

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON MA 01230
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016
6:00 PM**

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:04. Present were members Walter Atwood, Thomas Blauvelt, Will Curletti and Janet Lee. Also present was town manager Jennifer Tabakin.

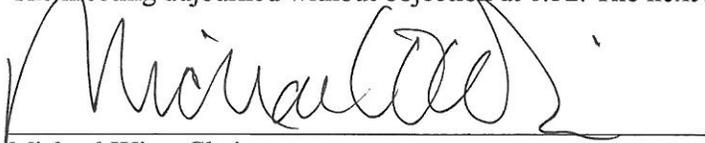
Minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2016 and the joint meeting with the Selectboard of March 28, 2016 were approved unanimously (on motion by Blauvelt, seconded by Atwood).

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: Michael Wise was elected chair, unanimously, on nomination by Blauvelt. Wise advised the committee that, due to his election as town Moderator, he intends to step down from the Committee before the next cycle of budget meetings. Thomas Blauvelt was elected vice chair, unanimously, on nomination by Curletti. The Committee decided to designate as its secretary the individual that town management assigns to take the minutes; the town manager said that was in process. Blauvelt was appointed as Finance Committee representative to the Community Preservation Committee, unanimously, on nomination by Atwood. Curletti agreed to serve as the Committee's contact and liaison with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District finance subcommittee.

SCHEDULING: The chair observed that the plan to have a regular monthly meeting should be reconsidered, as the committee's agenda did not seem to require that frequency. He suggested planning on meeting roughly every quarter, outside of the budget season, on the call of the chair. If a matter comes up that requires action, such as a reserve fund transfer, of course the committee should be prepared to meet for that purpose. Thus the next meeting would likely be in late summer. Most Tuesday evenings appear to be a feasible time for most members.

CITIZENS SPEAK TIME: Chip Elitzer presented a proposed warrant item for a special town meeting, for legislation to revise the school district agreement funding formula, saying that it would reduce Great Barrington's tax rate. The chair said that it would not be appropriate for the Committee to deliberate about this at this meeting, since it was not noticed on the public agenda in advance. Blauvelt asked Elitzer whether pursuing legislation was consistent with the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee process. The chair suggested that individual members communicate with Elitzer outside of the meeting if they wished, and that a committee meeting to decide about a recommendation could be held if a proposal is put onto the agenda for a special town meeting.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:32. The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.



Michael Wise, Chair