

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES

February 9th, 2011, 6:00 PM
Monument Mountain Regional High School Auditorium
600 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230

In pursuance of the foregoing warrant the inhabitants of the Town of Great Barrington qualified to vote in Town Meetings proceeded to vote at the above named meeting place with the following results. The meeting was duly called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Moderator Edward McCormick who welcomed everyone to the Great Barrington Special Town Meeting. Mr. McCormick stated that there was a quorum present and noted the return and service of the warrant. He announced that the meeting is being taped by CTSB for broadcast at a later date. Mr. McCormick requested that everyone stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. McCormick introduced the Town Officials seated on the stage; Town Clerk Marie Ryan, Town Council, Janet Pumphrey, Town Manager Kevin O'Donnell, Selectman Chair Sean Stanton, Selectmen: Deborah Phillips, Stephen Bannon, Walter Atwood, III, and Alana Chernilla.

The rules of the meeting were explained by Mr. McCormick. The meeting will be governed by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Bylaws of the Town of Great Barrington and Town Meeting Time. More specifically, Mr. McCormick reminded everyone of the fire/safety regulations and requested that there be no standing or sitting in the aisles. Only registered voters of the town may participate in the meeting unless permission is granted by the moderator. Before anyone addresses the Special Town Meeting, he/she must proceed to the microphone and when recognized by the moderator state their name and address. Mr. McCormick requested that voters speak only once per motion and limit their comments to three minutes. Comments should be limited to the merits of the motion and should not be repeated. All motions and amendments must be made in writing and any motion to reconsider must be made within 15 minutes of the announced vote. All questions are to be addressed to the moderator who will ask the appropriate person to respond. All votes to raise and appropriate by borrowing shall be done by secret ballot. Each voter has received a warrant with a packet of yes/no slips. Mr. McCormick will instruct voters when these are to be used and what color to use. He noted that a counter has been assigned to each section of the auditorium and will report their numbers to the Town Clerk.

VOTED AT 6:08 P.M.

Mr. McCormick requested that any preliminary motions be made at this time.

A motion was made and seconded by residents in the audience to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

VOTED AT 6:09 P.M.

ARTICLE 1: On a motion made by Robert O'Haver and seconded by a resident in the audience, voted that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunication system and any related services.

Mr. O'Haver made a presentation and explained the article in more detail.
The following people spoke in regards to this article:

Mary Beth Merritt
John Breasted
Lauren Sartori

Mr. McCormick stated that this article will be voted on by secret ballot and needs to be a 2/3rd majority. He then asked the voters to proceed to the ballot boxes and use their blue yes/no ballots to vote on this issue.

VOTED by 2/3rd MAJORITY AT 6:56 PM
YES-242 NO-19

ARTICLE 2: On a motion by Chip Elitzer, seconded by Barbara Watkins; Mr. Elitzer read the following motion:

Mr. Moderator:

I move that the Board of Selectmen immediately withdraw its application to the Massachusetts Highway Department for funding for the Main Street Reconstruction Project, and that repairs to Main Street and adjacent side streets, including Railroad Street, be made as necessity and available funding allow. However, to the extent that components of the Main Street Reconstruction Project can be started and completed entirely with the time-frame of September 3, 2013, to November 15, 2013 (with this timing restriction to be included in the Project bid specifications), the Town's application may be modified to seek funding for only those components, provided also that the right-turn-only lanes onto Taconic Avenue and Bridge Street are retained.

Mr. Elitzer then proceeded to make a 10 minute power point presentation.
Sean Stanton, Chair of the Board of Selectmen also made a 10 minute presentation to further explain the Main Street Reconstruction Project.

The following people spoke in regards to this article:

David Magadini	John Breasted
Paul Kleinwald	George Beebe
Barbara Watkins	John Hassett
Raymond Despres	Jane Vlcek
Holly Hamer	Richard Israel
Sharon Gregory	Edward Denehy
Sean Barry	Alan Kalish
Jane McWhorter	Howard Lefenfeld
Jenny Clark	Ann Waldman
Steven Kahn	Sam Elitzer
Jonathan Hankin	Karen Smith
Irene Goldman-Price	

Mr. McCormick stated that this article would also be by secret ballot and for the voters to proceed to the ballot boxes to vote using their green yes/no slips.

MOTION DEFEATED AT 8:11 PM
YES-119 NO-178

On a motion by Walter Atwood, III and seconded by Sean Stanton, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Voters attended the Special Town Meeting	297
Total Registered Voters as of 2/9/2011	4551
% of Registered Voters attended	6.5%

RESPECTFULLY SUMMITTED:

Marie Y. Ryan, Town Clerk
February 10, 2011