

**GREAT BARRINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA**  
**DECEMBER 19, 2012**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**  
**THOMAS BLAUVELT, CHAIRMAN**  
**SHARON GREGORY**  
**WALTER ATWOOD**  
**ANDREW MORO**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2012.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Atwood to approve with amendments.

**SECOND:** Mr. Moro

**VOTE:** 4-0

3. **DISCUSSION RE: ANNUAL TOWN REPORT:**

Mr. Blauvelt said he will be submitting the report document for the FY 12 Town Report to the Select Board Office.

4. **RECONCILIATION OF DESIGN FOR THE MAIN STREET PROJECT:**

Mr. Blauvelt said The Board is concerned with the growth and spending on the Main Street reconstruction project. Over \$800,000 has been spent on the design. It was noted that part was because they had to do a full depth reconstruction and \$200,000 was because of the additional meetings and some of the redesign that the Select Board had authorized and changes on what had previously been approved. The full depth required additional work and a design exception report was not anticipated. The bike waiver memo that was sent out was rejected. Ms. Gregory said that there was lack of disclosure as far as the process. She said the listening and the forging of town ideas and the incorporation of those ideas by the designers was less than ideal. Mr. O'Donnell said there were a number of meetings where they went back to the Select Board with updates. He noted with the new Select Board, changes were made on the previous direction. He noted comments were received and presented to the board that approved the direction that we are proceeding in. Ms. Gregory said that there was going to be a public meeting after the 25% which didn't happen and the next thing we knew we are at the 75% mark. She said it would have cost less if we had a full disclosure. Mr. Atwood said that Mr. O'Donnell obtained \$600,000 to re-do the underground drainage at St. James and Main Street. The Town's upfront cost was the hiring of the design people. We had a budget of \$350,000 and we spent \$800,000. We are at 100% design now per Mr. O'Donnell. Ms. Gregory asked if there is a contingency on the site oversight by the design company that might affect the increase in expenditures now to April 1 through the

completion? Mr. O'Donnell answered "No". Mr. O'Donnell said the 100% design should be approved with no more revisions. We are anticipating that in January DOT would go out to bid. The additional supplemental contract for design construction oversight is a requirement through DOT. That will be about \$210,000. Most of the expenses have been because of the number of meetings we have had and changes that had to be made. Mr. O'Donnell said that the Select Board approved all of the steps that were taken and were heavily involved throughout the process. We had to do a redesign exception because of the cross walk at Rotary way which we had recommended to come out because there was no justification for it based on the State's design criteria. Now it has been put back in. Ms. Gregory said that people wanted to have this concept of a park on Main Street and we had to tell them to keep it simple. The engineers had to develop a justification for the cross walk at rotary way. The full depth reconstruction was for 900 feet because of the grade change. It required a major redesign of the project which increased the costs. Ms. Gregory said estimates of major changes need to be disclosed. Mr. O'Donnell said it took the state a year to finish its review.

It was noted that on future projects a member of the Finance Committee needs to be on the committee as an advisor to the Select Board and to the degree that we have to pay for expensive designs that we have cost estimates.

Mr. O'Donnell said that the storm water work for Taconic has been worked into the project. \$560,000 was voted in 2009 to pay for the project. For the Main Street reconstruction project, of the \$807,000 design, \$318,000 has been paid by Chapter 90 money from FY13, \$210,000 is for engineering over sight for construction. \$367,000 is the original appropriation for the design.

The designs for Railroad Street, Bridge Street, Church Street and Elm Street have all been done and are part of the PWED Grant.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann

Secretary