

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 11/08/2023

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Joe Freitas, Chairman, Tabitha K. McCrohan, Clerk,

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room	
Meeting Minutes	Board to review and approve Meeting Minutes of October 26 th , 2023. The Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to approve; Freitas 2 nd , voted
New Business (Taken out of order)	Chief of Police Christopher Baker recognized citizen Bradley Clark for his actions on October 8 th , 2023. Mr. Baker described the event that led to Mr. Clark's recognition in which he assisted an elderly gentlemen who had fallen in the street. Mr. Baker noted that Mr. Clark actions are a credit to the himself and the community of Berkley and extended his thanks to Mr. Clark once more. Chairman Freitas was next to share his appreciation with Mr. Clark, presenting him with a signed Public Service Citation on behalf of the Board.	Information Only, No Action Needed
Appointments	<p>Finance Committee Appointing Authority to review and possibly appoint Eric Wu to the Finance Committee. Moderator George Miller and Finance Committee Chairman Michele Hamilton were called up to interview Mr. Eric Wu for potential appointment to the Finance Committee. Mr. Wu was called upon to offer up his background as the appointing authority reviewed his resume. Mr. Wu described his extensive business background and said he was ready to offer up that experience to the Finance Committee. Mr. Freitas explained that Mr. Wu's resignation was extremely important to ensure his neutrality when reviewing the budget.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas wanted to know what Mr. Wu's priorities were with regard to the budget. Mr. Wu explained that public safety was very important to him and mentioned the use of comparisons to other communities in building a budget. Mr. Freitas said he appreciated that, but that to some degree Berkley is relatively unique.</p> <p>With regard to commercial growth, Mr. Wu extolled the virtues of balance and understanding the Town's needs while appreciating the local character of the Town. Mr. Freitas explained the disparity between the residential tax base and the commercial tax base.</p> <p>Mr. Miller wanted to know what Mr. Wu would do in the event that cuts were necessary. Would they be proportional across all departments or would he choose another strategy? Mr. Wu explained that it would not necessarily work that way, referencing that there may be a limit to cuts to public safety.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas explained the process of budgeting which ultimately ends with the Board of Selectmen and the advisory nature of the Finance Committee. Mr. Miller, as a former Selectmen, explained that while the preceding statement is true, some Finance Committees of the past had earned the trust of the BOS and they would rarely reverse their decisions.</p> <p>Mrs. Hamilton wanted Mr. Wu to clarify what he meant by "safety" and included the Highway Department in the conversation and wanted to know if he could deliver potential cuts to the schools. Mr. Wu acknowledged that education is frequently the target for cuts and ensured that his thought process would be case-by-case.</p> <p>Mr. Wu was appointed to a three-year term at the end of deliberations.</p>	Miller motion to approve; Hamilton 2 nd , voted

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 11/08/2023

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Joe Freitas, Chairman, Tabitha K. McCrohan, Clerk,

New Business (Taken out of order)	<p>Board to discuss potential letter in opposition to Bill H.4135; review of matter</p> <p>Mrs. Kerri-Ann Auclair came before the Board to discuss her opposition to Bill H.4139. Kerri drafted a letter and contact list for the purpose of reaching out to local representatives, if the Board of Selectmen was amenable to that.</p> <p>Mrs. Auclair summarized the significant issues she had with the bill. Mrs. Auclair educates individuals for the purposes of certification with firearms and felt the Commonwealth was taking away some of her autonomy as an instructor. She also referenced potential abuses of "red flag" elements in the Bill.</p> <p>Mrs. Auclair continued that despite her advocacy and numerous attempts to contact public officials, she often feels unheard. Mrs. McCrohan commented on the mental health issues that are often unresolved and Mr. Freitas relayed anecdotes about the roots of gun violence. Those in attendance agreed that the Bill would do little to change the trajectory of gun violence in Massachusetts.</p> <p><i>Motion to compose letter of opposition to Bill H.4135.</i> Freitas asked for all three members of the Board of Selectmen to sign letter when composed, as well as review from Chief Baker.</p>	<p>McCrohan to motion to approve; Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
Meeting Mail	<p>Board to review requested SRPEDD Community Support Letter; review of matter, votes may be taken. Mrs. McCrohan noted that the deadline for the letter had passed and moved to file. Motion approved.</p>	<p>McCrohan motion to file, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
Meeting Mail	<p>Board to review agenda for Bristol County Advisory Board Meeting; review of matter, votes may be taken. Mr. Freitas and Mrs. McCrohan wanted to attend the meeting but noted that ZBA and Planning were both on the date of the Advisory Board meeting.</p>	<p>No action taken.</p>
Meeting Mail	<p>Board to review retirement notice of Tax Collector Clerk; review of matter; votes may be taken. Mr. Freitas noted that the Town Treasurer/Collector would like to be here for that.</p>	<p>McCrohan motion to table, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
Personnel Board	<p>Board to review and possibly approve proposed job description and title of Assistant Town Administrator; review of matter, votes may be taken.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas commented that continuity is important and it is a good idea to cement a succession plan into many of the town's departments.</p> <p>Personnel Board voted to recommend job description to Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>Board of Selectmen voted to approve proposed job description.</p>	<p>McCrohan motion to recommend, Freitas 2nd, voted</p> <p>McCrohan motioned to approve, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 11/08/2023

