

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 3/3/2021

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room and via Zoom	
Minutes	February 17, 2021 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2 nd voted
Meeting Mail	Letter from Xfinity regarding programming advisory review. Board of Selectmen voted to file the letter from Xfinity regarding programming advisory review.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Letter from Xfinity regarding price changes. The Board of Selectmen voted to file the letter from Xfinity regarding price changes.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Letter from Lieutenant Governor regarding Master Plan. The Board of Selectmen voted to file the letter from Lieutenant Governor regarding Master Plan.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Letter from MassDOT regarding FY21 Chapter 90 apportionment. The Board of Selectmen voted to file the letter from MassDOT regarding FY21 Chapter 90 apportionment.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Email from Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover regarding contract negotiations and ratification. The Board of Selectmen voted to file the Email from Superintendent Jeffrey Schoonover regarding contract negotiations and ratification.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
Appointments	Appointment of Tabitha McCrohan to the Finance Committee from the Appointing Authority. Mr. Joe Freitas stated that he met with Ms. McCrohan and is very comfortable with her resume and thinks she will be a good fit. The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Tabitha McCrohan to the Finance Committee.	Freitas motion to appoint, Blake 2 nd voted
Old Business	Update on Master Plan. Mr. Miller stated that there was no update on the Master Plan.	Informational, no action needed
New Business	Board to approve and sign contract between the Town of Berkley and Real Estate Research Consultants, Inc regarding Public Utility Appraisal. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that this brought to her attention by the Assessors regarding Columbia gas and high-tension wires. She noted that they are the only company who does it. The Board of Selectmen voted to enter into contract between the Town of Berkley and Real Estate Research Consultants, Inc regarding Public Utility Appraisal.	Cochrane motion to enter into contract, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Board to approve and sign grant for Cultural Council. The Cultural Council received a grant for \$5,800. The Board of Selectmen congratulated the Cultural Council. Ms. Cochrane noted that they are awarded each year to donate to nonprofits. The Board of Selectmen voted to approve and sign grant for Cultural Council.	Cochrane motion to approve and sign, Miller 2 nd voted.
	Board to approve High School Tuition Stabilization Account appropriation of \$2,751,576.17. The Board of Selectmen voted to approve High School Tuition Stabilization Account appropriation of \$2,751,576.17.	Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Board to discuss Class III license request to Maurice Butler known as Bings Auto. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that Mr. Butler is looking to renew the Class III license that has not been active since 2014. Mr. Butler explained that it in February 1983 his father was granted a special permit and license. Ms. Martin-Sterling noted that the special permit stays with the property, not the person. Mr. Butler bought the property in 2016. Mr. Miller doesn't	Informational, no action needed

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	believe there is an issue with abandonment. He stated to Mr. Butler that he needs to provide all the correct paperwork and then they should be able to renew it.	
	Somerset Berkley Regional High School School Committee to discuss the change in the formula. Mr. Miller stated that they were not able to come in tonight and will be postponing.	Informational, no action needed
	Board to discuss spouses sitting on the same board. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that a current member of the Council on Aging asked if her husband could also sit on the same board. She stated that she knew there was an issue in the past but did not think there was anything in writing. Mr. Miller stated that he did not believe it was the best practice. He stated that he did not think it was ideal and that it should only be done in emergency situations. Ms. Cochrane and Mr. Larabee agreed. Mr. Larabee suggested reaching out to the state for guidance. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Martin-Sterling to notify that individual that it is not something they are inclined to do.	Informational, no action needed
	Parade for resident turning 100 and the use of Police and or Fire. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she has been asked to do a few birthday parades; there are 2 residents turning 100 years old this month and a 5-year-old whose parent is battling cancer. Mr. Miller stated that he believed there should be some kind of formal recognition but doesn't think it is fair to do it for one person and not another. He also mentioned that he does not think it is a good use of town resources. Mr. Martin-Sterling stated that the Police Chief said he would do whatever he was instructed to do by the Board of Selectmen but did voice his concerns. Ms. Cochrane agreed with the formal recognition.	Informational, no action needed
Personnel Board	Request from the Fire Chief to increase on call Firefighters/ Paramedics hourly rate based on increase of minimum wage. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that in 2019, the Board of Selectmen voted to increase probationary firefighter up to \$13.00 an hour, firefighter to \$14.00 an hour, EMT to \$16.00 an hour, and paramedic firefighter to \$19.00 an hour. She stated that minimum wage is now \$13.50 and he is looking to go up to \$14.50, \$15.00, \$17.00, and keeping paramedic firefighters the same at \$19.00. Mr. Miller stated he only wants to vote on probationary firefighters tonight until they get some more information. Ms. Cochrane stated that she believes they should increase the pay. Discussion continued. Ms. Cochrane would like to see the Fire Chief come in. Mr. Miller suggested only voting to increase probationary firefighter rates until they get more information. The Board of Selectmen voted to increase the probationary firefighter rate to \$13.50 until their next meeting for further discussion.	Cochrane motion to increase probationary firefighter rate, Larabee 2 nd voted
Adjournment	Mr. Miller mentioned that anyone who pulled nomination papers should double check with the town clerk office to make sure everything is correct. Ms. Cochrane stated that the next meeting will be March 17, 2021 at 5:00pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room. The Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn.	Cochrane motion to adjourn, Larabee 2 nd voted

George F. Miller, Chairman

Dean R Larabee, Clerk

Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator