

Town of Great Barrington
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 9, 2020; 7:00 PM
Town Hall, 334 Main Street

- I. Call to Order: E. Abrahams called meeting to order in chairman S. Bannon's absence, at 7:00pm. All present were, E. Abrahams, W. Cooke, L. Davis, K. Burke, and Town Manager, M. Pruhenski, S. Bannon-absent.
- II. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2020, SB Minutes; W. Cooke made motion to approve the Minutes, K. Burke, seconded; All in Favor, 4-0.
- III. Selectboard Announcements: K. Burke asked to communicate with M. Wise, Town Moderator about possible, alternative meetings, if needed, in the future. E. Abrahams announced that the Eight Town Consolidation Committee had first meeting last Saturday and they elected their officers; Planning Board is holding the Zoning Public Hearings on Thursday, 12th of March at 6pm.; Cemetery Commission gave permission to have a memorial for Private Deland, Civil War medal recipient; thanked the GB Police Department for assisting with a new drop off at the High School. E. Abrahams asked the Selectboard for permission to send a letter on the Selectboard letterhead recommending the Berkshire Bounty in their grant proposal. K. Burke made recommendation, in future, for all Selectboard to be able to participate, to give more "strength" to the letter.
 - A. Town Manager, M. Pruhenski introduced Health Agent, Rebecca Jurczyk, to speak on the Covid -19 preparations. Handout was included in the Board's packet. She advised anyone exhibiting symptoms to call the Massachusetts Public Health Epidemiology Department, at 617. 983. 6800, or your primary care physician prior to arriving at the doctor's office or the emergency room. This is for the safety and welfare of others. At this time no one is in quarantin or in isolation in Great Barrington. Town and the Health Department are working together to assess risks. By the end of the week the Town's Website will have information on Covid -19 under the Board of Health page.
 - B. Assistant Town Manager, C. Rembold gave an update on the Reid Cleaners property. He stated that there was a story in the paper about air quality. He said there aren't any concerns or truths. Town does own the property and does check the air quality of the site periodically. The contamination is deep into the bedrock due to the type of contamination. The EPA cleanup grant that the Town applied for to clean up the site will be known in June or July 2020. Then the clean up of the site will begin. In meantime, the air quality and water are safe and healthy.
 - C. M. Pruhenski asked to revise the Housatonic Improvement Committee Charter, increasing the membership from 5 to 7 members. There were many applications and he would like to increase membersd to include two more members. W. Cooke

made motion, to increase the size from 5 to 7 members and to change the line in the Charter that states, “Special Meetings can be called by Chairperson “, K. Burke seconded, All in Favor, 4-0. M. Pruhenski will notify the new members and announce it at the next Board meeting.

- A. Shared Services – a list was included in the Board’s packets. M. Pruhenski would like to call Department Heads in to speak on this topic at a future Selectboard meeting.

II. Licenses or Permits:

- A. Ross Pierce Cameron/ Fastback Motors: Attorney K. McCormick spoke on behalf of the applicant who is applying for an Annual Class II License at 20 Castle Street (the old firehouse). Class II License is to buy, sell, and exchange automobiles. The owner is subleasing the premises through Castle Street LLC. This would be all private sales, by appointment only, not a car lot, and not more than 10 cars in the garage. The applicant provided the Town with a bond for \$25,000. The RMV will issue the license after the Selectboard approves it from the Town. No work will take place in the garage, just storage. Autobahn Motors will be the primary repair facility. W. Cooke made motion to approve the Class II License for Fastback Motors LLC., with the knowledge there is no signage or additional lighting; K. Burke seconded, All in Favor, 4 - 0.
- B. Phornphimon “Jem” Ezinga / Steam Noodle Cafe LLC/ Steam Noodle Cafe for 2020 Common Victualler License at 226 Pleasant Street, Housatonic (Village), Massachusetts. “Jem” spoke that she wants to open a noodle shop in Housatonic, to be open 7 days, 6 - 11pm. B. Cooke made motion to approve the 2020 Common Victualler License for Steam Noodle Cafe, K. Burke, seconded, All in Favor, 4 - 0.
- C. Terrence & Terri Coughlin / Granville House LLC d/b/a Granville House for 2020 Annual Common Victualler License at 98 Division Street, Housatonic, Massachusetts. The Coughlins said that their wish was to open a 5 bedroom Bed & Breakfast and to be able to serve food to their customers. W. Cooke, made motion to approve the license, K. Burke, seconded, All in Favor, 4 - 0.
- D. Terrence & Terri Coughlin / Granville House LLC d/b/a Granville House for 2020 Annual Innholders License at 98 Division Street, Housatonic, Massachusetts. W. Cooke, made motion to approve the application for 2020 Annual Innholders License at 98 Division Street, Housatonic, Massachusetts, K. Burke seconded, All in Favor, 4 - 0.

