

**Joint Budget Meeting, Selectboard and Finance Committee  
Town Hall, 334 Main Street Great Barrington MA 01230  
Monday January 29, 2018 at 6:00pm Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT**

**Selectboard**

Sean Stanton  
Steve Bannon  
Dan Bailly  
Ed Abrahams  
Bill Cooke

**Finance Committee**

Janet Lee  
Ann O'Dywer  
Walter Atwood  
Will Curletti

**I. Call to Order**

Selectboard Chair, Sean Stanton calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**II. Town Manager Fiscal 2019 Budget Introduction**

The Town Meeting Warrant will be printed and made available to the public on April 13, 2018. Ms. Tabakin said that in the last year the Town has hired new staff in almost all of the Town Departments. The Town is now fully staffed. The Health Care Plan was altered this past year by the Berkshire Health Group. Berkshire Health Group voted to only provide a deductible plan which required the Town to go through a union bargaining process and a mitigation plan. This change will, in the long term reduce the increase and reduce costs for employer and employee. Ms. Tabakin announced that the current assessed value of the Town of Great Barrington is \$1,440,219, 751.00 and the current tax rate is \$14.98. The current operating budget is \$11.1M and the prior year we had an operating budget of \$10.8M. Salaries are 39% of our current operating budget. For FY18 there will not be as much new growth affecting our assessed value as in the prior years. For FY18 Great Barrington is projected to receive \$10M in assessed value. Ms. Tabakin said this is normal and we need to prepare to not expect new growth booms every year. The approach for the budget cycle this year is to focus on cost savings. This year was also a union collective bargaining year and the budget reflects those increases. The infrastructure debt service payments are also included in the FY19 budget.

**III. FY19 Budget**

**a. General Government**

▪ Town Clerk

Marie Ryan, Town Clerk. Ms. Ryan said this year there is a \$6,000.00 increase in her Department because of the three elections in FY19.

- Board of Assessors

Chris Lamarre, Town Assessor. The levy capacity for FY18 was \$1.98M. Dan Bailly asked the Assessor for the percentage of taxable land in Great Barrington. Mr. Lamarre said the total value of tax exempt is about \$276M and the total taxable is \$1, 440, 219,751.00

- Treasurer

Karen Fink, Treasurer. Ms. Fink said her office is working on a few properties in foreclosure; The Stonegate Condominiums, Cook's Garage in Housatonic, and Reed Cleaners. Jennifer Tabakin said that this year she considered adding in a stipend position for a parking hearing officer. Right now these responsibilities fall on the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk.

- Selectboard/Town Manager

Ms. Tabakin said that the legal budget is increasing in FY19, mentioning that it is difficult to anticipate the costs of legal counsel.

**b. Council on Aging**

Polly Mann-Salenovich, Director of the Council on Aging. The services fees for Southern Berkshire Elder Transportation Corporation (SBETC) are now in the Senior Center budget. Ms. Man-Salenovich and Ms. Tabakin are hoping to get more information from SBETC on fees the details of service associated with what we currently pay to SBETC. Currently seniors are charged \$7.00 round trip, to and from the Senior Center.

**c. Board of Health**

Jennifer Tabakin said this year the Board of Health has two Health Inspectors/Agents Rebecca Jurczyk and Locke Larkin. The Health Inspector of Animals and Barns are now in the Public Health Budget, formally it was a separate category. Ms. Jurczyk described the duties of Health Inspector Locke Larkin and the crucial role the Williamstown Health Agent had in the success of the Health Department this year.

**d. Building Inspector**

Edward May, Buildings Commissioner. The Buildings Department has a new full time inspector, Matt Kolmer. New projects that will be completed within FY18 are; building renovations at Simon's Rock, eleven affordable housing units on State Rd., and Marshalls opened in the old Kmart building.

**e. Library – moved to another joint meeting agenda.**

**f. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Steve Bannon, seconded by Dan Bailly, with a unanimous vote the Selectboard adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM. On a motion made by Will Curletti, seconded by Walter Atwood, the Finance Committee adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Jurczyk".

Rebecca Jurczyk  
Recording Secretary