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TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

REVISED: Items 3 b - 3 e and item 6. a were added.

Selectboard Meeting via Zoom and in person at 334 Main Street Great Barrington MA
Order of Agenda for Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84727797185?pwd=NDFRUjFITE12eDN3bE5LaTNBQ0RmZz09>

Webinar ID: 84727797185

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

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and Governor Healey's March 29, 2023 Revised Order extending remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body, this meeting of the Selectboard will be conducted both in-person and via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on town's website, at www.townofgb.org. For this meeting, members of the public and committee members may attend the meeting in person, or, for those who wish to do so remotely may by following the instructions at the top of this agenda. For those who are not in-person every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

1. CONVENE AS SEWER COMMISSIONERS
 - a. Review/vote to approve sewer abatements.
2. CALL TO ORDER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. August 2, 2023
 - b. June 12, 2023**
 - c. June 13, 2023**
 - d. June 26, 2023**
 - e. July 10, 2023**
4. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS
5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
 - a. Housatonic Water Works
 - b. Building Commissioner retirement
 - c. Town Projects- DPW Superintendent Update
6. LICENSES AND PERMITS
 - a. Karen Beckwith for Great Barrington Fish and Game, requesting 10-one day beer and wine licenses for their annual Turkey Shoot from 12 noon to 6:00 PM on the following days: September 17, September 24, October 1, October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29, November 5, November 12, and November 19, 2023.
7. PREVIOUS BUSINESS
 - a. *Continued from 6/22/2023, 7/10/2023 and 8/2/2023:* Housatonic Water Works—
Temporary relief for residents/customers

8. NEW BUSINESS (*Discussion and possible vote*)

(The Board reserves the right to pass over any agenda item when no applicant or representative is present)

- a. Abby Chaput for the Josh Billings Run Aground request to use Town roads
- b. Presentation of Town Hall Campus Renovation Plans
- c. Mason Library Mural Project Proposal
- d. Special Town Meeting and Citizen Petition Window

9. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

Citizen Speak Time is an opportunity for the Selectboard to listen to residents. Topics of particular concern or importance may be placed on a future agenda for discussion. This time is reserved for town residents only unless otherwise permitted by the chair, and speakers are limited to 3 minutes each.

10. SELECTBOARD'S TIME

11. MEDIA TIME

12. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING

September 11, 2023	September 18, 2023	October 2, 2023	October 23, 2023
November 6, 2023	November 20, 2023	December 4, 2023	December 18, 2023



Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager

Pursuant to MGL. 7c. 30A sec. 20 (f), after notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any such recordings. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the chair. The listings of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 3, 2023
TO: Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager
FROM: Joe Aberdale, DPW Superintendent
SUBJECT: Sewer Abatements – for the Period 01/01/2023 through 06/30/2023

Paula Ely, WWTP Superintendent, and I met to discuss the requests of those persons applying for an abatement of their sewer bill. After careful consideration of the information submitted and field data gathered during site visits, we herewith make the following recommendations relative to those applications.

The following temporary and permanent sewer abatement applications were received and approved for the reason stated on the application. (see enclosed)

cc: Paula Ely, Wastewater Superintendent
Alicia Dulin, Tax Collector / Treasurer

Sewer Abatements from January 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2023

APPLICANT	SERVICE ADDRESS	CURRENT BILLING	ABATEMENT	DURATION	DPW RECOMMENDATION	REASON PROVIDED
Jeanne Holcomb	226 Prospect St Hous.	\$657.00	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	Abatement misplaced in Town Hall
Jeanne Holcomb	226 Prospect St Hous.	\$657.00	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	Apartment unoccupied. No one lives in it
Emmanuel & Pauline Dongala	255 State Rd, GB.	\$657.00	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	The toilet in the back is not being used
Vicki & Cathy Torrico	11 School St, GB	\$2,135.25	\$1,478.25	temporary	Approval	Broken washers & toilets not working
John Fitzgerald	114 Cottage St, GB	\$308.25	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	House Unoccupied
Alton Stalker	39 Humphrey St, GB	\$492.75	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	The upstairs apartment vacant needed repairs.
Suzanne Arre	3 Pothul Drive, GB	\$328.50	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	Home being renovated unoccupied
Jane & Bob Holcomb	36 Cottage	\$657.00	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	Duplex 34-36 used as a single residence
George Guerrero	127-129 Castle Hill Ave, GB	\$985.50	\$328.50	temporary	Approval	Apt 129-1(1st floor) & 129-2 (2nd floor) needs repair unoccupied
Shirley Snyder	945 Main St, GB	\$328.50	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	Building used only for storage
Little Brook Farms, LLC	16 Depot St, Housatonic	\$2,079.11	\$985.50	Permanent	Approval	No water in building - future bill @1 EDU
Ryoko Kudo	15 Mahaiwe St, GB	\$985.50	\$328.50	Permanent	Approval	Reassessed future bill at 2 EDU
Julia Trumble	203 South Street, Hous.	\$328.50	\$164.25	temporary	Approval	No water in building
148 Maple Ave, LLC	148 Maple Ave, GB	\$18,031.55			Denied	Abatement was not received prior to the due date of the sewer bill (Rec. by mail 5-12-23)
Lynn Goldman	10 George St, GB	\$493.05			Denied	Reassessed bill is correct
Ellen Murtagh	21 Highland Drive	\$657.00			Denied	Reassessed bill is correct
Louise Briggs	39 Christian Hill Road, GB	\$328.50			Denied	Does not meet abatement policy#2-due prior to the due date of the sewer bill (Rec. by mail 5-12-23) & Policy #5-House is not occupied.
Gary Storti	77 East St	\$328.50			Denied	Abatement was not received prior to the due date of the sewer bill (Rec. by mail 5-12-23)

Joseph Aberdale, DPW Super

Date

8/4/2023

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)

SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023

Roads:

- Main Street, Great Barrington:
 - o Pedestrian Safety – 9 Locations Corrective Actions & Crosswalks. Project has been awarded and materials are being secured by the contractor. The majority of construction slated for Labor Day to Columbus Day.
 - o Gardens have been planted and being maintained. Bulbs will be planted this fall for spring flowers.
 - o Installation of two Main Street Bus Stops will be constructed under the West & Lewis Contract. They will be located just south of Town Hall, one on each side of the road. Construction should commence in August.
- Street Lighting – The administrative work has been completed to switch the Town paid street lights over to LED. This should save 50 kilowatts per hour for each hour the lights are on. NGrid will be changing the lights over the next 6-10 months depending on their emergency work.
- FY24 Phase 1 Paving – Completed - Giddings, Laurel, Ramsey, Locust, Commonwealth, Cooper & Stillwell.
- FY24 Phase 2 Paving - Grove Street, Waubeck Street & Chestnut Ridge; contract has been issued to the low bidder. Construction later this summer into early fall.
- FY24 Phase 3 Paving – Monument Valley Road from Route 7 to Muddy Brook Circle. In design, slated for bid later this year and construction as soon as school is out in the spring. Looking to partner with the School District to add parking along the traveled way.
- Pearl Street – Regrade & Pave after the July 10th rainfall damage. Contractor hired awaiting scheduling.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)

SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023

- Hart Street – Working on design plans to upgrade the drainage with FY24 money if available & pave with FY25 money.
- Castle Hill – Recently replaced 200+ feet of collapsed drain line on the portion of Castle Hill beyond Fern Hill Road. Will monitor FY24 funds to see if this section can be resurfaced.
- Liquid Deicing – We are in the process of installing liquid deicing equipment. The intentions are to pre-treat our major roads during the winter of 24/25. Liquid deicing has been proven to improve safety and reduce overall salt costs.
- Crack Sealing has been bid through Berkshire Regional Planning. Currently awaiting Chapter 92 money and approval.
- Private Roads the Town Performs Winter Maintenance on – Roads have been inspected, and letters identifying work residents need to perform are being sent out.

Infrastructure Improvements:

- Drainage Improvement – Quarry Street cross-lot drainage line, connect into East Street and to eliminate Humphrey Street flooding & icing
- Drainage & Sewer Taconic Ave & Castle Hill area – Preliminary study and design concept complete. Moving into Phase 1 design. It is estimated to be a 3-5 year construction project, looking to commence construction in FY26.
- Drainage Study – Route 41 in the vicinity of Welcome and Pearl Streets beginning in August.
- Transfer Station :
 - o In the process of updating our permits and filing MADEP filings.
 - o One compactor is in the process of being replaced.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)

SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023

Sidewalks:

- West & Lewis - Sidewalk replacement and West Street sidewalk extension has been awarded and is target to be completed this fall.
- Housatonic Rail Trail from AmeriGas to Main Street currently out to bid. Bids are due on 8/24. Anticipate construction this year.
- Sidewalk Improvements - Alford Road from Castle Hill Road to Haley Road. Currently in the beginning of the design phase.

Wastewater Treatment:

- Pump Station Upgrades – In progress.
- Fairground Electric Service Replacement - Need to replace electric service to the Fairgrounds Pump Station. This line is over 50 years old and has a life expectancy of 25 years. We had two failures in late winter this past year. Currently obtaining a legal opinion on easement & land use. The ideal solution would be to have an overhead service that will be owned and operated by NGrid.
- Collection System Improvements - Tentatively the sewer main on Christian Hill Road will be scheduled for lining to eliminate a large source of water infiltration. This project was the result of the FY23 Inflow & Infiltration Study.
- Year 3 of the Inflow & Infiltration Study - Under contract and will be recommending improvement work for FY25 projects.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE **(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)** **SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023**

Town Buildings:

- Building Asset Management Program – Tighe & Bond has visited Town Hall, Mason, Ramsdell, Courthouse & GBFD. Report preparation in underway.
- Highway Garage – Contractor engaged for fire & security alarm installation. Work should be complete by late fall.
- Senior Center:
 - Parking lot reconstruction, repaving and light installation out to bid. Bids are due 8/29. Intentions are for construction this year. Senior Center operation will be impacted for a period of time;
 - Just completed bringing the Senior Center electrical panel up to code;
 - Over the next few weeks we will have a new commercial dishwasher installed.
- Town Hall :
 - Contractor engaged for CCTV installation in foyer;
 - Contractor engaged for fire alarm panel replacement. This is needed to keep our elevator certified;
 - Investigating elevator upgrades.
- Elevator Repairs – Mason & PD elevators are inspected and operating. Town Hall elevator only has a 90 day certificate due to fire alarm panel issues (expires on November 1st, 2023).
- Courthouse: Carpet/flooring replacement continuing 70% complete, all lighting has been upgraded. Currently pricing out work to be built into the new lease.
- Town Hall Campus – In design and conceptual stage. Construction Spring of 2024.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE **(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)** **SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023**

Town Buildings (continued):

- Mason:

- One AC roof top unit is up and running as we await the replacement of the second unit.
- Replacement of the second AC Unit, scheduled for this fall.
- HVAC control system is not functional and needs to be replaced. Currently not in the budget.
- Bench / Stair Project is moving through Town Committees.

- Ramsdell:

- Asbestos on the boiler has been abated and the boiler replacement under way.
- Sewer line has been replaced from the building to the sidewalk.
- Handicap accessibility project is underway.

- GBPD-

- Dispatch AC & Heating unit has been installed, and will be integrated into the larger HVAC replacement project.
- Emergency generator replacement has been contracted and expected to be installed this fall.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE **(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)** **SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023**

Parks:

- Picnic Tables – The Building & Grounds group has built and placed nearly 20 picnic tables in our parks.
- Benches - The Building & Grounds group is in the process of constructing 12 benches for distribution throughout town.
- Memorial Field Reconstruction – Bid opening scheduled for September 19th.
- Olympia Softball Field – Plans to refresh the infield as part of the Memorial Field Project and possible some dugout work.
- Dewey & Grove Street Parks – The Parks Commission has obtained public input and high-level conceptual plans are being worked on. Design firm has been engaged and is on standby.
- Lake Mansfield - Improvement project including parking lot, outlet, park area, and road removal will be issued for bid on bids are due 9/20. Work is anticipated to begin in late fall with projected substantial completion by the end of May 2024.

Bridges:

- Cottage Street, Division Street & Brown Bridge – MADOT is currently indicating bid advertising in FY2025. [This could change based on funding]
- Brookside Road Bridge over Housatonic River – Traffic study has been performed and we are in the design process of a temporary bridge.
- Division Street over Williams River was recently evaluated, awaiting report on a corrective action plan with life expectancy options.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

(Bridges/Roads/Sidewalks/Buildings/Parks)

SELECTBOARD AUGUST 21, 2023

Cemeteries:

- In the process of engaging a consultant to draft new rules & regulations and recommend fees.

Notes & Special Projects:

- Safety – Develop a safety culture into the daily operation of the Highway, Wastewater and Building & Grounds Departments.
- Training & Internal Succession – in FY23 and continuing into FY24 the departments have done significant hours of safety training and workforce development training. The goals are to support a safety culture and provide the skill sets for future internal advancement.
- DPW Emergency Preparedness – Needs to be worked on.
- Roadway Facts to Consider - The town of GB has nearly 100 miles of roads. In FY 2023 there was about 10,000 linear feet of roadway work completed. In FY24 it is anticipated that there will be 8,400 linear feet of roadway work undertaken. This equates to roadway replacements occur every 50 years. The life expectancy of a road is 10-25 years depending on its use. As you can see we are not keeping up.



10

APPLICATION FOR ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE

TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITY:

The undersigned hereby applies for a License in accordance with the provisions relating thereto:

Applicant's Name: KAREN Beckwith

Organization Name: GT Barrington Fish + Game Association

Applicant's Address: 338 Long Pond Rd. Housatonic, MA 01236

Telephone Number: 413-528-9556

Type of License: **ONE DAY BEER & WINE** **ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC**
(Circle one)

Event: TURKEY Shoots

Date: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/23 Start Time: 12 noon End Time: 6 PM

Event Address: 338 Long Pond Rd. Housatonic, MA 01236

Is the Event on Town property? YES **NO**

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPLICATION:

1. TIPS or ServSafe Alcohol certification for anyone serving alcohol.
2. Certificate of Insurance showing proof of Liquor Liability coverage.
(If the event is on Town property, the certificate must name the Town of Great Barrington as additional insured.)
3. If the event is not on applicant's property, a letter of permission from the owner is required.

Liability: The below individual agrees to take responsibility for the above-noted event and further agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and defend the Town of Great Barrington, its officers, employees and agents, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, penalties, forfeitures, suits, and the costs and expenses incident thereto, which may occur in connection with this event.

Karen Beckwith
Signature of Applicant

8/4/23
Date

FOR TOWN USE:

Approved _____ Denied _____ Postponed _____

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
(REVISED 8-17-23)

TITLE: Housatonic Water Works – Financial Relief for Housatonic Residents

BACKGROUND: The Housatonic Water Works Co. (HWW) is a privately owned utility, regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). HWW serves roughly 1,400 residential and commercial customers through 849 service connections in the Village of Housatonic and portions of Stockbridge and West Stockbridge.

Thanks to the efforts of Representative Pignatelli and Senator Hinds, Great Barrington will receive a total of \$250,000 in relief funding that Chapter 268 of the Acts of 2022 included. In December of 2022, we submitted an application to DEP requesting a transfer of that funding and expect it to become available very soon.

While we await the arrival of this funding, the Selectboard should discuss how it would like to proceed with providing relief to HWW customers.

Staff considered a few options including providing 5-gallon water jugs to residents during the most challenging summer weeks/months when manganese levels tend to spike, purchasing and providing a water filling station for residents, and providing small grants to property owners for the installation of water filtration systems.

RECOMMENDATION: As a result of recent Selectboard discussions that included consideration of reimbursements for bottled water and laundry related expenses in addition to filtration devices, I recommend the following approach be considered:


Offer reimbursements of up to \$300 per Housatonic household for all documented costs related to the purchase of bottled water, laundry related expenses and losses, and the purchase and/or installation of water filtration products (retroactive to January 1, 2018). This would allow us to provide funding to roughly 830 Housatonic households.

It's unclear how many households are directly impacted and how many will apply for reimbursements, so if after 6 months from program launch, funding remains available, the Selectboard should re-visit this discussion and consider providing additional funding to approved applicants.

The program should remain in place until the funds are exhausted.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. Funding was provided by the State of Massachusetts. Costs to local taxpayers are limited to staff time spent managing the program.

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:



Mark Pruhenski/Town Manager

DATE:

8/17/2023



ELIZABETH FREEMAN MURAL PROPOSAL

For a community-engaged mural celebrating the life and legacy of Elizabeth Freeman

WHO WE ARE

Common Wealth Murals (CWM) is a MA based mural management nonprofit dedicated to creating public art that is by, for and about the people most impacted by the art. We have managed the creation of 39 murals in Springfield, and 6 in other MA towns, working with muralists from the US, Latin America and Europe. Of the 45 murals created so far, 25 were done using community-engaged processes which involved several thousand people in the design and painting of the murals. We are the co-founders of the Community Mural Institute, a training program for artists to learn how to create community-engaged murals. CWM has also produced Springfield's first 3 graffiti jams, window installations, bike kiosk installations highlighting local artists and makers in 7 Hamden and Hampshire County towns, 2 series of Chalk for Change sidewalk art installations, and other temporary public art installations.

For the Elizabeth Freeman mural, we are proposing a collaborative process of mural creation where the community partners with an experienced muralist to create a permanent, beautiful mural celebrating the life and legacy of Elizabeth Freeman. [This video](#) is a short overview of our community-engaged mural process.

OUR PROCESS

Engaging the community through the creation of a public work of art builds relationships and helps strengthen the ties that bind people together and connect people to the space and what happens in that space. It allows communities to proclaim, reclaim or rewrite the narratives of themselves and their shared spaces. It cultivates pride, and intentional visions of what the future could hold. Through collaborative mural creation people experience working together to create something beautiful. This powerful experience opens them up to the possibilities of what else they can achieve as a community.

We use a technique for creating community-engaged murals that allows artists to create high quality, large-scale murals which also include the community hand and vision. Through structured activities, the community is involved at two points in the process - design conceptualization and painting.



Phase One – Design: After establishing guidelines and objectives with the project coordinators, we engage your community stakeholders in structured activities and conversations to gather their ideas for themes and imagery to be explored in the mural design. The activities are structured to be fun and to encourage individual expression, a sense of belonging, safety and dialogue between participants. After these community engagements, the muralist designs the mural through several rounds of feedback from the project administrators.



Phase Two – Painting: Once the design is finalized, we engage the community in the painting of the mural during several community paint parties. We turn the whole mural design into a giant paint-by-numbers on mural canvases so that hundreds of people can help paint the mural. The paint parties promote a common sense of ownership of the artwork and build pride in place, and provide a space to build friendship and connection between community members. We can hold these paint parties in classrooms, in a park, inside or outside...pretty much anywhere you want us to go! After the paint parties, we bring the canvases back to our studio for more painting and the detail work.





Phase Three - Installation and Celebration: Once the painting of the panels is complete, the muralist installs them on the wall in a process very similar to installing wallpaper. After the canvases are adhered to the wall, the muralist touches up the canvases and then seals the mural with a clear acrylic gel to ensure a seamless, high-quality, long-lasting work of art. A mural created using this technique lasts longer than a mural painted directly onto the wall, and once it is up, looks as if it was painted directly on the wall. The installation process will last for approximately 7 days. When the installation is finished, we recommend a community unveiling to celebrate what we created together!



TIMELINE

In this process, design engagement to mural completion takes 4 to 5 months. There are not many muralists who know this technique, and those that do usually book their calendars out a year in advance. If the funding is secured quickly, we may be able to complete this mural before the end of September 2023, depending on muralist availability. We can also plan to begin the design engagement in the winter or early spring of 2024 and install the mural in spring or summer of 2024.



PROJECT COST

The total cost for a mural of this size (approximately 900sf) is \$22,000.

Phase 1: Design		
Community Design Events	\$ 210	Artist time, assistants, materials
Lead Artist Fee	\$ 500	Design, Presentation, Revisions, Approval, Layout & Palette Development
Total	\$ 710	
Phase 2: Fabrication		
Materials	\$ 4,800	Paint, supplies, mural fabric and adhesive
Community Make Parties	\$ 235	Supplies for community painting events
In Studio Painting	\$ 2,200	Artist time painting
Total	\$ 7,235	
Phase 3: Installation		
Wall Prep and Lift Rentals	\$ 3,020	
On-Site Painting/Installation	\$ 4,535	Installing the mural and overpainting on the wall
Total	\$ 7,555	
Project Management, Travel and Overhead		
Project Management	\$ 1,700	9% of direct costs
Overhead & Contingency	\$ 1,000	5% of direct costs
Travel, Room and Board	\$ 3,800	For Lead Artist
Total	\$ 6,500	
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 22,000	

2023 Special Town Meeting Calendar

Selectboard Opens Citizen Petition Time	Tuesday, August 22, 2023 @ 8:30 am
Selectboard Closes Citizen Petition Time	Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 4:00 pm
Selectboard approves final warrant	Monday, October 2, 2023
Last Day to have warrants printed	Thursday, October 5, 2023
Last Date to post warrant	Friday, October 6, 2023
Last Day to register to vote	Friday, October 13, 2023 until 5:00 pm
Special Town Meeting Monument Mountain Regional High School	Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 6:00 pm