

**SELECTBOARD and FINANCE COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING AGENDA**

**and**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018**

**6:00 PM – JOINT SESSION**

**REGULAR SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

**TOWN HALL, 334 MAIN STREET**

**PRESENT:**

**Finance Committee**

Will Curletti

Tom Blauvelt

Michelle Loubert

Ann O'Dwyer

**Selectboard**

Steve Bannon

Ed Abrahams

Kate Burke

Dan Bailly

Jennifer Tabakin, Town Manager

**6:00 PM- OPEN MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Steve Bannon called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**2. AUDITOR'S PRESENTATION OF FY 2017 AUDIT REPORT.**

Pat Squillanti, Auditor. Ms. Squillanti explained that this audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards but does not give 100% assurance of every dollar spent in the previous fiscal year. Ms. Squillanti said that based on our total operating budget of about 26M, expenditures between \$30,000- \$90,000 were reviewed in this audit. Ms. Squillanti said the Town of Great Barrington will need to submit an actuary for health care and retirement benefits annually going forward in order to comply with the new GATSBY standards. Steve Bannon asked if it was recommended to look into different health care packages. Ms. Squillanti said it would be beneficial to look into the cost effective options. Ms. Squillanti reviewed some numbers; 3.2M in General fund, 2.8M of that are general funds, 11% of the total operating budget, and about \$400,000 of the 3.2M is what Great Barrington has for stabilization fund. Ms. Squillanti reviewed the Management Letter, which is a review of areas of improvements and strengths identified in the last fiscal year. Ms. Squillanti said Great Barrington has two material weaknesses and three significant deficiencies. Ms. Squillanti said that one material weakness was that the FY17 appropriations figure was used when the FY18 should have been used for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Squillanti said because the Wastewater Treatment Plant is an enterprise system it did not affect the tax rate but did result in a \$380,000 understatement of funds. The second material weakness was that \$15,000 had been voted on in a Town Meeting for a Police Detail revolving fund. The \$15,000 had not been put into the FY18 tax recap and tax rates had not been raised to accommodate for the additional funds. The third, the snow and ice deficit was voted on in Town Meeting to raise and appropriate the tax rate. The deficit ended up getting funded by free cash. Ms. Squillanti said this is essentially doing the same thing in two different ways but it was not clear for the audit on what was the proper way and it was subsequently noted as an error

or inconsistency. Ms. Squillanti said one of the deficiencies was related to Chapter 90 money yet to be received so it seemed as though there was a \$143,000 deficiency but at the end of the year that money will be back in the accounts. Ms. Tabakin said to the Selectboard that the delay in applying for the reimbursement was because the Town was in the middle of the lawsuit regarding Taconic Avenue and they were waiting until that was finalized. Ms. Squillanti mentioned grants being in deficit and lack of receipts to trace for these grants. Michelle Loubert said that this is bothersome and Departments should set up payment schedules. Steve Bannon asked if these deficits are due to overspent grant allotments. Ms. Squillanti said she was unable to determine if they were overspent funds or if reimbursement was not requested.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 4, 2018 Fin Com PH and SB and Fin Com Joint Meeting

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes with the discussed amendments.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 3-0-1 Kate Burke Abstains**

**MOTION:** Tom Blauvelt motioned to approve the Minutes with the amendments.

**SECOND:** Ann O'Dwyer

**VOTE: 4-0**

March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

April 2, 2018 Special Meeting

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes with the discussed amendments.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 3-0-1 Kate Burke abstains**

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to convene as the Board of Sewer Commissioners

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **4. BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS: Sewer Abatements**

(July 1 – December 31, 2017). (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motions to approve the total sewer abatements of \$6,325.00

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to re-convene as the Selectboard.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **5. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS:**

A. General Comments by the Board

Kate Burke announced that at the Saturday Farmer's Market this weekend (5/26/18) a local Librarian will be doing some readings and children activities from 9:00AM-1:00PM.

Dan Bailly asked to have a review of the Town's Master Plan with the Planning Board at an upcoming meeting and preferably before the Selectboard has discusses goal setting. Mr. Bailly asked the Town Manager to set up a presentation of updates regarding the Housatonic School Development study. Mr. Bailly also asked for a review of the budget once the FY18 books have been "closed." Mr. Bailly asked to review the Housatonic Water rate study that was recently published.

Steve Bannon asked to review and update the policies of the Selectboard at an upcoming meeting. Steve Bannon said that Ed Abrahams has requested to no longer be the Selectboard representative for the CPA Committee and requested that Dan Bailly be appointed.

## **6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

### **A. Department Updates.**

The Cottage Street Bridge has qualified for a Transportation Grant for \$5M. If awarded, the project would begin in 2022.

The Claire Teague Senior Center received grant funds from Elder Services which will be put towards funding SBETC's purchase of a new van.

Ms. Tabakin announced that in the last year Great Barrington has received \$1.2M in grant funds.

The Selectboard scheduled a special meeting to cover the Downtown Improvement Project. This meeting will be scheduled for June 4, 2018 at 7:00PM.

### **B. Project Updates.**

Paving continues on Christian Hill Rd., Pothul Drive, Forest Row, and Division Street.

The Police Station trim repair will begin this week.

Town Hall roof repairs are scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.

The streets are being swept and line painting will follow.

Main Street has been landscaped in preparation for Memorial Day.

## **7. LICENSES OR PERMITS:**

### **A. George Ramirez for Driveway Permit at 44 Blue Hill Road. (Discussion/Vote)**

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve the driveway permit with the condition that the owners continue to work with the Conservation Commission.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **B. Stephen Pearlman/Susan Obel/Aston Magna Foundation for Music & the Humanities for**

Four (4) One day Beer and Wine Liquor Licenses for June 23, 30, July 7 and July 14, 2018 from 6:00 pm – 9:15 pm at St. James Place, 352 Main Street. (Discussion/Vote)

Susan Obel said that this is the 46<sup>th</sup> annual event in Great Barrington.

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **C. Robin Vickery/Great Barrington Fish and Game for One Day Beer and Wine**

Liquor License for June 17, 2018 from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm at 338 Long Pond Road. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **D. George Laye/The Guthrie Foundation for Thirty (30) One Day Beer and Wine**

Liquor Licenses from June 1, 2018 – September 2, 2018, as per list attached, from 6:00 pm – 12:00 pm at 2 VanDeusenville Road. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approved.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

### **E. George Laye/The Guthrie Center for Ten (10) One Day Beer and Wine**

Liquor Licenses from May 25, 2018 – October 6, 2018 (as per list attached) from 6:00 pm – 12:00 pm at 2 VanDeusenville Road. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

F. Terry Chamberland/Great Barrington Firefighter's Association for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show on August 2, 2018 from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm, as follows:

The date was changed from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup> due a conflict with an event at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. The new rain date is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>.

- for permission to close Main Street from Cottage Street to Bridge Street for the duration of the event (4:00 pm – 9:00 pm). (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

- for One Day Weekday Entertainment License for August 2, 2018 from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

G. Terrie Gardina/American Cancer Society d/b/a Relay for Life for One Day Weekday Entertainment License for June 22, 2018 from 10:00 pm – 1:00 am at Monument Mountain Regional High School Track. (Discussion/Vote)

2018 will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year the Relay for Life Event has been hosted by Monument Mountain High School. The event will begin at 6:00PM but the music and live entertainment will begin around 10:00PM.

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

H. Jen Harvey/Berkshire Property Agents for 2018 Real Estate Sign. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

I. Sinan Turan/Vivaldi's Pizzeria for 2018 Common Victualler License. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. SB – Recommendation to Town Manager on the Appointment of member to the Conservation Commission. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve the appointment of Kate Van Olst.

**SECOND:** Kate Burke

**VOTE: 4-0**

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to make the recommendation that all Boards and Commissions that are making an appointment recommendation to the Selectboard that they first publish an advertisement for the position and interview the candidates.

**SECOND:** Kate Burke

**VOTE: 4-0**

Kate Burke asked for these advertisements to be published on the website, Facebook Page, and as many other locations as possible (in addition to the Berkshire Record and Southern Berkshire Shoppers Guide) so as to reach as many people as possible. Steve Bannon suggested the Berkshire Edge and Eileen's Newsletter.

B. SB – To approve the gift of land on East Mountain to DCR as per May 2018 Annual Town Meeting Vote. (Discussion/Vote)

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to approve the gift of approximately 8.34 acres of forestland located in the Town of Great Barrington to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting by and through its Department of Conservation and Recreation, acting pursuant to and in accordance with Section 3 of Chapter 132A of the General Laws; and to authorize the Selectboard to execute the deed and any other documents therefore.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly

**VOTE: 4-0**

C. SB – Arbor Day Proclamation. (Discussion/Vote)

Steve Bannon read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

*Whereas, Arbor Day celebrates the role of the trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. It was initiated in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, who said "other holidays focus on the past; Arbor Day focuses on the future." Arbor Day is now celebrated throughout the nation and the world.*

*Whereas, trees are important, we couldn't live without them: they clean the air and produce the oxygen we breathe. They provide habitat for wildlife and help keep the climate in balance. They give us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products.*

*Whereas, trees increase property values, and enhance the beauty and vitality of our community.*

*Whereas, planting trees in an act of kindness and optimism. The celebration of Arbor Day represents a priceless opportunity for all of you to take positive actions and make your world a better place.*

*Therefore, we, the members of the Selectboard of the Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim Arbor Day in Great Barrington, and we urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day planting and caring for trees, and to support efforts in our Town to protect our trees.*

D. SB – Proclamation to Designate June 24, 2018 as Lucien Aigner Day. (Discussion/Vote)

*Whereas, Lucien Aigner was a pioneering photojournalist, and world famous resident of Great Barrington.*

*Whereas, he settled in Great Barrington in mid 1950's where he lived until he died in 1999.*

*Whereas, he travelled the world over taking photos of historical events, major world leaders and celebrities such as Einstein and Churchill just to name a few and witnessed monumental and daily events that spanned the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the League of Nations meetings in the 1920's.*

*Whereas, he is considered one of the leading pioneers of modern photography because of his early use of the small-format camera, the Leica. He was able to capture historic moments that others could not with their bulky tripod cameras.*

*Whereas, the Leica Historical Society of America ranks him with the likes of Cartier-Bresson, Eisenstadt, Capa, Salomon and Kertesz. His most famous and favorite photograph is of Albert Einstein.*

*Whereas, his iconic photographs tell stories of people places and events and depict images that capture our imagination, document history and take us to places we've never been.*

*Whereas, his photos donated to the Town line up the upstairs hallway, and are enjoyed by visitors and residents.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Selectboard for the Town of Great Barrington honor Lucien Aigner for his contributions and declares June 24, 2018 as Lucien Aigner Day.*

**MOTION:** Ed Abrahams motioned to designate June 24, 2018 as Lucien Aigner Day.

**SECOND:** Dan Bailly



**VOTE: 4-0**

**9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

**10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME:**

Dan Bailly volunteered to give the Memorial Day Parade Speech on behalf of the Town and Selectboard.

Ed Abrahams announced that the Friends of the Library will have a Free Book Day Event in front of the Mason Library on Saturday, May 26, 2018 starting around 9:00AM.

**11. MEDIA TIME:**

Eileen Mooney, the Newsletter asked if there are any other celebrations surrounding Lucien Aigner Day. Steve Bannon said there was an event planned for Saint James Place but he didn't have the details. Ann- Marie Aigner is organizing the event. Ms. Mooney asked for an update of the office reconfiguration from the Fire Station on Castle Street to the Town Hall. Steve Bannon said that details are still being worked out and that an update will be on an upcoming agenda.


**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Ed Abrahams, seconded by Dan Bailly, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

**13. CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION and Not to Return into Open Session**

- Town Manager's Conference Room MGL c. 30A, sec. 21(a) (3)  
re: pending litigation Docket #16-SEM-00725 Johnsen vs. Town of GB et al  
Roll Call Vote

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rebecca Jurczyk  
Recording Secretary