

Great Barrington Selectboard

Town Hall, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Minutes of April 12, 2019, meeting

Attending were members Steve Bannon, Ed Abrahams, Dan Bailly and Kate Burke in person and Bill Cooke on the telephone.

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 5 p.m.

2. Board Business

The board settled on holding an Economic Development Committee meeting May 9 at 6 p.m., tentatively at Town Hall.

The board decided to put on the agenda for the April 29 meeting discussion of Theory Wellness's police detail and community impact fee, specifically whether the \$70,000 expended on police details is above and beyond the \$184,000+ first fee payment due. Ms. Burke raised the issue. Mr. Bannon said another \$184,000 is due from the commonwealth. Mr. Bannon said the issue needs to be clarified. He said at this point, Theory Wellness is not obliged to have the police details, but may continue if it wishes, at its own expense.

Ms. Burke suggested the board needs to check this and other host agreements yearly.

3. Finalize Approval of 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The board reviewed item Nos. 14 to 20, 24 and 25 on the draft 2019 annual town meeting warrant. Town Counsel David Doneski has commented on wording of some items.

- No. 14. Property at 40 Grove St.

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant, Mr. Bailly seconded. Mr. Cooke said the Housing Trust has not been able to inspect the property. After discussion, Mr. Abrahams and Mr. Bailly withdrew their motions and Mr. Abrahams proposed new wording: "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to determine the best use of property at 40 Grove Street as shown on Assessors' Map 20 as Parcel 100 or take any other action relative thereto."

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said aye.

Mr. Abrahams moved the board recommend passage of the article. Mr. Bailly seconded.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said aye.

- No. 15. Short Term Rentals

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant with wording as amended by town counsel and that the board give a positive recommendation.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said no, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said aye. The board made a positive recommendation.

- No. 16 Retail Marijuana Establishments

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant with wording as amended by town counsel.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said no, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said no and Mr. Bannon said aye.

- No. 17 Solar Field Tax Agreement

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant with wording as amended by town counsel and to recommend its approval by voters.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said yes and Mr. Bannon said aye. Motion passed. The board made a positive recommendation.

- No. 18 Tax Increment Financing with CDC

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant with wording as amended by town counsel and to recommend its approval by voters.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said no and Mr. Bannon said aye. The board made no recommendation to voters.

- No. 19 Street Lights

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant and recommend voters approve it.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said no, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said no. Motion passed. The board made a positive recommendation.

- No. 20 Recycling Services

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant with a positive recommendation.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said aye. The board made a positive recommendation.

- No. 24 Electronic Message Signs

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said no. Motion passed. The board made no recommendation.

- No. 25 To include the word calendar next to the word days to read 30 calendar days for the acceptance of Citizen Petitions

Mr. Abrahams moved to place the item on the warrant and recommend its approval.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said aye. The board made a positive recommendation.

4. Citizen Speak

Michelle Loubert asked if the board had looked further with town counsel into the possibility the ban adopted at last year's annual town meeting on single-use plastic water bottles was possibly discriminatory. She said the Attorney General's office had concluded there was no law on the matter. Mr. Bannon said he would answer at another time after checking with the town manager.

Steve Farina urged board members who had received gift bottles from proponents of the abovementioned anti-plastic-bottle article not display them at their table at town meeting. Mr. Bannon said he planned not to.

David Magadini said town meeting should vote on whether to hire a new town manager or retain the present one.

5. Adjourn to Executive Session

Mr. Bannon made a chair's recommendation that the board adjourn to executive session in order to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. Abrahams made the motion, adding the board would not return to open session. Mr. Bailly seconded.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Abrahams said aye, Ms. Burke said aye, Mr. Bailly said aye, Mr. Cooke said aye and Mr. Bannon said aye.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard A. Drew".

Bernard A. Drew

Recording Secretary