked for authorization to refinance the Fire Station Bond. This will save the Town \$295,000 over the next 10 years. Lauren said that she is hoping to get low 2% interest.

MOTION: Steve Bannon

I, the Clerk of the Selectboard of the Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts (the “Town”), certify that at a meeting of the board held April 11, 2016, of which meeting all members of the board were duly notified and at which a quorum was present, the following votes were unanimously passed, all of which appear upon the official record of the board in my custody:

Voted: That in order to reduce interest costs, the Treasurer is authorized to issue \$4,500,000 refunding bonds, or some lesser amount of refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all of the Town’s \$8,300,000 General Obligation Bonds, dated June 15, 2007 maturing on and after June 15, 2018 (the “Refunded Bonds”) and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the Refunded Bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds.

Further Voted: that each member of the Selectboard, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, date, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building that the office of the Town Clerk is located or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b), at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the sale of the Bonds were taken in executive session, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §§18-25 as amended.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

B. SB – To approve Solar Tax Agreement for Van Deusenville Road project subject to Town Meeting approval. (Discussion/Vote)

Principal Assessor, Chris Lamarre, said that this agreement is the same as the one for the Rising Paper Mill. There is a special tax agreement involved.

Chris asked for approval subject to Town Meeting approval.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve sales tax agreement.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

All signed

- C. SB – Letter of Support for the Western Mass Forest Legacy Designation.
(Discussion/Vote)

Jennifer Tabakin explained that this promotes the protection of privately owned forest land. This is also supported by Conservation advocates.

Chris Rembold said that there is no tax implication.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send the letter of support

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- D. SB – Letter of Support to Senator Warren for Environment Massachusetts for protection of public parks. (Discussion/Vote)

Sean Stanton read the letter.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send the letter of support

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- E. Arbor Day Proclamation April 29, 2016. (Discussion/Vote)

Sean Stanton read the proclamation.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to support

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

- F. Town Manager’s Contract. (Discussion/Vote)

Sean Stanton said that there were some changes to the contract.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the Town Manager’s 3 year contract

SECOND: Ed Abrahams

VOTE: 4-0-1 Dan Bailly recused

Jennifer Tabakin thanked the Selectboard and said that she loves her job. She stated that she looks forward to another 3 years and feels that a lot has been accomplished. Jennifer added that ‘we can all feel proud of what we are doing.’

Sean Stanton said we have challenges as Selectboard members. It is important to figure out how to provide services for locals and visitors.

Gabriella Senza read a statement asking the Selectboard to take a more active role in leading the Town Manager. She said that the Selectboard’s failure to set goals and deadlines puts the town in that same position we have been in. Ms. Senza said that the Selectboard needs to be responsible for putting items on the agenda with a realistic timeline of items, as well as, assisting the Town Manager with her priorities with committees and subcommittees.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. SB – Final Review of 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 26: To Petition the Legislature for Local Gas Tax

Sean Stanton said that he estimates that \$.03 tax would result in \$300,000 annually. A \$.05 tax would result in a half million per year.

Dan Bailly said that it should be left at \$.03.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send a positive recommendation to Town Meeting for Article 26 changing it from \$.03 to \$.05.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

Dan Bailly voted in favor with a noted objection to \$.05.

ARTICLE 27: Solar Facility Tax Agreement

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send a positive recommendation to Town Meeting for Article 27

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

ARTICLE 28: Demolition Delay Bylaw

Malcolm Fick explained the changes that were made with the help of the Town Manager and Town Counsel.

Malcolm Fick's name should be removed from the Bylaw title.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send a positive recommendation to Town Meeting for Article 28

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

The Town Manager will follow up on this to make sure it has to go on the warrant or can it be Selectboard vote only.

ARTICLE 29: Tree Management and Replacement Bylaw

The name will be changed to Tree Replacement and Management Bylaw as shown above. Steve Bannon said that this needs to be presented clearly that it only refers to town trees.

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send a positive recommendation to Town Meeting for Article 29

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

Articles 32 and 39 – The last sentence needs to be changed to 'Town of Great Barrington' from 'Selectboard of Great Barrington.'

ARTICLE 33: Resolution Regarding Housatonic River Cleanup

Sean read

MOTION: Steve Bannon to send a positive recommendation to Town Meeting for Article 33

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Ed Abrahams to change the order of the warrant moving Article 10 to 7.

SECOND: Steve Bannon

VOTE: 3-2 Dan Bailly and Sean Stanton against

Steve Bannon asked that the mini-town meeting be publicized. It is scheduled for May 4th 6:00 pm at the Fire Station.

10. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Bryan House and Stacey Covey represented Berkshire Community Action Council.

Ms. Covey said that the Fuel Assistance deadline has been extended and is now May 13th. She encourages people to call to apply. Once eligible, reductions are given on energy bills, as well. Call the Great Barrington office for information – 413-528-1947.

Ce Shaffler said that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Elizabeth Freeman Center would like to hold a rally of 6-10 people for 2 hours in front of Town Hall on April 21st. Blue flags will be put up to honor survivors and those who have died. They will also hold signs focused on prevention.

MOTION: Steve Bannon that the Selectboard endorses and supports the mission of the Elizabeth Freeman Center.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

11. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: None

12. MEDIA TIME: None

13. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary