

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall, 334 Main Street  
Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230  
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Call To Order: Chair S. Bannon opened the meeting at 6pm. Those present were M. Pruhenski, S. Bannon, Chair, E. Abrahams, B. Cooke, L. Davis & K. Burke.

Open the Session: Town Manager, M. Pruhenski gave an overview of the last goal setting meeting of June 25, 2019. Selectboard's Policies and Procedures call to meet twice a year to review. (A handout was given out with 1 - 60 prioritized items that were completed or in the process of being worked on). The chart is color coded: green, done or almost finalized, yellow as underway, a few not ranked, because they were added to the list since June or more recently. Department Heads were not required to attend.

Town Manager went over each line item on the handout.

5G Technology: Joe Grochmal, Special Project Manager, will give an update to the Selectboard soon.

ADA Committee: need 2 more members on the Committee.

Affordable Housing: is coming along, B. Cooke said next meeting is February 6, 2020.

Ambulance Service Study: talking with Fire Chief Burger.

Business Improvement District: added to the list on June 2019. Economic Development Committee (EDC), he will add C. Rembold to this.

Code Red: Completed, Karen Smith aggressively working on collecting signatures in Town from employers.

Indigenous Peoples' Day: Completed received proclamation of this. K. Burke would like a letter to be written to MA State House, M. Pruhenski putting in notes.

Committee Chairs: Meeting of Chairs, Joe Grochmal is working on this.

Conservation Fund for Land Purchases: \$50,000 application to the CPA, \$250,000 in budget, didn't get approval this year.

Cook's Garage: tank removal, needs environmental remediation, C. Rembold leading the project.

Cottage Street Bridge: DWP receiving TIPP funds for preliminary engineering this year FY20, though it's about 5 years out.

Court House Improvement: DPW, Clerk, and Town Manager to meet. The bathrooms, carpeting, and the HVAC need addressing. One bathroom has been renovated.

Downtown (Pride / energy / marketing / Entertainment): There may be possible grants available and maybe work with Chamber of Commerce.

Economic Development/ Small Business Assistance: EDC, long range.

Elevator Repairs: FY 21 it will be about \$ 150,000 to fix.

Email signature: Amy has been working on it, but it doesn't work on mobile devices, need to use it on desktop or laptop.

EV Charging Station: DPW to do a list, Joe Grochmal working on it with Sustainability Committee to get some grants, and to locate them at the Town Hall and the Taconic Parking Lot, and to start in the Fall.

Fire Department Study: Chief is implementing some of the recommendations.

Fire Station Castle Street: was sold on Monday, January 13, 2020. All furniture was taken out of the building for Town Hall use or disposed in November.

Fire Station Easement- telephone pole / utility: National Grid may take care of it.

Forensic Audit: M. Pruhenski said it was substantially completed.

Grove Street Property: will be auctioned off by the Selectboard, M. Pruhenski asked if the GB Affordable Housing Trust has talked about this property, the next meeting is February 6, 2020.

Hosting Community Discussion with Bridge: There wasn't any money in the budget this year (FY20) for staff training, hopefully next year. Staff training and elected officials, about 25 people, 5-6 classes, approximately \$5,000.

Housatonic Community Center: DPW and Town Manager met with Guardian Energy about a month ago. They are doing an Audit at no charge to the Town on the building. Currently, roof leaking, no insulation, heating not connected, and old (LED) lighting fixtures. The Audit will prioritize items, which will hopefully help with applying for a grant through DOER (Department of Energy and Environmental Resources). Application due February, early March for grant.

Housatonic School Update: Update is planned for January 27, 2020, staff will have recommendations at that time and options.

Housatonic Fiber: To go from Dempsey Auto to around Housatonic Village, about \$10,000 - 20,000, for utility pole inventory. There is money left over from the project.

AA. HR Director: There isn't a clear Personnel Policy in place. Town Manager talked about reaching out to BHRSD. Currently there is no way to "solve" personnel issues, currently Treasurer has been processing the paperwork for new employees.

Inclusiveness/ Diversity:

leftover iPads from Town, Amy putting new software in them. Then they will be re-distributed to the various offices to help with Spanish speaking citizens.

BB. Joint Meetings with Planning Board: ongoing.

CC. Lake Mansfield Road: Selectboard to close road long term. The pedestrian walkways barriers going in soon, open to one way traffic now.

DD. Licensing Board: Joe Grochmal, this could be a good project for him to address the routine License permits, that happen regularly.

EE. Marijuana License Limits - Marijuana Revenue: Will talk at a meeting of January 22, 2020 public forum.

FF. Marketing to young families: EDC, long range goal.

GG. Master Plan Review with Planning Board: on going, more in Summer 2020.

HH. Neighborhood Meetings: Few this year, begin again after basketball season, 2020.

II. Open Meetings/ Public Records training for boards: Reached out to the State, no trainings in our area. Reached out to KP Law, trying to keep legal fees to a minimum.

JJ. Parking Concerns: Joe Grochmal making a new parking map(s) of Town, the Town will own the map.

KK. Personnel Policy / Manual: Handout given at meeting, 24 items listed, hired Labor Attorney Dominello to get a book with all the listed items. Funded through a \$20,000 local services Grant. Trying to get all three unions together to agree.

LL. Privacy Issues in Town Hall Offices: Many offices have moved to protect the privacy of each office. Money in budget for reinventing space in basement.

MM. Reid Cleaners Property: C. Rembold has been working on the grant application, will hear in June.

NN. Rest of River Status: Ongoing litigation, will meet again, in Executive Session.

SB Meetings in Housatonic: To continue with Neighborhood Meetings in future.

Selectboard Policies: Bring it up at the end of February/ March after Budget Meetings.

Senior Work Off Program: Karen Smith has been working on this project, recruiting and utilizing Seniors. Completed.

Sewer Rate Study: DPW, Selectboard, and Consultant will pick up in the Spring after the Budget Meetings.

Short - Term Rental Regulations: K. Burke is close to having a report.

Signs/ Zoning/ (Banners): Trying to get the word out of what types of signs are permitted, trying to take a softer approach.

Standardize hours at Town Hall: Done, full time employees stay until 5pm.

Table for Board Meetings (replace rectangle table): looking into a pull down screen for Town Hall Meetings, sound system, split system, air conditioning, and new chairs by Summer 2020.

Tree Committee: To work on.

Trip hazards on Main Street: DPW working on this.

Trust Policy: Completed

Water Bottle Ban: Completed

Water System Study: DPW, K. Burke would like an update.

Website: Completed

Website URL: Amy working at getting a DotGov address, applied to General Services Administration.

Zoning Enforcement: To step up zoning. People have to make a complaint, ongoing.

\*B. Cooke, brought up using Fairgrounds as a park. Bring up Spring/ Summer agenda.

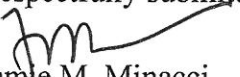
\*K. Burke, to give townspeople more information, supplemental packet, before Town Meeting, so people would understand the warrants. She has been working with M. Wise on how Provincetown classifies tax on rentals and properties. Lastly, Town boards to work on updating their Mission statements. To put on future agenda Marijuana revenues and ways to use the money, investments for the Town.

4. New Business: W. E. B Legacy Committee to Install Banners on Main Street. E. Abrahams made motion to approve the request to put up the banners, B. Cooke, seconded, All in Favor, 5 - 0.

5. Citizens Speak Time: E. Mooney asked why DPW Superintendent's office is empty?

6. Adjournment: S. Bannon called to adjourn. E. Abrahams made a motion to adjourn, B. Cooke seconded, All in Favor, 5 - 0; Meeting adjourned at 7:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jamie M. Minacci  
Recording Secretary