

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
JOINT MEETING  
SELECTBOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011  
6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL - BOARD ROOM**

**PRESENT:** WALTER ATWOOD  
STEPHEN BANNON  
ALANA CHERNILA  
DEB PHILLIPS  
SEAN STANTON  
KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER

**Finance Committee:** Tom Blauvelt – Chairman  
John Breasted  
Alice Reilly  
Jim Stark

**1. Call to order:** Sean Stanton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Finance Committee Approval for FY11 Over-expenditure Snow/Ice**

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he anticipates an over expenditure of snow/ice of \$75,000 for materials and \$20,000 in OT.

**MOTION:** Alice Reilly – to approve the FY11 \$95,000 over expenditure of snow/ice.

**SECOND:** Jim Stark

**VOTE:** 4-0

**2. FY12 Budget**

a. Parks/Recreation- Kevin O'Donnell stated that park maintenance is level funded. He reviewed the budget spreadsheets and explained that the biggest line item is the contract with Berkshire South for summer programs. He also said that there are various park improvements, which will total \$129,500 over the next 5 years, which will be property tax levy. They are asking for \$ 30,500 in FY12.

Stephen Bannon said that the \$19,000 that rolled over will be used this fiscal year.

Kevin O'Donnell encouraged the Parks Commission to look at all the Town owned property and see what can be utilized.

Stephen Bannon said that the Parks Commission is still developing a list of such property and current parks, which they will get to the Board.

b. Public Works- Kevin O'Donnell stated that they are down .3%.

John Breasted asked why the street lighting amount went down.

Joe Sokul responded that it was over-budgeted, so this portrays a more reasonable payment.

Deb Phillips asked if maintenance is included in the CIP.

Joe Sokul responded that it is not. He said that drainage work, new sidewalks, cracked sealant, etc. (this is considered reconstruction and rehabilitation) is all in the CIP. These projects usually

cost more than \$7,500. The operational costs are projects that include minor repairs that cost under \$7,500.

Joe Sokul stated that there is a list of stretches of sidewalks to be replaced in the CIP. He said that asphalt is no longer used for sidewalks; concrete is easier to patch. He said that this may be a policy discussion.

Jim Stark stated that he thought the DPW was 'heavy' with supervisors.

Joe Sokul stated that they were not.

There was discussion about hauling garbage and recyclables.

Sean Stanton stated that we are paying more than we are getting.

Alana Chernila asked if there was a way to talk about how to draw more customers to the transfer station. She stated that a swap shack would be a huge draw. She also said that having only Saturday hours is hurting us when other Towns are open 2-3 days.

Kevin O'Donnell stated that he would look into it.

Alice Reilly stated that if a restructure is done, it would be a re-education for Great Barrington since people are used to using private hauling.

Kevin O'Donnell said that he would look into what Monterey and Stockbridge are doing.

Joe Sokul stated that he would like to have the transfer station become a regional area for electronic recycling. This is a topic for discussion.

Lauren Sartori explained that DPW is level funded because, in the past, they estimated a National Grid increase, but they didn't use what was anticipated. The items were reduced this time due to what is truly used and needed.

There was discussion about the cemeteries and Alice Reilly stated that the cost of a plot for residents is \$400 and \$1200 for non-residents.

Sean Stanton said that he felt this seemed a bit unbalanced.

Joe Sokul said that they have raised the rate in the past but he will do a rate comparison.

- c. WWTP-Kevin O'Donnell stated that they are not looking at a rate increase in FY12, but when the WWTP gets upgraded, the rates may be doubled.

Deb Phillips asked if people can be educated about the use of harmful products in a dollar and cents way. She said that she would love to see an education campaign about this in the community.

Lauren Sartori replied that the biggest users are hotels, hospitals and nursing homes.

Tim Drumm said that the use of cleaning rags and baby wipes that are then flushed, is the biggest problem because they break couplings which then have to be repaired. He said that he spends 6-7 hours a week fixing these problems. He also said that a letter was sent out about this in the last billing.

Alana Chernila said that she would like to see regulation about this if it impacts costs.

Stephen Bannon suggested that it be put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Jim Stark said that last year there was to be a report given regarding storm water and asked if it was complete.

Joe Sokul responded that it is under the CIP, which will be spoken about tomorrow.

Kevin O'Donnell gave out a summary of CIP costs for the Boards to review for the meeting tomorrow.

- 3. Adjournment:** On a motion by Stephen Bannon, seconded by Deb Phillips, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary