

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
GREAT BARRINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

&

GREAT BARRINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE and SELECTBOARD

JOINT FY 19 BUDGET MEETING

TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 at 7:00 PM

PRESENT

SELECTBOARD

Sean Stanton
Steve Bannon
Dan Bailly
Ed Abrahams
Bill Cooke

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ann O'Dwyer
Will Curletti
Walter Atwood
Janet Lee
Thomas Blauvelt

I. Call to Order by Finance Committee.

Thomas Blauvelt called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

**II. Approval of FY 19 Joint Budget Meeting Minutes of Finance Committee and Selectboard
January 29, 2018**

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to approve the January 29, 2018 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2018 meeting.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

February 6, 2018

Ed Abrahams requested that the name identified as a Housatonic resident in citizen speak time is amended to 'Andy Moro.'

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to approve the February 6 minutes with the amendments.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the minutes with the proposed amendments.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

February 13, 2018

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to approve the February 13, 2018 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the February 13, 2018 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

February 21, 2018

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to approve the February 21, 2018 minutes.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the February 21, 2018 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

March 19, 2018

Ed Abrahams requested that "Jim" mentioned in citizen speak time is identified as Jim Stark. Mr. Abrahams also suggested that it is clarified in the minutes that he proposed the budget cuts should be

discussed in the categories he outlined; funds that are getting pushed to a future year, program cuts, professional development cuts, and hopeful savings.

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the meeting minutes for March 19, 2018 with the proposed amendments.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the March 19, 2018 meeting minutes with the proposed amendments.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

III. Public Hearing FY 19 Budget – Conducted by Finance Committee

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt motioned to open the public hearing

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

- Public Input

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin presented the operating budget for FY19 highlighting a 1.9% increase between FY18 and FY19.

Francis “Sonny” Tarnawa, 228 Grove Street. Sonny announced that he has been the custodian for the Housatonic Community Center for 33 years. Sonny said if his stipend position is cut the work will be absorbed by a union employee of the town. Sonny explained that if a union employee takes over the position will cost the town more than his \$7500 stipend. The custodian position requires the employee to work nights and weekends which would require overtime pay. Sonny said that this position cut does not lower the town budget.

Eileen Mooney, 5 Cone Ave., Housatonic, MA, Ms. Mooney asked if the attendance at the Transfer Station and Recycling Center warrants keeping it open longer on Sundays. Ms. Mooney asked for figures showing the attendance and use. Ms. Mooney asked for clarification on the 7% increase on the Assistant Salary. Ms. Tabakin said that the increase is additional to the grant funds used to fund the position.

David Rosenberg, 225 East Street, Mr. Rosenberg asked if there was room for an increase in the proposed FY19 budget. Mr. Stanton said this increase does not include the Town’s contribution to the Berkshire Hills School budget, adding that the 1.9% increase is on top of the 5.7% School budget.

Joe Sokul, 10 Locust Street, Mr. Sokul spoke in favor of adding the Housatonic Community Center Custodian position back into the FY19 operating budget. Mr. Sokul also advocated for adding in the Tree Warden position back into the FY19 budget stating that the position pays for itself when removing hazardous trees.

Bob, 25 Hart Street, Housatonic, MA, Bob mentioned that the Great Barrington Library is a rich resource beyond the books.

Bill Fields, 209 Cottage Street, Housatonic, MA, Mr. Fields said that he was a member of the Finance Committee for 22 years. Mr. Fields advocated for the Housatonic Community Center custodian position to be put back into the FY19 budget. Mr. Fields said this position provides many things that often go unrecognized. Mr. Fields said that Sonny has done a great job and asked the Finance Committee and Selectboard to rethink this cut. Mr. Fields asked how much the Dispatch Desk costs the Town of Great Barrington. Mr. Atwood said that it is not an easy number to quantify. Mr. Fields asked if it makes more sense to move the Dispatch Desk to a regional office. Mr. Atwood said that this issue has been brought up before and it was not approved by the voters.

William Walsh, Police Chief, Chief Walsh also mentioned that the Great Barrington voters decided to keep the local Dispatch Office open. Chief Walsh said that he thinks it makes people feel safer to see a desk officer there at the Dispatch Desk.

Michelle Loubert, 386 Park Street, Housatonic, MA. Ms. Loubert said that her family has lived in Great Barrington for many years and the town is becoming more and more expensive to live in. Ms. Loubert acknowledged that each Department plays an important role in providing services, adding that sacrifices need to be made. Ms. Loubert said the town has two options; increase revenue or bring costs down. Ms. Loubert requested that the Non-Profit entities in Town reassess and contribute payments to Great Barrington.

David Magadini, 334 Main Street, Mr. Magadini said there are insufficient funds in the Town Clerk Budget for FY19. Mr. Magadini said there should be more than two Town Meetings a year. Mr. Magadini said Town Meeting is an important democratic process and should be utilized more often. Mr. Magadini requested that funds for two more additional Town Meetings should be placed into the FY19 budget.

Karen Smith, 5 Monument Valley Rd. Ms. Smith said that the cuts to the Parks and Recreation budget have not been well thought out and there is more than a 2% decrease. Ms. Smith said Parks decrease drug and alcohol consumption among youth populations. Ms. Smith also said that this town needs a public bathroom. Ms. Smith said she is planning to propose at the May 2018 Town Meeting that a gate be purchased to secure the offices in the Town Hall and to keep the doors open during high business hours (until 8PM) and on weekends for access to the restroom. Ms. Smith said that the discussion of a public bathroom has been ongoing for two decades. Ms. Smith said this should be a multi-agency contribution.

Jim Stark, 1099 Main Street, Mr. Stark said that he does not agree that it is unsafe to only have one employee on at the Ramsdell Library.

Pat Hollenbeck- Library Trustees Chair, Mr. Hollenbeck said that Library Services are human services stating; "when times are tough for families they go to the library to utilize the provided services." Mr. Hollenbeck said that the programs bring people into downtown where they likely shop and go out to eat afterwards. Mr. Hollenbeck asked the Finance Committee and Selectboard to think about who loses when these cuts are made. Mr. Hollenbeck requested that the Library budget is not cut as presented and other sources of revenue are found.

Illana Siegal, 1 Lewis Ave., Ms. Siegal acknowledged the difficulty of the proposed cuts, however, the cuts significantly affect families with young children. Ms. Siegal said that families heavily utilize the parks when the weather is good and the libraries when the weather is poor.

Daniel Sights, 48 Grove Street. Mr. Sights acknowledged what a wonderful town Great Barrington is to live in and said that he would like to see the budget remain level funded.

Margaret Heilbrun, 168 Front Street, Housatonic, MA. Margaret said the library provides intangible benefits that we must foster.

- Close Public Hearing

MOTION: Tom Blauvelt motioned to close the public hearing

SECOND: Walter Atwood

ROLL CALL VOTE: Tom Blauvelt: **Yes**, Walter Atwood: **Yes**, Will Curletti: **Yes**, Janet Lee: **Yes**, Ann O'Dwyer: **Yes**.

Walter Atwood asked if there was a job description for the new Fire Department positions. Chief Burger said there is an outline of the future position stating that it would be similar to the paid position already staffed in the Fire Department. Walter Atwood asked if the Fire Chief would hire from the existing crew of volunteers. Chief Burger and the Town Manager said they would advertise the position like any other position.

Walter Atwood asked the Fire Chief how many volunteers have taken the Fire Fighter I and II trainings that are still volunteering with the Great Barrington Fire Department. Chief Burger said we have more than six volunteers who have taken the trainings.

Ed Abrahams said the library cuts can be reinstated for an additional \$1.93 to the tax payer of a median home. The Parks budget can be reinstated for \$2.53. Mr. Abrahams said all of the proposed cuts total \$19.88 for the median home owner.

Ed Abrahams said the Town Manager and the Fire Chief have both said that they cannot ensure public safety with the staff as it is presently. Walter Atwood said that this is a false lead-up because the taxes for the median home owner are over \$380,000 a year. Ed Abrahams countered by saying that that is what it costs to operate the town in the way we have asked the Town Manager to do so.

IV. Discussion Re: Outstanding FY 19 Budget Matters.

Sean Stanton said it is the responsibility of the Selectboard to ensure that money for a 2.5% raise for the Town Manager is included in the salary line.

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to add 2.5% to the \$119,099.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to add 2.5% to the \$119,099.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Sean Stanton moved to cut the Consultant line by 2.5%

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Will Curletti moved to reduce the Consultant line by 2.5%

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Finance Committee line for \$100,300.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Will Curletti moved to approve the Finance Committee line for \$100,300.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Town Accountant line for \$118,900.00

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Town Account line for \$118,900.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Technology line for \$175,130.00

SECOND: Janet Lee

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Technology line for \$175,130.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Assessors line for \$147,845.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Assessors line for \$147,845.00
SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Treasurer/ Collector line for \$191,348.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Treasurer/ Collector line for \$191,348.00
SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Town Clerk/ Elections line for \$122,458.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Town Clerk/ Elections line for \$122,458.00
SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Conservation Commission line for \$23,520.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Conservation Commission line for \$23,520.00
SECOND: Janet Lee
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Historic District line for \$2,500.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Historic District line for \$2,500.00
SECOND: Janet Lee
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Various Boards/ Commissions line for \$4,000.00
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Various Boards/ Commissions line for \$4,000.00

SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Planning Board line for \$5,250.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Planning Board line for \$5,250.00

SECOND: Janet Lee

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals line for \$1,350.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals line for \$1,350.00

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Office of Planning/ Community Development line for \$102,185.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Office of Planning/ Community Development line for \$102,185.00

SECOND: Janet Lee

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to restore the parking meter attendant into the FY19 budget and approve the Public Safety line for \$1,595,343.00

SECOND: Ed Abrahams

VOTE: 3-2 Sean Stanton and Dan Bailly opposed.

