

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 11/18/2020

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: George F. Miller, Chairman Dean R. Larabee, Clerk Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00pm in the Council on Aging Room	
Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.	<p>The Board of Selectmen took a tour of the Historic Museum, 2 N. Main St. The Board of Selectmen went into recess at 5:50 p.m. Mr. Miller thanked the members of the historical society and Mr. Perry taking the time to give them the tour. He stated that the space was being put the valuable use.</p> <p>The Board of Selectmen voted to reopen the meeting of November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council on Aging Room.</p> <p>A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by the Board of Selectmen, in the Moitoza-Petty Hearing Room, that has now been moved to the Council on Aging Room, 1 N. Main St., Berkley, at which time the Selectmen will establish the classification relative to residential, commercial, industrial, personal property and open space. Those attending the hearing will have the right to present written and/or oral comments. The Board of Selectmen voted to open the Public Hearing. Mr. George Moitoza stated that the Board of Assessors recommends on Question 1, accepting the residential factor because commercial, industrial, and personal property only equal less than 5% of total value. He stated that most CIP is small local businesses and farms. Mr. Martin-Sterling stated that they did not have to publish this in the paper due to the state. Mr. Moitoza stated that land value went up this year and it was helpful to have extra assistance. Discussion continued. The Board of Selectmen voted to classify with the residential factor of one.</p>	<p>Cochrane motion to go into recess, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to reopen the meeting, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to open the Public Hearing, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to classify with the residential factor of 1, Larabee 2nd voted</p>
Minutes	<p>October 21, 2020 – Regular Session</p> <p>October 28, 2020 – Regular Session</p>	<p>Cochrane motion to accept, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to table, Larabee 2nd voted</p>
Personnel Board	<p>New Hire Michael Pires for Highway Department. Mr. Miller clarified that these positions are vacant positions, not new positions. Mr. Rose noted that he is being hired as a Laborer/ Truck Driver. Mr. Miller appreciated Mr. Pires for applying. The Board of Selectmen voted to hire Michael Pires to serve as a Laborer/ Truck Driver for the Highway Department.</p> <p>New Hire Richard Thomas for Highway Department. Mr. Miller thanked and appreciated Mr. Thomas for applying. Mr. Miller also thanked Mr. Rose for bringing the applicants in. The Board of Selectmen voted to hire Richard Thomas to serve as a Laborer/ Truck Driver for the Highway Department.</p>	<p>Cochrane motion to hire, Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to hire, Larabee 2nd voted</p>
New Business	<p>John Faria of 60 Myricks St. regarding personal medical disposal. Mr. Faria stated that his wife needs to dispose of her needles. He mentioned that he contacted the Board of Health and the Police Department. Mr. Miller pointed out that the Fire Chief and Highway Surveyor were present but not the Board of Health. Mr. Scott Fournier, Fire Chief, stated that the Transfer Station takes the needles which then goes to SEMASS to be burnt. He stated that he did some research and found that the City of Fall River has a grinder at their facility, but are \$70,000. He mentioned that some other towns drop them off at their Recycling Center, like Berkley does. He also stated that Freetown Board of Health pays the Fire Department to handle them, but are looking to go away with that. Another town comes in with a Kiosk that gets emptied every month by a company. Mrs. Gail Faria stated that the current set up at the Transfer Station doesn't seem safe. Mr. Miller asked if there was a</p>	<p>Informational, no action needed</p>

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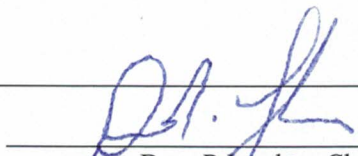
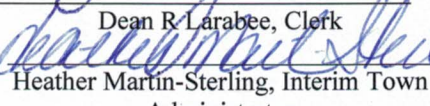
	<p>safer container that is more suitable. Mr. Rose stated that he has not looked into it and explained the process of how things are done now. He mentioned that it becomes a problem when things are radioactive. He stated that things can remain radioactive for up to 90 days and if it is not clearly stated, the loads will be rejected and be given a \$3,000 fine. Mr. Miller suggested getting something that is more clearly defined. Mr. Rose stated that he will work to find a better solution. Ms. Cochrane mentioned putting it in the Council on Aging Newsletter to make more seniors aware, as well. Mr. Miller appreciated and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Faria for bringing it to their attention.</p> <p>COVID update. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she spoke with Matt Tanis, the Town's MAVEN Representative, and stated that there were 3 additional cases yesterday and 2 today, bringing the total number of cases to 149, 3 deaths, 122 recovered, with 24 active cases, and 6 of those active cases should be clear in the next day or two. She also mentioned that it is not from any known cluster and are currently on the line of yellow and red as a town. She then mentioned that a lot of surrounding Town Halls are moving to appointment only but stated that she doesn't know if Berkley is at that point just yet. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the Council on Aging is looking to resume activities that have been paused. She stated that Berkley Town Hall is currently in a lull and that there is not a huge flow of people as we are past Tax Season. She stated that she is comfortable with quilting to resume in the COA. Ms. Morroff, chairperson of the COA, stated that she would like to see Italian come back. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she will have to look into but does not see any problem with it. Mr. Miller stated that he trusts the seniors and director will do what is best for them. Ms. Morroff mentioned that they have 2 activities going on. They are still doing Tai Chi at the studio and aerobics is still happening outside, they are no longer doing chair yoga. She stated, for advertising purposes, that the COA will be hosting a Christmas Take Out Dinner on December 9th at the Middle School. It will be a free turkey dinner for seniors but have to call and register by calling the Council on Aging at 508-821-3105. Ms. Morroff stated that it will done by the Boondocks and was put in the November and December newsletters as well as on Facebook. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated, regarding additional precautions taken by Town Hall, that additional shields for cubical spaces have been ordered and is looking to put shields in the hearing room to give barrier for the Board members and the public. The Board of Selectmen voted that COA resume activities including quilting and pending protocols on Italian. Ms. Cochrane abstained as she is a member of the COA.</p> <p>Board to review and approve MOU for Cotley St. Mr. Miller stated that they have a document that was drafted by the Town Council and the MBTA. It is an agreement with the MBTA that they will provide \$152,500 towards the cost of paving Cotley street as they have been impacted by the work on the train tracks as it relates to trucks, dust, noise, and traffic complaints. Mr. Miller stated that Ms. Cochrane has been instrumental in this process and dealing with neighbor complaints and concerns. He thanked and appreciated Ms. Cochrane for her efforts. Ms. Cochrane stated that they will hopefully enter into the agreement, but spoke with the Highway Surveyor and unfortunately does not look like the pavement will not take place at this time before winter. Ms. Cochrane stated that she spoke with Mr. Rose and he stated that he would go down this week and grade it to get it as flat as he could. She stated that she had tried her best and apologized for it not being done before winter. The Board of Selectmen voted to enter into agreement with MBTA and to appoint George Miller to sign the agreement.</p>	<p>Larabee motion that COA resumes activities, Miller 2nd voted</p> <p>Cochrane motion to enter into agreement with MBTA for paving of Cotley St. Larabee 2nd voted</p> <p>Larabee motion to appoint George Miller to sign agreement, Cochrane 2nd voted</p>
Town Administrator Report	<p>Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she has looked into TextMyGov. She stated that some municipalities are using that gives alerts to residents but there is a fee to it. She mentioned that they can use the initial fee as a part of the CARES Act. She also stated that she has another phone call about it tomorrow but wanted to present it to the Board of Selectmen first to see their thoughts on it. Mr. Miller stated that he will take a look at it. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she is going to get more in-depth detail. She also mentioned that she does not see an urgent need for it but thought they should look into it. Ms. Martin-Sterling explained how it worked and used snow storms and Town Hall is closed as an example. Ms. Martin-Sterling then noted that the Police Chief had reached out to her about a request he received to hunt on town land. She stated that there are no state regulations on it and there is nothing in the bylaws about it. Mr. Miller asked about the liability involved in it.</p>	<p>Informational, no action needed</p>

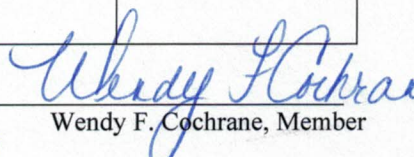
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	<p>He suggested bringing it to Town Council's attention to give us a memo about what the Town's options are. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that according to state regulations, people cannot hunt with a rifle, only a shotgun and have to be 500 feet from residential dwellings. She suggested if the Town chose not to allow it, recommended putting something in the bylaws stating they cannot. Mr. Miller stated that he believes it is something that probably already happens but has heard nothing negative about it. He stated that he is not for or against it, he is more concerned about the liability. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the police chief has never gotten this request before.</p>	
Public Input	<p>Mr. Bob Longton, of 638 Berkley St, first thanked Ms. Martin-Sterling for answering his emails. Mr. Longton then inquired what was included in the \$152,500 for Cotley St. Ms. Cochran stated that if the town agreed to do it through Chapter 90 money, it would be much cheaper and more likely to be approved through the MBTA process. Mr. Miller read the letter that was sent to Ms. Cochran from the Berkley Highway Department into the record. He indicated that the \$152,500 includes everything and will cover surveyed roads, TMLP moving poles, 3 inches of asphalt, equipment rentals, gravel, loom, grass seeds, signs, and police details. Ms. Cochran mentioned that the paving will be from the beginning of Cotley St to the end of the Berkley town line. Regarding the Basketball Court Project on the Common, Mr. Longton asked if any town money has been spent. Mr. Miller stated that no town money was spent and there was over \$50,000 raised and donated. Mr. Longton asked why the aquifer system was not resolved prior to the construction. Mr. Miller stated that the town applied for a special permit through the Planning Board and they, along with the engineer and Town Council, had indicated that the aquifer was a nonissue and granted the special permit. He stated that the project is full steam ahead and hopefully in the Spring, they will be revitalizing the baseball field all through donated money and marijuana money. Mr. Miller stated that they do not need a special permit to do the baseball fields but will apply again to bypass the aquifer regulation if they decide to pave the parking area. Discussion continued. Mr. Larabee stated that he thinks they handled the situation with the basketball courts very well but if there are any additional changes need to have a deeper conversation about it with the science behind it. Mr. Miller stated that he agreed that there needs to be a lot more discussion and will listen to the scientists and engineers. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller stated that the next meeting will be held December 9th at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that Town Hall is closed next Wednesday and Thursday for the holiday and noted that on December 9th they will be back on their regular meeting rotation.</p>	Informational, no action needed
Adjournment	<p>Ms. Cochran stated the next meeting will be December 9th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., location to be determined. The Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn.</p>	Cochran motion to adjourn, Larabee 2 nd voted


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R. Larabee, Clerk

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator


Wendy F. Cochran, Member