

Selectboard and Finance Committee Special Joint Meeting and
Selectboard Regular Meeting via Zoom and in person at 334 Main Street Great Barrington MA
Monday, December 5, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting in person/via Zoom at 5:30pm.

Selectboard roll call: Steve Bannon, "aye," Leigh Davis, "aye," Eric Gabriel, "aye," Garfield Reed, "aye."

Absent: Ed Abrahams

Finance Committee roll call - Richard Geiler, "aye," Madonna Meagher, "aye," Anne O'Dwyer, "aye,"

Philip Orenstein, "aye." Absent: Milena Cerna

Additional attendees: Town Manager Mark Pruhenski

- a. FY24 Budget Policy – A. O'Dwyer reviewed the revised policy provided in the packet covering revisions/updates/corrections previously discussed with the Selectboard. The Selectboard expressed overall support for the revised policy – but there was discussion on the budget book section's list of documents that may be requested in the budget review process. Selectboard members suggested more general language instead of a specific list of documents/reports so not to infer an obligation for Town staff to prepare all documents listed – it was stated reports can always be requested in advance of budget meetings. The Finance Committee's position was that it is helpful to have a list of documents important to the budget process that can be requested. It was agreed that the phrase *may include, but not limited to* would be added prior to the document list.

L. Davis made a motion to approve the Great Barrington Budget and Financial Policy as presented and amended; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: S. Bannon, "aye," L. Davis, "aye," E. Gabriel, "aye," G. Reed, "aye." All in favor: 4-0.

- i. It was agreed the amendment to the policy was minor and did not require a Finance Committee vote. A. O'Dwyer stated she would update and recirculate the policy.

- b. FY24 Budget Season Schedule – S. Bannon reviewed the budget meeting schedule. A. O'Dwyer asked if the dates could be changed. It was agreed to change the dates to February 28 and March 1; March 7 and 8 and March 22 for the public hearing – all meetings starting at 6:00pm. M. Pruhenski stated he would confirm the new dates with Town staff.

2. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME – No citizens requested to speak.

3. ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING

R. Geiler made a motion to adjourn; A. O'Dwyer seconded. Roll call vote: R. Geiler, "aye," M. Meagher, "aye," A. O'Dwyer, "aye," P. Orenstein, "aye." All in favor: 4-0

1. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING – Chairman Bannon called the Selectboard meeting to order.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. L. Davis stated at the CPC meeting on December 12 and 13 step two applications will be reviewed/discussed. She also stated on Tuesday, there will be a Housing Subcommittee meeting.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works Update – M. Pruhenski stated the Town received two proposals for appraisals of the Housatonic Water Works system and a contract was signed with Raftelis. He stated the project will begin next week and there should be a report and public presentation by mid/late February.
- b. Short-Term Rental Compliance Update – M. Pruhenski stated the Short-Term Rental Bylaw will be in full effect in January and the Town has contracted with GovOS – a short-term rental compliance software company. He also noted Town Health Inspector, Stephen Browning, will be the project lead and next steps include identifying short-term rentals, launching the application and registration portal, and a public outreach campaign.
 - i. Eileen Mooney asked if the state Attorney General approved the bylaw – M. Pruhenski replied the AG asked for an extension to review only the portion of the bylaw that restricted corporate entities from owning short-term rentals – and the Town is awaiting response.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2023 Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election calendars – S. Bannon noted the calendar is in the packet and he highlighted Town Meeting is scheduled to be held indoors on May 1, 2023.
 - i. Jenn Messina asked that the last date to obtain nomination papers be changed to March 17, 2023.
- L. Davis made a motion to approve the 2023 Town Meeting/Election calendar with the date change as requested; E. Gabriel seconded. Roll call vote: S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor: 4-0.
- ii. M. Pruhenski stated the calendar will be posted on the Town website.
- b. Vote to temporarily lift parking time limits for the Holiday Season – M. Pruhenski stated this is the annual request to lift parking time limits downtown during the holidays starting December 5 through calendar year-end.
- L. Davis made a motion to accept a temporary lift of parking time limits for the holiday season; E. Gabriel seconded. S. Bannon asked for any discussion – G. Reed confirmed merchants have not objected to lifting parking time limits. Roll call vote: S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor: 4-0.
- c. Vote to approve and sign documents related to the Agricultural Preservation Restriction of 180-190 North Plain Road – M. Pruhenski stated details are in the packet and are straight forward – asking the Selectboard to sign off on a vote taken at Town meeting on this matter.
- L. Davis made a motion to approve and sign documents related to the Agricultural Preservation Restriction of 180-190 North Plain Road; E. Gabriel seconded. . S. Bannon asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor: 4-0.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. Maureen Meier, 11 George Street, confirmed the short-term rental platform pays an impact fee to the state Department of Revenue who in turn, pays the Town – and this is not impacted by the new bylaw. M. Pruhenski clarified the only requirement as a host is to register the short-term rental. She also asked the cost of the surveillance system – M. Pruhenski replied it is \$18,000 annually and S. Bannon noted it is necessary for an effective/organized process - and after a year, there will be data to assess the program.

6. SELECTBOARD’S TIME

L. Davis thanked the DPW, Rotary and Town for the holiday decorations and noted the Sip 'n Stroll is Saturday night.

7. MEDIA TIME – No media asked to speak.

8. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk