

## SELECTBOARD'S MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016

**6:00 PM** – SPECIAL SESSION

**FIRE HOUSE, 37 STATE ROAD**

**PRESENT:** SEAN STANTON  
STEVE BANNON  
DAN BAILLY  
BILL COOKE  
ED ABRAHAMS - Absent

TOWN MANAGER, JENNIFER TABAKIN

### **6:00 PM** - OPEN MEETING

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Sean Stanton opened the meeting at 6:00PM

Town Manager Tabakin announcements:

- October 24, 2016 to the Friday before the Presidential election is early voting. The Housatonic Community Center and the Senior Center will be open for early voting- time and dates are TBA.
- Massachusetts passed a new law stating that citizens 16 years of age are now eligible to pre-register to vote. You can pre-register when you get your driver's license.
- Bids are going out Friday, August 12, 2016 for the Taconic Avenue paving. The first project of line striping will begin in September.
- Seekonk Road paving is going out to bid.
- The Front Street drainage project is ready to begin just waiting for the final permit. Mass DOT has received bids for the Park Street Bridge; JH Maxymillian has been awarded the contract. Both project contractors are in coordination with one another to make sure schedules match up.
- Eight trees have been planted on Stockbridge Road thanks to the funding given by DCR.
- The Town Manager attended the World Café meeting held by the Railroad Street Youth Project. There was a great discussion on opioid and alcohol use.

**2. SB- Set priorities for FY 17 and FY 18 (Discussion/vote)**

- The plastic bag bylaw needs to be revisited to see if it needs to be amended. The goal is to have consistency as a county with regulations on plastic bag distribution.
- The SB would like a general review of all the Town bylaws to see if there are regulations and policies that are outdated for the Town of Great Barrington.

- Necessary for improvements within training for new staff using better technology processes.
- It is a priority to reevaluate the issuing of sign permits and how it coincides with the Town Bylaws for signage.
- SB would like to look at streamlining permits and licenses. If it's necessary to apply annually or can it be extended to bi-annually or tri-annually?
- As a Town we need complete study on the regional communications dispatch. Some of our IT servers will need to be updated or replaced. It is a good time to start the process of discussing our options for the future of IT in GB.
- Remediation assessment for Laramie Cleaners. SB recognizes that this is a priority in order to have this site as a functional and profitable addition to the Town.
- Goal to have Theory Wellness pay a host fee to the Town.

The Town will be advertising for the Department of Public Works Superintendent throughout the summer.

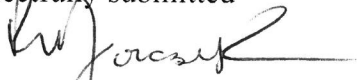
It is goal of the town to have another auction to sell remaining Town properties that have been acquired through foreclosure.

**3. Citizen Speak Time.** None.

**4. Media Time.** The Berkshire Edge, Heather Bellow asked if SB can provide more clarification on the Broadband Communications initiative. The Town Manager responded that is it a community compact with Mass IT. We are in the process of evaluating what the demand is for downtown. We are looking into possibilities and barriers for connecting the central business area to the fastest broadband. We do not want to fall behind technologically.

**5. Adjournment.** On a motion made by Steve Bannon, Seconded by Dan Bailly the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted



Rebecca M Jurczyk  
Recording Secretary