

Selectboard Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2020

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81440337168?pwd=V1ZaR2J5OEk4YzNzNTU3WllWNTNkdz09>

Dial in: (audio only) (929) 205 6099

Webinar ID: 814 4033 7168

Passcode: 008844

ALL VOTES ARE ROLL CALL

6:00 PM – OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER: S. Bannon called virtual meeting to order at 6 pm., those on webinar, were, L. Davis, K. Burke, B. Cooke, E. Abrahams, and M. Pruhenski, Town Manager.
2. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS: No one spoke at this time.
3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:
 - A. Housatonic Water Works Update: M. Pruhenski spoke that three firms have been contact for appraisals. A letter to be drafted to Governor Baker to notify his office of the current water quality issues in Housatonic.
 - B. Police Department update, comfort Dog: Chief Walsh gave update of the newly acquired comfort dog, in the care of Officer Balestro. The GBPD has received 66 donations for the program, thus far, from businesses and citizens. The police department has reimbursed Town for car that was going to reinvest for the new one.
 - C. June/July/August Warrant Summaries: In packet, brought to full Board and to public.
 - D. Downtown Parking and Public Bathrooms: M. Pruhenski spoke that have found a parking lot and area for public bathrooms in Town. This will need to be brought to the voters for approval and appropriations.
 - E. Elderly/Disabled Transportation: Town Manager spoke of the SB Elderly transportation closed in March of 2020, re- opened in June, and closing permanently in September 2020. Looking for a more permanent solution, has reached out to BRTA and S. Pignatelli, for assistance and a solution to this need for elderly transportation. E. Abrahams made motion to endorse Town Manager and Staff to expand the elderly transportation services, for October 1, 2020, B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, “aye”; K. Burke, “aye”; B. Cooke, “aye”; E. Abrahams, “aye”; and S. Bannon, “aye”; All in Favor, 5-0.
 - E. Abrahams made motion to approve the Drug & Alcohol Policy for Van drivers, B. Cooke seconded, Roll Call Vote; L. Davis, “aye”; K. Burke, “aye”; B. Cooke, “aye”; E. Abrahams, “aye”; and S. Bannon, “aye”; All in Favor, passes, 5-0.
4. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. SBREPC Recertification: Chief Walsh needs a letter from Selectboard for recertification. E. Abrahams made motion to have letter written by Town Manager, B. Cooke, seconded; Roll Call Vote: L. Davis, “aye”; K. Burke, “aye”; B. Cooke, “aye”; E. Abrahams, “aye”; and S. Bannon, “aye”: 5-0, All in Favor.
 - B. Great Barrington Housing Authority Complaint (Discussion/Vote): Town Manager read a statement about a complaint from E. Moony, breaking open meeting laws in Housing Authority. E. Abrahams made motion to delegate this matter to Town Manager to conduct an investigation for the October 5, 2020 meeting; B. Cooke seconded; Roll Call Vote; L.

Davis, “aye”; K. Burke, “aye”; B. Cooke, “aye”; E. Abrahams, “aye”; and S. Bannon, “aye”: 5-0; passes.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Special Permit application from Berkshire Aviation Enterprises, Inc., for an aviation field in an R4 zone at 70 Egremont Plain Road, Great Barrington, per Sections 3.1.4 E(1) and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. (Continued from August 10, and August 24, 2020) (Discussion/Vote)

- Re-Open Public Hearing: Chairman Bannon, re-opened the hearing.
- Explanation of Project: Dennis Egan, received information from Doug Stuart to Chris Rembold. Terry Andersen, manager, began by speaking of her 40 year career in financial sector. She works at the Great Barrington Airport, as manager. She was persuasive in her description of the local uses of the airport field, i.e., fire drills, emergency transportation operations, Rotary club, Waldorf school functions, etc. She continued by saying the hangers are for planes, accommodation of her clients/ customers airplanes and in foul weather, like a garage for cars. She capitalized on the amount of private school children and their parents need to use airport for transportation; believes that these clients frequent the local restaurants and hotels. She stressed that it is a small business wanting to survive.
- Alex Johnson, 66 Seekonk Cross Roads - a long time nuisance, becoming a large nuisance. That they will have free rein.
- Jay Fingeroff, 130 Hurlburt Road - lived here for 40 years. Has seen increase in flights, routes of flights, and increased volume/noise.
- Tad Heuer, Esq. - He raised concern over the letter that neighbors have not seen, about noise mitigation plan or letter from Mr. Stuart.
- Holly Hamme - Is concerned about noise, would want a noise abatement plan. Hasn't seen any changes. Plan is good, adherence is not.
- Anne Fredericks - Concern about the aquifer, 500 ft. setback, a sensitive property, that it's a nonconforming property. Loud and late flights.
- Mark Fasteau - He spoke that the airport has not meet the 6 criterion. What are the facts? Several crashes. Brought up of conflicting information about airplane fuel. He reminded everyone of the 50% use of de-leaded fuel. He researched, that Swift fuel, only de-leaded fuel company, delivered 9,000 gallons, there have been 900 hours in 3 years using this type of fuel.
- Sharon Gregory - She stressed the need to protect our water resources and residents, worried about Masterplan.
- Elise Abrams - She wanted to acknowledge the noise, and the planes fly low.
- J. Hankin - He stated that only need 200 ft. protection not 500 ft. protection of river.
- Barbara Barak - Her property under flight path, feels that it is loud. Feels that Airport is communicating. Planes are large and disruptive.

B. Findings/comments:

S. Bannon asked C. Rembold to share some of his thoughts on the process. C. Rembold stated that the Board will need to weigh the benefits and the detriments. Can put conditions on the Special Permit. If their detriments can put specific conditions on. B. Cooke asked about site plan review and zoning change, can it be unbundled and handle separately? Planning Board defers to Selectboard. C. Rembold explained after deliberation, can take any directions if findings support this, first close hearing and deliberate. L. Davis, could they have gone to ZBA for the hangers? Does Aviation Field Special Permit what other benefits do they get? Rembold said whatever you grant or deny. E. Abrahams asked about

Water Quality Protection Overlay District permit and 3 hangers now 6? Scalise said he wasn't engineer on last project. Abrahams asked about abutters properties. Scalise retorted that he only looked at hangers. He continued that it is a safety issue. Egan responded that yes, it is a run way safety issue, will get information to Board. S. Bannon asked about Black Hawk helicopters and the number of take offs and landings. Egan, said he would speak generally. He said that the facility made available to Black Hawks for training. The airport made choice for the National Guard to train. He would get the additional information for Board. S. Bannon stated will not close Public Hearing tonight so that applicant can get more information to Board. L. Davis asked applicant same question to applicant about hangers. Scalise said they don't want anything else, just hangers, after pre Development meeting. B. Cooke asked what other benefits to change zoning? Scalise said that wouldn't have to go to ZBA every time.

- C. Motion to Close or Continue Public Hearing: E. Abrahams made motion to Continue Special Permit Application hearing to September 21, 2020, at 6PM., B. Cooke seconded motion; Roll Call Vote, L. Davis, "aye"; K. Burke, recused; B. Cooke, "aye"; E. Abrahams,"aye"; and S. Bannon, "aye"; 4-0-1.
6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: No one spoke at this time.
 7. SELECTBOARD'S TIME: L. Davis, asked about Lease Laws, K. Burke, asked about Halloween, wanted to acknowledge that teachers and students, in Berkshire Hills started remote learning.
 8. MEDIA TIME: No one spoke at this time.
 9. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Bannon adorned the meeting at 7:35PM., by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie M. Minacci
Recording Secretary