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Public Safety line for \$1,580,343.00

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

Ann O'Dwyer said this is a risky cut, but it is worth it to see where we are with this position next year in terms of revenue

Sean Stanton said it will be helpful to have the comparative data with revenue for FY20.

MOTION: Will Curletti motioned to approve the Fire Department line for \$490,553.00

SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer

VOTE: 3-2 Janet Lee and Walter Atwood opposed.

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Fire Department line for \$490,553.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-1 Ed Abrahams opposed.

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Communications/ Emergency Management line for \$26,985.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Communications/ Emergency Management line for \$26,985.00

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood motioned to approve the Building Inspector line for \$158,920.00

SECOND: Janet Lee

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Building Inspector line for \$158,920.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 4-1 Ed Abrahams opposed.

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Weights and Measures line for \$4,500.00

SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Weights and Measures line for \$4,500.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Animal Control line for \$11,750.00

SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Animal Control line for \$11,750.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to restore \$7,500.00 for the Tree Warden and \$7,500.00 for the Community Center Custodian positions back into the FY19 DPW Budget.

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 4-1 Tom Blauvelt opposed

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to restore \$7,500.00 for the Tree Warden and \$7,500.00 for the Community Center Custodian positions back into the FY19 DPW Budget.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Will Curletti motioned to approve the Public Health line at \$113,355.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Public Health line at \$113,355.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Council on Aging line at \$168,498.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Council on Aging line at \$168,498.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Veterans' Affairs at \$171,851.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Veterans' Affairs at \$171,851.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Human Services at \$32,000.00

SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon motioned to approve the Human Services at \$32,000.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Ed Abrahams motioned to add \$9,165.00 back into the library budget; \$565.00 into line 236, \$3,000.00 into line 237, and \$4,000.00 into line 238.

SECOND: Bill Cooke

VOTE: 2-3 Sean Stanton, Steve Bannon, & Dan Bailly opposed. Motion Failed.

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to recommend the library budget as proposed.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 3-2

Tom Blauvelt recuses himself from the motion and vote regarding the FY19 Library Budget.

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to approve the library budget as proposed, \$537,410.00

SECOND: Will Curletti

VOTE: 2-2 Janet Lee and Ann O'Dwyer opposed.

MOTION: Ann O'Dwyer moved to amend the proposed budget to add \$3,000.00 to the Books and Supplies line and \$2,000.00 back into the Non-Print Materials line.

SECOND: Janet Lee

VOTE: 2-2 Walter Atwood and Will Curletti opposed.

MOTION: Will Curletti moved to approve the \$75,750.00 for the Parks and Recreation budget.

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 4-1 Janet Lee opposed.

MOTION: Dan Bailly moved to approve the Parks and Recreation budget at \$75,750.00

SECOND: Sean Stanton

VOTE: 3-2 Steve Bannon and Ed Abrahams Opposed

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to approve the Insurance line for \$1,931,250.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the Insurance line for \$1,931,250.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to approve the Debt Services line for \$1,673,650.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the Debt Services line for \$1,673,650.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to approve the Retirement line for \$818,263.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the Retirement line for \$818,263.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to approve the Miscellaneous line for \$12,000.00

SECOND: Walter Atwood

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the Miscellaneous line for \$12,000.00

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve Warrant Article number 6 FY19 Wastewater Treatment Budget

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to approve Warrant Article number 6 FY19 Wastewater Treatment Budget

SECOND: Walter Atwood
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the total operating budget with the changes made this evening.

SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to approve the total operating budget with the changes made this evening.

SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to approve the Ballot Questions

SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee motioned to approve the Ballot Questions

SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 1

SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to approve Article 1

SECOND: Janet Lee
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 2

SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Ann O'Dwyer moved to positively recommend Article 2

SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Ann O'Dwyer moved to positively recommend Article 3

SECOND: Janet Lee
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 3

SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Janet Lee moved to positively recommend Article 4

SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 4
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Will Curletti moved to positively recommend Article 7
SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer
VOTE: 4-1 Walter Atwood Opposed

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 7
SECOND: Ed Abrahams
VOTE: 4-1 – Dan Bailly Opposed

MOTION: Ann O'Dwyer moved to positively recommend Article 8
SECOND: Will Curletti
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 8
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Walter Atwood moved to positively recommend Article 9
SECOND: Ann O'Dwyer
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 9
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Ann O'Dwyer moved to positively recommend Article 10
SECOND: Janet Lee
VOTE: 5-0

MOTION: Steve Bannon moved to positively recommend Article 10
SECOND: Dan Bailly
VOTE: 5-0

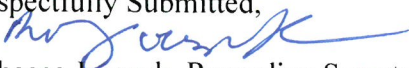
V. Citizen Speak Time.

VI. Adjournment.

On a motion made by Tom Blauvelt, seconded by Walter Atwood, with a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

On a motion made by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, with a unanimous vote, the Selectboard adjourned the meeting at 9:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Rebecca Jurczyk, Recording Secretary