

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 02/28/2024

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:01 p.m. in the Council on Aging Room	
Personnel Board	Board to review and possibly hire Michael Celia as part-time camera operator. The Personnel Board voted to recommend to hire. The Board voted to hire.	McCrohan to motion to recommend, Chabot 2 nd , voted. McCrohan to motion to hire, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly hire Madison Guy as part-time camera operator. The Personnel Board voted to recommend to hire. The Board voted to hire.	McCrohan to motion to recommend, Chabot 2 nd , voted. McCrohan to motion to hire, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly approve proposed job description and title of a COA Director. Margaret Moroff, Chair of Council Aging, noted what an amazing job Ms. Celia continues to do in her position and that she goes above and beyond. The COA Board voted to see Ms. Celia appointed as the Director unanimously. The Personnel Board voted to recommend to approve. The Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to recommend, Chabot 2 nd , voted. McCrohan to motion to hire, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
Appointments (taken out of order)	Board to review and possibly appoint Marc Oliveira to the Berkley Common Committee. The Board voted to appoint.	McCrohan to motion to appoint, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
New Business (taken out of order)	Board to review and possibly approve the Purple Heart Resolution. Raymond Hague, Veterans' Agent, was present and spoke on the matter. He noted that it's the honorable thing to do and it's a distinction for the Town. He continued that signs will be posted noting that Berkley is a Purple Heart Community in specific areas as well as a central plaque at Town Hall and a ceremony celebrating same. The Chairman noted that as part of the Common Committee they will be working towards a goal of a Veterans' Park to further honor our Veterans. Clerk McCrohan read the proclamation into the record and the Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly approve Common Use Request of the Berkley Firefighter's Association for June 16, 2024. The Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly approve Common Use Request of the Berkley Firefighter's Association for August 18, 2024. The Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
Appointments	Board to review and possibly appoint Joe Freitas to the Berkley Common Committee. The Board voted to appoint, the Chairman voted out of necessity.	McCrohan to motion to appoint, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
	Board to review and possibly appoint George Miller to the Berkley Common Committee. The Board voted to appoint.	McCrohan to motion to appoint, Freitas 2 nd , voted.

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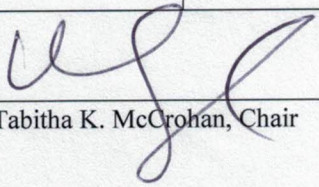
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New Business	Board to host discussion with Joseph Abreau. Joseph Abreau of 55 Macomber Street came in to discuss his desire to purchase two lots on Sylvia Lane. Barry Farias of Sylvia Lane was also present for the discussion. There is an issue of lack of frontage for the purchase of same. The Town must approve to accept the Road, but there are multiple issues that have been raised. The Town Administrator noted he will be in contact with Town Counsel and begin research for possible resolutions.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
New Business (taken out of order)	Board to approve 2024 Class II Auto License Renewal for Maurice Butler d/b/a Forever of 6 Old Berkley Street. The Board voted to approve. Board to approve 2024 Class III Auto License Renewal for Maurice Butler d/b/a Forever of 6 Old Berkley Street. The Board voted to approve. Board to review and possibly approve Door to Door Peddlers Permit for Renewal by Andersen. Joshua Kelley, a Manager from Renewal by Andersen came in to answer any questions of the Board. He noted that Berkley was previously a "check in Town" and has now changed to require permits and he wanted to ensure he's following all protocol. The Board voted to approve the Permit with the following conditions: (i) alerting Police and the Town Administrator of schedule prior to going door to door; (ii) confirming all employees have clear background checks; and (iii) daylight sales only.	McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd ; voted. McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd ; voted. McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd ; voted.
Meeting Minutes	Board to review and approve Executive Session Minutes of January 31, 2024. The Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd ; voted.
Public Input (taken out of order)	Ms. Linda Wyndham of the Celebrations Committee came in to discuss an Egg Hunt they would like to host. She was concerned for a lack of advertisement time with respect to gaining the approved Common Use Request and the event date. The Board approved her advertising prior to approval.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
New Business	Board to review and possibly approve Warrant Item regarding debt exclusion. The Town Administrator shared a PowerPoint with key information regarding debt exclusion, attached as <u>Exhibit A</u> . It was also reiterated that there will be upcoming Informational Sessions once the vote occurs. It was again noted that both Town Counsel and Bond Counsel have reviewed and approved the question. The Board voted to approve.	McCrohan to motion to approve, Freitas 2 nd ; voted.
Town Administrator Report	The Town Administrator noted that there may be a couple Soil Board Permit applications in the upcoming months. He also provided the ARPA Plan Memo. The Town Administrator spoke about the Community One Stop Program and noted that he's in contact with an engineer about several projects of interest. He also informed the Board and the audience about a Senior Means Testing Information Session on March 8 at noon. Lastly, he offered the upcoming dates of Finance Committee Meetings: March 4 and March 11.	Information Only; No Action Needed.
Public Input	The Chairman spoke about the Commonwealth's project revenues and the impact on grants. He cautioned the public to be prepared. The Chairman also gave his resignation as Chair of the Board of Selectmen effective February 28, 2024 but assured that he would remain as a Member. The Board voted to accept the resignation.	McCrohan to motion to accept, Freitas 2 nd ; voted.

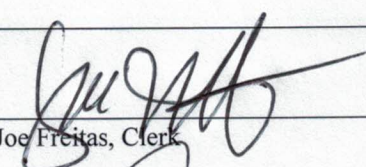
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Adjournment	The Board voted to adjourn with the announcement of the next meeting, which will be held on March 13, 2024.	McCrohan to motion to adjourn, Freitas 2 nd , voted.
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Tabitha K. McCrohan, Chair



Joe Freitas, Clerk

Wendy F. Cochrane, Member



Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator

EXHIBIT A

Debt Exclusion Basics

Form of the Question:

Shall the Town of Berkley be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for Berkley's share of the bond issued in order to fund the construction of a new Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School, including the payment of costs incidental and related thereto?

Yes _____ No _____

Annual Town Election Ballot

Saturday, May 11, 2024 – Berkley Community School

How Will This Impact My Taxes?

- The amount of tax impact will depend on Berkley's enrollment at Bristol-Plymouth Technical High School on October 1st of each year.

- Example: Berkley Enrollment October 2023 – **111** out of 1362 (~**8.14%**)

Total FY2025 Capital Assessment (\$250,000)+FY 2025 BAN Debt/Interest(\$2,688,088) = (\$2,938,088)

Berkley's Share

8.14% of \$2,938,088 = \$239,448

How Will This Impact My Taxes?

- Berkley's share for FY2025 would require a **\$0.19 increase** per \$1000 of assessed value.
- With an average single family assessed value of around \$500,000, this amounts to a tax increase of roughly **\$100 per year**.

- What's the catch?

Estimated assessments for the debt are expected to increase substantially in coming years, **exceeding \$900,000** by FY2029.

Rising Costs

BP Capital Assessment (Estimated)



Maximum Tax Impact Table*

(\$0.72 per
\$1,000)

Assessed Value	Current Estimated Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated Tax Bill	<i>Estimated Tax Bill Impact</i>
\$350,000	\$4,357.50	\$4,609.50	\$252.00
\$450,000	\$5,602.50	\$5,926.50	\$324.00
\$550,000	\$6,847.50	\$7,243.50	\$396.00
\$650,000	\$8,092.50	\$8,560.50	\$468.00