

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
JOINT MEETING
GREAT BARRINGTON SELECTBOARD &
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015
6:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL**

Selectboard present: ED ABRAHAMS
DANIEL BAILLY
STEPHEN BANNON
DEB PHILLIPS
SEAN STANTON

Finance Committee present: BUD ATWOOD
TOM BLAUVELT
LEIGH DAVIS
SHARON GREGORY
MICHAEL WISE

I. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

II. FY 16 Budget.

- a. Insurance
- b. Retirement
- c. Miscellaneous
- d. Fund Transfers
- e. Wastewater Treatment Plant
- f. Capital Improvement Plan

The Town Manager said that the debt payment is decreasing by \$73,595 and borrowing is limited. The Town Manager went over the financial summary that was presented in the Budget packet.

Sharon Gregory asked for a clarification regarding \$128,000 under Main Street Reconstruction. Jennifer Tabakin explained that designers will oversee the project; this amount has already been authorized and is not tax levy dollars.

Sharon Gregory asked if any CPA funds are being considered for parks.

Joe Sokul responded 'not at this time.' He said that he will have to see what would qualify.

Lauren Sartori spoke about debt reduction. She said that \$264,000 in debt is falling off this year and \$190,000 will be the new debt service.

Leigh Davis asked about the highway storage building.

Joe Sokul explained that it is a 2400 square foot pre-engineered metal building. There are 3 doors and no walls inside; open space.

Leigh Davis asked if we vacated the old Fire Station, would we save money.

Jennifer Tabakin responded that we could sub-let; this would be the first step to moving out.

Patrick Fennel stated that we are locked in on the old Fire Station for 5 years so why pay for 2 places. The money should not be spent on a shed unless the fire station is sublet. Patrick also suggested sub-contracting mowing and plowing so there is no equipment to store.

Jennifer Tabakin responded that it is less expensive for us to do the work rather than using prevailing wage for an outside worker. Financially, it would not make sense.

Sean Stanton asked what happens if the storage building is built and we don't sublet the fire station? He pointed out that there aren't any sidewalk projects in the FY16 budget. He suggested creating a firm plan for subletting before choosing to spend no money on sidewalks.

Deb Phillips spoke about sidewalks and the importance of improving walkability.

Bud Atwood suggested speaking about removing some sidewalks that aren't useable.

Leigh Davis asked that work on Elm St., Railroad St., Bridge St. and Church St. get moved up on the list to compliment the Main St. Reconstruction.

Deb Phillips suggested borrowing \$50,000 for sidewalk work.

Michael Wise said that it would be helpful to have concrete numbers on the sublet value of the old Fire Station.

Steve Bannon said that we can also offer it back to the landlord. Steve said that he would agree with borrowing \$50,000 to do more sidewalk work.

Joe Sokul said that he will come back with a proposal.

Jennifer Tabakin said that she will get more information about subletting.

Michelle Loubert asked why Gilmore Ave. is not on the sidewalk/street repair list.

The Town Manager explained that it is tough to fix the sidewalks on this street because the trees would need to be removed.

Michelle said that she would like this street put on the list as it is always a problem.

The Town Manager responded that she would need to hear feedback from the residents in this area.

Michelle Loubert spoke about the bridge on Division St. She said that it is a concern and is heavily trafficked, however it has been pushed to FY20.

The Town Manager reviewed the bridge plan.

Joe Sokul explained that the bridge program began 3 years ago. The next two bridges that will get work will be the Division St. Bridge and the Brookside Run Bridge.

Sean Stanton asked Bud Atwood if the Cemetery Commission considered other options for the Weatherby Vault.

Bud Atwood responded that there are 2 in the vault and the vault holds 6-8. Once it is repaired, space can be rented.

Leigh Davis asked about Lake Mansfield Rd; is there anything that can be done to get us through.

Joe Sokul responded that just pavement would cost \$60,000. Temporary patching will be used.

Tom Blauvelt spoke about the sidewalks that the town is responsible for plowing.

Deb Phillips responded that the Selectboard should discuss establishing guidelines as to what the town is responsible for and discuss the potential of decreasing services.

Jennifer Tabakin said that the Wastewater Treatment work is ongoing. They are overseeing the 1st phase of work and designing the next phase. There are no capital requirements for Wastewater this year and no rate increase next year.

Jim Stark asked about the metered sewer study.

Jennifer Tabakin responded that a consulting contract was issued and the first phase is being done. We can then determine the next stage of options.

Joe Sokul said that he will get his report in May.

Jim Stark said that 375 million gallons are used now but we also pay for what comes through leaky pipes. He said that we should only pay for what we use.

Tim Drumm responded that many areas with pipe infiltration have been fixed.

On a motion by Steve Bannon, seconded by Sean Stanton, the Selectboard adjourned its meeting at 8:20 P.M.

On a motion by Tom Blauvelt, seconded by Bud Atwood, the Finance Committee adjourned its meeting at 8:20 P.M.

III. Adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary