

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
SELECTBOARD'S MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014
6:00 PM – JOINT MEETING SELECTBOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. - REGULAR SESSION
TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

Finance Committee: Michael Wise Leigh Davis Bud Atwood Sharon Gregory

6:00 PM - OPEN MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Deb Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2. REVIEW FY 2014 AUDIT REPORT.

Auditor, Pat Squillante, representing Melanson Heath presented the FY2014 audit. She stated that the audit is designed within the concept of materiality.

Ms. Squillante explained that the general fund is the focus of the audit.

The 5 parts of the audit statement were listed.

No audit adjustments are to be made. Ms. Squillante said that Lauren Sartori does a great job with accounting and the numbers that she gives the Selectboard to base their decisions on are accurate.

She added that our financial position is 'enviable.'

Ms. Squillante said that the stabilization fund is a bit low at 2% of the operating budget. She usually sees 8-10%.

We are taking in 5% more revenue than is budgeted and closing out with 5 % of the operating budget, which is very high compared to others.

Ms. Squillante said that the account receivables are current.

She stated that the tax title balance, which is 3% of the net levy is not very high but has grown; it is good that the town is taking the next step.

Ms. Squillante explained some changes that will be coming in the next few years. She explained in FY15, Berkshire County's share of the unfunded pension liability will be recorded in 'one shot' on the government wide financial statement. This figure will be calculated by the Berkshire County retirement system. In order to comply with standards, the retirement system has to be audited. As our auditor, she will need to get the Berkshire County audit and book the liabilities.

More information on this is forthcoming.

Sharon Gregory referred to the management letter and asked about the retirement plan for employees. She asked if the actual number, versus what has been accrued, gets 'hit' on the town's statement or on the county wide system.

Ms. Squillante replied that it is factored into the town's portion.

Sharon said that the school budget is seen as one line item but liabilities are backed by the district. She asked if the school district will have a system like this.

Ms. Squillante replied no but said that they do have OPEB liability.

Sharon asked how much should be put in the reserve for OPEB.

Ms. Squillante replied there hasn't been any recommendations from state agencies. She said putting something away is better than nothing.

Sharon asked what the unfunded OPEB liabilities are?

Ms. Squillante responded that we are paying about 40 % of what the actuary says that we should be paying.

Sharon asked if free cash budgeting can be recorded under anything else.

Ms. Squillante replied no, however, some put it under health insurance.

3. APPROVAL OF FY 16 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL POLICY. (VOTE)

Jennifer Tabakin presented the FY 16 budget and financial policy. She said that it was already voted upon and she was requesting signatures.

Sharon Gregory said that things that were discussed to be added were not. She said that she made suggestions regarding revenue reports and allocation of expenses. There was supposed to be a follow up meeting to discuss these items and this meeting was never scheduled. She said that she trusts that there will be a reasonable process to get the reports needed in order to evaluate the budget moving forward.

Selectboard Chair Deb Phillips and Finance Committee Chair Sharon Gregory signed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 8:05 P.M

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker
Recording Secretary