

SELECTBOARD'S MEETING Minutes (VIA ZOOM)

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020, 6:30 PM

6:30 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman S. Bannon, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. Those present from Selectboard: Leigh Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, Chair S. Bannon, Town Manager, M. Pruhenski, and A. Pulver (IT support).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 13, 2020 SB Special Meeting, E. Abrahams made a motion to approve, B. Cooke seconded, Approved, Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 5 -0.

4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:

A. General Comments by the Board.

L. Davis, wanted to acknowledge the hard work of the Town Hall employees. She wanted to ask for donations of protein rich foods at the Saint James Food Pantry. The number of citizens coming to the Food Pantry has increased.

E. Abrahams, wanted to say that the Covid- 19 Task Force has been meeting several times a week, it includes Fire Department, Police Department, Town Manager, Board of Health, and other community Services members. The email is on the website: Covid-19@townofgb.org, if have anyone has questions or concerns.

S. Bannon, Chair thanked the essential workers, the Hospital Staff, and Town Hall employees.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Department Updates:

- Shared Services Offerings – Continued Discussion with Department Heads.
(Discussion/Vote).

Mark Pruhenski said that the Selectboard had requested an overview of shared services at their February meetings to determine if there were areas / Departments that Great Barrington was paying too much of the share/ burden and might be compensated for.

~ Police Department: M. Pruhenski spoke for the Department; said that the PD, has the canine program, drug recognition officer, lock ups, fingerprinting, medicine drop offs, exchange of goods (safe location); other surrounding towns are not able to preform these types of Police Department activities/ services. M. Pruhenski will invite Chief Walsh to speak at another meeting about this topic.

~ Fire Department, Chief Burger, spoke of the shared agreement he has with Sheffield. He is very pleased and it is very helpful to both Departments. Currently, the FD is receiving \$1500/ month for inspection services; after July it will be \$2000.

~ Libraries, Amanda DeGiorgis said currently the Town of Alford pays Great Barrington \$1,000/year to use the Town Libraries. In FY 21 will be \$1500 with plan to increase it to \$2,000 for FY2022. The Trustees have set the out of state residents library card at \$25.00 / year.

~ Senior Center, Polly Mann, Director – M. Pruhenski spoke for her Department. He gave overview that there are several groups use the building and pay, and there is an office for the elderly transportation, which serves, Mill River, Sheffield, Egremont, Great Barrington & New Marlborough, and there may be ways to utilize building more efficiently.

B. Project Updates:
M. Pruhenski reported that Covid -19 task force is going smoothly. The Town Hall is closed, but all the Town offices are open, and staff is working. Taxes can be paid, on-line, or by mailing in a check/ money order to Treasurer's Office, if it includes a self-addressed / self-stamped envelope, tax payer will receive a receipt of the payment.
~ Diaper donations was a big success, \$ 1891.00 in cash and over 18,000 diapers collected.

7:00 PM

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **Continuation** - Special Permit Application of School Street Parking, LLC, c/o Phillips International Holding Corp., 5 Cheshire Road, Pittsfield, to construct and operate a commercial parking lot in a B-3 zone, and for work within the Water Quality Protection Overlay District, at 11 School Street, Great Barrington, MA. (Discussion/Vote)
- a. Open Public Hearing- E. Abrahams made motion to Open Special Permit public hearing, B. Cooke, seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 5-0; All in Favor.
 - b. Explanation of Project - Mr. Dennis Eagen, spoke on the project. He described the 38 potential parking spots. The Foster lot would now have parking on weekends and evenings available to public. Tom's Toys/Attorney Prashker, said they have made a reciprocal agreement. Kwik Print/Attorney McCormick are finalizing the agreement, so that their back dock can be accessed during work hours. There will be pedestrian foot traffic.
 - c. Speak in Favor/Opposition – E. Abrahams made a motion to continue the public hearing. No one seconded. The motion failed.
 - d. Motion to Close Public Hearing- E. Abrahams made motion to close the public hearing, B. Cooke, seconded; Roll Call Vote; L. Davis; K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon. All in Favor, 5-0.
 - e. Motion - E. Abrahams made motion to continue the deliberations of findings to April 27th Selectboard meeting at 7 pm., L. Davis, seconded, Roll Call Vote, K. Burke, B. Cooke, L. Davis, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, (5-0), All in Favor.
- B. **Request to Continue** to April 27, 2020 SB Meeting the Special Permit Application from MRI Investments, LLC for a medically supervised substance abuse detoxification facility, at 438-446 Monterey Road, Great Barrington per Sections 3.1.4 B (10) and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. (Discussion/Vote)
- a. Open Public Hearing
 - b. Motion to Continue to April 27, 2020

Mr. Bannon advised that SB received a request from the applicant's attorney to continue the Special Permit Public Hearing to April 27, 2020.

Motion - E. Abrahams made motion to continue the public hearing to April 27th Selectboard meeting at 7 pm., L. Davis, seconded, Roll Call Vote, K. Burke, B. Cooke, L. Davis, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, (5-0), All in Favor.

7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:

- A. Steve Goldberg Application for a Driveway Permit at 318 A Park Street.
E. Abrahams made motion to approve, B. Cooke, seconded, Roll Call Vote,
L. Davis, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 4-0 (K. Burke not on line, did not vote)

- B. Kimberly L. Shaw Application for a Driveway Permit at 5 Ramsey Avenue (Corner of Locust and Ramsey). E. Abrahams made motion to approve, B. Cooke, seconded, Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, K. Burke, E. Abrahams, B. Cooke, and S. Bannon, All in Favor, 5-0.
- C. Andy Moro/American Legion Murphy-Leary Post 298 for permission to hold Poppy Boot Drive on Main Street between Gas House Lane and the entrance to JB Hull Oil Inc. on Saturday, May 16, 2020 (Rain date May 23) from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. E. Abrahams made motion to approve, if the Governor has lifted the “Social Distancing” Order, B. Cooke, seconded, Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, All in Favor, (5-0).
- D. Andy Moro/American Legion Murphy-Leary Post 298 for permission to sell Poppies in Great Barrington and the village of Housatonic during the month of May. (Discussion/Vote) E. Abrahams made motion to approve, if the “Social Distancing” order by Governor has been lifted, B. Cooke, seconded, Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, All in Favor, (5-0).
- E. Amelia Wood/Great Barrington Land Conservancy for permission to hold the 10th Annual Run for the Hills 5K/10K /Race on Sunday, October 4, 2020 starting at 9:00 am from Bard College at Simon’s Rock and the Kilpatrick Athletic Center. E. Abrahams made motion to approve, B. Cooke, seconded, Roll Call L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, All in Favor, (5-0).

(Kate Burke, 8:10pm. exited the meeting)

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. SB – Vote on the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment being financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town Meeting passed May 6, 2019 (Article 7).
- S. Carmel spoke of taking out Bond, formally, in next couple of weeks, to purchase new equipment.
- E. Abrahams made a motion that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed below being financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed May 6, 2019 (Article 7) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c44 § 7(1) to be as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Borrowing Amount</u>	<u>Maximum Useful Life</u>
Dump trucks with plow and sander	\$410,000	8 Years
Police cruisers	\$125,000	3-5 Years
Fire turnout gear	\$70,000	10 Years
Portable police radios	\$45,000	10 Years

I further certify that the votes taken 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 above 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, or Sundays, and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting ad remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the subject matter of this Vote were taken in executive session, All in accordance with G.L.c.30A, §§18-25, as amended.

B. Cooke seconded; L. Davis, Roll Call Vote, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 4-0; (K. Burke did not vote).

B. SB – To set new dates for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election.

E. Abrahams made motion to move the date of the Annual Town Meeting to Monday June 22, and Thursday June 25, at 6pm. at Monument Mountain Regional High School, B. Cooke, seconded; Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 4-0 (K. Burke did not vote).

B. Cooke made motion to reschedule the Annual Town Election to Tuesday, June 30th with reduced hours of 11:00 am - 6pm., at the usual locations for each precinct, with notifications of both changes to be provided as suggested in Town Clerk's Executive summary dated April 9, 2020, L. Davis, seconded Roll Call Vote, S. Bannon, B. Cooke, and L. Davis, 3-0 (K. Burke not on the line, E. Abrahams recused himself.)

C. SB - To Extend the due dates of the property tax bills under G.L. c.59 s.57 and 57C from May 1, 2020 to a date not later than June 1, 2020.

E. Abrahams made motion to have the payment of Property taxes extended from May 1st to June 1st, B. Cooke seconded Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 4-0; (K. Burke not on the line)

- To Waive interest and other penalties for late payment of excise and sewer use with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made after its respective due date but before June 30, 2020. E. Abrahams made the motion to waive interest and penalties, B. Cooke seconded Roll Call Vote, 6.

L. Davis, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 4-0 (K. Burke, not on the line)

- To Extend the due date under G.L. c.59, s.59 for applications for exemptions from April 1, 2020 to a date not later than June 1, 2020.

E. Abrahams made motion for due date of June 1, 2020, B. Cooke, seconded Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 4-0, (K. Burke not on the line).

(K. Burke returned to the meeting)

D. SB – Request for a Letter of Support to Consider Recreational Marijuana as an “Essential Service”. Charlotte Hannah spoke of her wish to make Recreational Marijuana an essential service, and have open hours in this period of closed businesses.

E. SB – **Continuation** - To Change the time (7:00 PM) of any future Selectboard 2020 Regular Meetings held virtually. S. Bannon made a suggestion to have the SB virtual meetings start at 6:30 pm.

E. Abrahams made a motion to start the virtual meetings at 6: 30pm, B. Cooke seconded, Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, E. Abrahams, B. Cooke, and S. Bannon, 5-0.

E. Abrahams made motion to have the Town Manager write letter to Senator Hinds and Representative Pignatelli to encourage them to allow Municipalities the flexibility to provide further relief for residents in any subsequent bills to address the challenges faced by Towns and state officials relative to Covid - 19, B. Cooke seconded, Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and S. Bannon, 5-0.

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Police Chief, William Walsh came on said he was having trouble “getting on line “.

10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME:

L. Davis, asked for anyone interested in helping with messages on Reid Cleaners Windows to

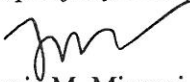
contact her.

S. Bannon thanked Amy Pulver for her assistance and thank everyone for participating in virtual meeting.

11. MEDIA TIME: none

12. ADJOURNMENT: E. Abrahams made motion to adjourn at 9:06 pm.; B. Cooke, seconded, Roll Call Vote, E. Abrahams, B. Cooke, L. Davis, and S. Bannon, 5- 0. Virtual Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM' with a stylized flourish.

Jamie M. Minacci
Recording Secretary