



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

August 9, 2021 Regular Selectboard Meeting via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, those “present” via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed, and Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski.

2. SELECTBOARD’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

a. Stephen Bannon

- i. S. Bannon mentioned that the Great Barrington Fire Department’s annual Car Show successfully took place on Thursday, August 5th. He also mentioned that he attended the Berkshire Busk event that took place the weekend of August 6th and August 7th. All three events were great for those that attended and for the community.

b. Eric Gabriel

- i. E. Gabriel thanked Paul and Dan of Taft Farms, as they announced that Housatonic residents are welcome to get drinking water from Taft Farms.

3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

a. Housatonic Water Works–DPC Report and Presentation

- i. The first report was posted on July 21st (can be found on Town’s website). The recorded meeting can be found on CTSB’s website.
- ii. Dave Prickett and Justin Skelly, of DPC, presented their findings of their Housatonic Water Works analysis.
- iii. Sharon Gregory thanked DOC for the informative report.
- iv. Doug Stephenson asked if HWW had a negative value and compared purchasing HWW to buying a house that needs a new roof.
- v. Michelle Loubert stated that the Great Barrington Fire District is not a semi-private/semi-public property as the report states.
- vi. Jean Vaughn asked if residents or elected officials would vote on whether GBFD and HWW merged. S. Bannon stated that that is yet to be determined.
- vii. E. Abrahams asked DPC if that \$31 million estimate was pretty accurate and if he is correct in assuming there are only two options in this scenario. DPC responded that yes, the estimate was fairly accurate and that no, there are other options that haven’t be explored/discovered yet.

viii. Maria Spratt asked if Housatonic residents can dig wells on their property. S. Bannon stated that that answer would be provided at the next meeting.

b. Bridge, Road, and Project Updates

i. Sean VanDeusen gave an update on the following projects:

1. – Triplex Parking Lot (Bridge St and Bentley Ave)
2. Berkshire Heights – pending
3. Repairs to transfer station compactor and police department generator
4. Crosswalk Safety Project
5. Town Hall Work
6. Taconic Ave retaining wall
7. SB meeting room furniture
8. Ramsdell Library entrance
9. CHP trail work
10. Memorial Field and Olympian Meadow upgrades
11. Christian Hill covert
12. NOI Division Street Bridge

4. LICENSES AND PERMITS

- a. Lauren Ferin of the Berkshire International Film Festival has requested a Parking Moratorium for September 9 through September 13.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the Parking Moratorium for Berkshire International Film Festival; G. Reed seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

- b. Lauren Ferin of the Berkshire International Film Festival has requested permission to hang banners on Main Street and Railroad Street.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the Main Street and Railroad Street Berkshire International Film Festival banners; G. Reed seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

- c. Lauren Ferin of the Berkshire International Film Festival has requested 2-One Day All Alcoholic Licenses for Thursday September 9 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and for Saturday September 11 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the 2-One Day All Alcoholic Licenses for Berkshire International Film Festival; G. Reed seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

- d. Kate McCormick for Tire Kickers.com Class II Auto License, formerly Fastback Motors LLC at 20 Castle Street.

- i. Kate McCormick presented on behalf of TireKickers.com Class II Auto License.

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the renewal of the Fastback Motors LLC Class II Auto License under the new name of TireKickers.com; G. Reed seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Introduction and consideration of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, Section 2A; which would allow the Town to take growth on real estate between January 1 to June 30th and not just before January 1.

E. Abrahams made a motion to adopt Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, Section 2A; G. Reed seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

- b. Appointment of Election Workers

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the appointment of listed election workers; E. Gabriel seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

- c. 79 Bridge Street – Tax Increment Financing Agreement (TIF)

E. Abrahams made a motion to approve the Tax Increment Financing agreement transfer for 79 Bridge Street; G. Reed seconded; Roll Call Vote; E. Abrahams, “aye”; S. Bannon, “aye”; E. Gabriel, “aye”; and G. Reed, “aye”; All in Favor, 4-0.

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. 48 participants (43 attendees and 5 panelists) are present at this meeting.
- b. Nan Wile asked why only the Selectboard was present at the brownfield meeting, not any other government board members. Chris Rembold responded that it was an open meeting, and that anyone who wanted to attend were welcome. N. Wile also asked where the recordings of town meetings are available. M. Pruhenski stated that they are on CTSB’s website.
- c. James Bailly asked if the Housatonic sidewalks are now ADA compliant. M. Pruhenski stated that the Housatonic sidewalks will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Charlie Williams asked if the town would be held responsible for the money that was embezzled by the former tax collector. S. Bannon stated that the town is insured for these types of situations.

7. SELECTBOARD’S TIME

8. MEDIA TIME

9. ADJOURNMENT 7:26 PM Chairman Bannon adjourned meeting by unanimous consent at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brooke M. Morehouse
Recording Clerk*