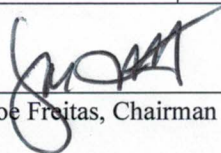
SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Joe Freitas, Chairman, Tabitha K. McCrohan, Clerk,

Personnel Board	<p>Board to review and approve Tax Collector Clerk job posting; review of matter; votes may be taken.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas said that despite not having posting in hand, job description had not otherwise changed. He further suggested that it should be an in-house posting.</p> <p>Mrs. McCrohan moved that the Personnel Board would recommend an internal posting to the Board of Selectmen contingent on the Tax Collector's preparation of the document.</p> <p>Board of Selectmen moved to approve Tax Collector Clerk job posting as an internal posting contingent on preparation by Tax Collector.</p>	<p>McCrohan moved to recommend, Freitas 2nd, voted</p> <p>McCrohan moved to approve, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
New Business	<p>Board to review and possibly sign contract with Somerset Glass; review of matter, votes may be taken.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas and Mrs. McCrohan opined the state of the doors of Town Hall that had rarely been functioning as intended. Through the signing of the contract, they hoped to lay these issues to rest.</p>	<p>McCrohan moved to sign contract, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
New Business	<p>Board to review and possibly approve updated Business License Form and Policy; review of matter, votes may be taken.</p>	<p>McCrohan moved to table, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
New Business	<p>Board to review and possibly approved Attorney Thomas P. Gay, Jr. as Special Labor Counsel; review of matter, votes to be taken</p> <p>Mr...Freitas commented that they were happy with Attorney Gay's previous representation and thought he would be a good choice moving forward. Mrs. McCrohan concurred.</p>	<p>McCrohan moved to approve, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
New Business	<p>Board to review potential Access Termination; review of matter, votes may be taken.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas wanted to know what the plan was when and if we decided to terminate our relationship with Access. Mr. Freitas mentioned that Selectmen Cochrane had been working on options for bringing the files back.</p>	<p>McCrohan moved to place Access Termination on next agenda, Freitas 2nd, voted</p>
Town Administrator's Report	<p>Town Administrator Matt Chabot gave the weekly reminder on Berkley Botanicals upcoming contribution. He briefly commented on what a non-municipal donation meant through discussion with legal counsel. Several proposed projects would involve town owned or leased land and would muddy the waters on such a donation.</p> <p>Mr. Chabot invited the Selectmen to the Veteran's Flag Pole Rededication Ceremony on November 11, 2023 @ 10:45 AM.</p>	<p>Information Only; No Action Taken</p>

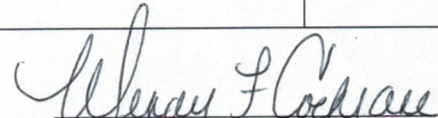
MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 11/08/2023


SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Joe Freitas, Chairman, Tabitha K. McCrohan, Clerk,

Adjournment	<p>Mr. Chabot also mentioned a cash handling/turnover policy that had been drafted prior to his tenure. Mr. Chabot stated that he believed that the best place for the policy was within the policies of the FAC where the town's other fiscal policies are contained.</p> <p>Mr. Freitas said he liked keeping Town policy in one specific place. He wanted to ensure that the policy met what the Town's audit was looking for.</p> <p>Chairman Freitas entertained motion to adjourn and stated he hoped citizens would turn out for the Veteran's Day ceremony.</p>	McCrohan moved to adjourn, Freitas 2 nd , voted
-------------	---	--



Joe Freitas, Chairman

Tabitha K. McCrohan, Clerk

Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator