

SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016
6:00 PM – JOINT MEETING
SELECTBOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINTON, MA

PRESENT:

SEAN STANTON
STEPHEN C. BANNON
ED ABRAHAMS
WILLIAM COOKE
DAN BAILLY

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MICHAEL WISE
WALTER ATWOOD
EUGENE CURLETTI

TOWN MANAGER JENNIFER TABAKIN

6:00 PM - OPEN MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Town Manager Tabakin called meeting to order at 6:00PM

II. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

- A. General Comments by the Board.
No comments or announcements.

III. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Town Manager Tabakin announced that the Town has hired a new Town Accountant, Robert Patterson.

Eileen Mooney of the Newsletter asked the Selectboard if Mr. Patterson has any experience preparing a budget? Jennifer Tabakin responds that he has.

IV. Discussion of FY 18 Financial Policy.

Steve Bannon suggested that the March 13th meeting be rescheduled to March 20th in order to approve the final warrant. Steve will be out of town on March 13th.

The Public Hearing will be scheduled the week of March 20, 2016; a confirmed date and time is to be announced.

Motion: Steve Bannon to approve the Fiscal Year 2018 Great Barrington Financial Policy.

Second: Dan Bailly

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Michael Wise to approve the Fiscal Year 2018 Great Barrington Financial Policy

Second: Walter Atwood

Vote: 3-0

On a motion by Walter Atwood and seconded by Eugene Curletti, the Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

The Selectboard meeting immediately followed.

V. Continued – SB – Set Priorities for FY 17 and FY 18.

- Plastic Bag Bylaw review. Jennifer Tabakin stated that a general goal for the Town's bylaw should be to standardize the thickness of the plastic bag in order to be consistent with surrounding towns. Chairman Stanton stated that the Town should change its bylaw while looking closely at what Lee is doing. Steve Bannon suggested that it be looked at again in the beginning of the year at one of the regular SB's meetings
- A general review of all Town Bylaws. There is a War Memorial Recreational Committee, a Town Manager appointment. Jennifer Tabakin asked the Selectboard if there is any interest in reinstating this committee. The Selectboard agrees to keep the committee, but to wait to see if there is any interest before selecting a task force. Article 3, a Regional Disposal Committee is not currently in existence. Chairman Stanton is in favor of having such a committee. Mr. Stanton would like to find out if this committee ever existed, what did it accomplish, and is there any interest in it now. Chapter 91 outlines fees collected. Steve Bannon suggested that the Town Manager request all boards and committees to send in recommendations to the Selectboard by January 15th of all fees that they find to be still relevant. Chapter 109, outdoor vending machines. The Town Manager explains to the Board that this regulation is written to prevent outdoor vending machines from blocking pedestrian passage. Therefore, Jennifer Tabakin thinks that approving licenses for indoor vending machines on private property is irrelevant based on the language of Chapter 109. Chapter 146, Sign Bylaw, Jennifer Tabakin made the recommendation that the Selectboard discuss language that allows sign permits to be issued by another department in addition to the Building Inspector. Chairman Stanton suggested that the Town Manager, Ed May, the Town Planner, and any interested Selectboard members have a meeting to discuss possible revisions to the sign bylaw. Article 11, Heavy Commercial Vehicles ban. Lake Mansfield Road needs to be added to this list. Chapter 210, Jennifer Tabakin stated that the Board of Health Chapter does not have a section that describes what is required of the Health Agent, his or her reporting function, and overall job description. Chairman Stanton, "We need to look at how Mass General Law describes the position and send the Chapter to the Board of Health for further review."

The Selectboard discussed the language of the Winter Parking Ban in Great Barrington. The current law reads, 'it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to park on any street, for more than one hour between the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM from November 1st to April 1st if there are weather conditions that necessitate the roads to be plowed. This excludes emergency vehicles.'

Motion: Bill Cooke moved to change the current all night parking bylaw to a 'Winter Storm Parking Ban,' which states that 'it shall be unlawful for any vehicle operator to park on any street when there is a winter storm.'

Second: Ed Abrahams.

Vote: 5-0

Discussion: The Board agreed that there needs to be annual notification of this policy.

Motion: Bill Cooke moved to add an amendment, "Notification of this policy will be given on or around November 1st."

Second: Dan Bailly

Vote: 5-0

The final Winter Storm Parking Ban reads, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to park on any street between the hours of 1:00 AM – 6:00 AM during a winter weather storm. Notification of this policy will be given on or around November 1st.

- Chairman Stanton clarified the goal of figuring out which licenses need to be approved on an annual basis. He asked if it's state law that requires that we renew these annual licenses or if it's a Town Code. The Selectboard asked the Town Manager to provide them with a complete list of all the licenses they are responsible for approving. The Selectboard will then review the list and decide which licenses and permits do not need to be approved annually. Chairman Stanton wants to look into which licenses can be approved bi-annually or tri-annually.
- Review of the Selectboard's goal to have another auction to sell remaining properties on the foreclosure list. Jennifer Tabakin relays to the Board that the Town is moving forward in Land Court, which is the next legal step in this process. The following properties are those than are on the potential auction list; Stonegate Condos on West Avenue, Reed Cleaners, 40 Grove Street, 19 Seekonk Road, and Cook's Garage.

VI. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

David Magadini, 334 Main Street spoke to say that he would encourage the Town to invest in Sears stock in order to support the continuation of Kmart in Great Barrington. He thinks that the intended business moving into that location does not serve the entire population of Great Barrington, he would like to see Kmart remain in business because it does cater to a broader demographic in Great Barrington.

VII. MEDIA TIME:

Eileen Mooney of the Newsletter asked if there is any progress on the Housatonic School. The Selectboard stated that there is nothing to report regarding the Housatonic School.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: On a motion made by Steve Bannon, Seconded by Dan Bailly, Vote 5-0 the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Jurczyk
Recording Secretary