III. New Business:

- A. SB- Recommendation to the Building Inspector on the T- Mobile Northeast LLC Application for a Building Permit for a New Wireless Telecommunication Installation at a Previously Permitted Wireless Telecommunication Facility at 29 Lewis Avenue (Fairview Hospital). Mr. Andrew Brailard of T- Mobile at 10

Commerce Way, Norton, Massachusetts was present to ask the Selectboard for a favorable recommendation in order for the Building Inspector to approve the permit. The proposal is to install a wireless communications facility at 29 Lewis Avenue. Currently, there are two carriers on the existing site, and due to (M.G. L) 9.3.11, and the Federal Tax Relief Act, # 64.09; to install a wireless system, and to be eligible for facilities request, there cannot be a change of the visibility of/ on the site. T Mobile wants to put a 4 sector array, total 8, as a “ faux chimney “. In Tab 7, description of the FCC recommendation for radio frequency, T Mobile is well below the recommendation of public safety. Engineer spoke to the Planning Board, about the dangers being at the initial board being installed is and where the harmful effects are. W. Cooke made a motion not to send a recommendation to the Building Inspector, and requested that the Health Department be asked to make recommendations to the Building Inspector regarding harmful or excessive (radiation) effects, K. Burke seconded, 3-1; K. Burke, no.

- B. Karen Christensen - Request for a Letter of Support for Funding a Study of Passenger Service of the Housatonic Rail line (Senate Bill SB2096 & House Bills HB3110 (HD 1892). She is asking the Selectboard for a letter of support from Town, for the two bills that are in front of the Joint Committee on transportation. She wants to get the train campaign language into the Bond (\$18 million dollar bond) bill to restore the Railroad service from NYC to Berkshires. W. Cooke made a motion to write letters to our legislators, Senator, A. Hinds, Representative W. Smitty Pignatelli, and Senator Marky, K. Burke seconded, All in Favor, 4-0.
- C. Grove Street, Request from Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust, W. Cooke said that the AHTF met last Thursday. The AHTF made recommendations to the Selectboard to waive back taxes on the property, to donate the property to the Habitat for Humanity and to have the house restored as affordable housing property (single family ownership property). They ask that the Selectboard place an article for the Annual Town meeting warrant to conduct Stage I environmental study of the any possible problems or liabilities, ask the staff and Town Counsel of how best to achieve this goal, and lastly, to use the Secretary of Interior's recommendations for restoring/ rehabilitate historic building exterior. W. Cooke made motion for the Selectboard to seek counsel from Town Counsel of the legal process to donate the property at 40 Grove Street to Habitat Humanity and to draft a warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting, with the AHTF recommendations in mind, K. Burke seconded, All in Favor, 4 -0.
- A. Presentation of Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Program. Slide presentation. C. Rembold, thanked Caroline Massa and Justin Gilmore of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and members of the Strategic Sustainability Committee for their work on Committee's Hazard Mitigation Plan

(HMP) and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP). The HMP is done every five years, to mitigate natural disasters. The MVP is a grant program from the State to see how climate change will impact our community and increase natural disaster risk, how can we adapt and be more resilient in facing more extreme weather events. We have been collaborating with other Departments, VIM, CHP, Senior Center, DPW, etc. to see how to mitigate the predicted effects of climate change, where the risks are, and what are our priorities. We have now compiled all the information and data, into a draft report. We are now asking for people's input to prioritize our action list. There is an online survey for input. It will be available for the next 30 days. Contact Caroline and Justin for more information. Many surrounding towns have received monies from these grants to support climate change ideas.

- B. SB- Open Meeting Law Complaints from Jean Louis & Holly Hardman. Two Open meeting law complaints, and draft letters in the package. W. Cooke made motion to approve the response letters to the Open Meeting Law, K. Burke seconded, 3-0-1 (L.Davis abstained).
 - C. SB - Rest of River Request- Non Binding/ Advisory Warrant Article for Annual Town Meeting. (L. Davis abstained from discussion and vote, due to her work, and as per recommendation from AG). W. Cooke made a motion for Selectboard including a non - binding advisory Rest of River South settlement, in the warrant for the May 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, in order to allow for additional citizens input and to instruct the Town Manager to prepare a draft for the Selectboard consideration, K. Burke, seconded, 3-0-1 (L. Davis abstained).
- IV. Citizens Speak Time: none
 - V. Media Time: no
 - VI. Adjournment: Meeting ended at 8:21pm. E. Abrahams made motion to adjourn meeting, K. Burke seconded, All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie M. Minacci
Recording secretary