

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 05/12/2021

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

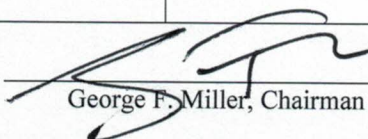
TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:02p.m. in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room	
New Business	<p>Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen. Larabee stating that it was Millers turn to serve as chair, as historically it's always been the outgoing selectmen last year of term, serves as chairman. Miller stated we don't do that anymore, it's the most qualified person on the board that serves as chairman.</p> <p>Appointing Larabee as Clerk, on the Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>Grace Tweedie from the Berkley Middle School, 6th Grade, gracefully presented four homemade Bat Boxes which were created by her and her peers including Sawyer Diaz, Cadence Lefevere, and Morgan Boyle. They created these boxes for a school project but presentation was put off due to Covid-19 shutdown but still choose to complete this project on their own time. She stated she would like them presented around Berkley and for the boxes to be 15ft. off the ground, no hanging branches near fixtures, and have proper sun light. Rob Rose from Berkley's Highway Department. Not present, agreed to help hang these for the students including the additional four the other students had completed as well.</p> <p>Regional Planning Agreement Presentation by Julie Gagliardi, Chair of the Somerset-Berkley Regional School Committee, introducing the attending committee, Rich Fencemaker, Vice Chair, and representing Berkley, Jen Vincent, and Jen Andrews. Giving highlights of the two articles that will be on the warrant for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting for Berkley.</p> <p>Common Use Form from Friends of Berkley, Council on Aging regarding Arts/Crafts Vendor Fair on September 11, 2021 from 8a.m. to 5p.m.</p> <p>Common Use Form from Friends of Berkley, Council on Aging regarding 4th of July celebration on July 3, 2021 at 10a.m. to 2:30p.m.</p> <p>Common Use Form from the Berkley American Legion Post 121 regarding Memorial Day celebration on May 31, 2021 at 9:30a.m. – 11a.m.</p> <p>Board to approve and sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant</p>	<p>Motion made by Cochrane to nominate Miller as Chairman, 2nd Larabee, Miller also 2nd Cochrane's motion, voted</p> <p>Motion made by Cochrane, Miller 2nd, voted</p> <p>Town Administrator agreed to help make arrangements with the Town and the students for placement</p> <p>Information use only</p> <p>Motion made by Cochrane, Larabee 2nd, voted</p> <p>Motion made by Cochrane, Larabee 2nd, voted</p> <p>Motion made by Larabee, Cochrane 2nd, voted</p> <p>Motion made by Cochrane, Larabee 2nd, voted</p>
Old Business	<p>Budget presentation for Fiscal Year 2022, given by Finance Committee, Chairmen Joseph Freitas. Board discussed and thanked the Finance Committee for their dedication to this year's budget process. With the budget increasing 2.67% from Fiscal Year 2021, amount totaling \$20,556,644.00. There was three departments that had some changes this year after being reviewed, being the Public Safety Building, the Police Cruiser, and The Assessor Clerk. The Finance Committee tried to decreased use of available funds. Some costs that created this budget were all the elected, contractual, part-time, and temporary positions. Not including the schools. Collective bargaining has an increase of 2% on base pay. Freitas stating that Berkley is now in the 3rd year budget review without out seeing any expected income from the marijuana facility in town. Miller also adds we lost so much time due to Covid-19, with these facilities gaining income. Freitas adding that MA gives many requirements for spending without any additional income, giving examples as police reform,</p>	<p>Motion made by Larabee, Cochrane 2nd, voted</p>

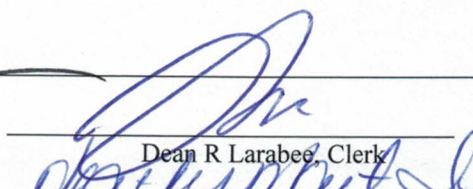
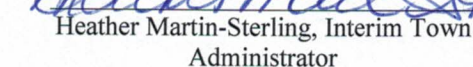
	<p>OSHA, and Schooling. An additional fire fighter and paramedic are included in this year's budget for it being cost effective due to increasing the lack of aid we have had. Freitas speaking for himself and the Finance Committee, explaining it's a very difficult process to figure out where the funds went and they did what they thought was the best for everyone financially. Miller asks why the increase for the moderator has increased, Freitas giving reason for MA regulations due to Covid-19, mostly for precautions in upcoming meetings. Miller also asked about for additional information regarding the added fire fighter and paramedic. Freitas states with overtime and vacations, we can now backfill with these new hires. With reducing overtime, they now can have an additional body. Which also increases aid for the town. The Fire Chief also worked with the Finance Committee to get these positions to at least minimum wage which has been worked into the budget. Larabee asked if this year's free cash usage compared to last year's usage, was discussed about being maintained the same or even a slight increase. Freitas explains the decrease was created without cutting into any of the core services in Berkley. That with these tough decisions this year, we will have less to worry about in future years. Discussion continues. Larabee also asks about the school funds. Growth in the high schools, Bristol Plymouth and Bristol Aggy School, increasing 27.8% from last year, was there discussion in these funds increase that are not called Somerset-Berkley. Freitas explains if we had a trust it would help the budget, but there isn't much we can do once this number is created. Larabee speaks with slight disagreement that we have had a relationship with Somerset-Berkley with ability to pushback, his concern is the 27.8% increase with no advocacy from these two schools. Freitas says it's up to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator to put a mechanism in place for a protocol on the schools budget for future years. Discussion continues. Cochrane gives thanks from the Board of Selectmen, to all the department heads and employees asking for just level funding. Stating that we have great employees in this town. Town administrator, Heather Martin-Sterling making a correction to the budget giving what the FinCom number that was given, being \$2,559,530.00 due to the stabilization through the debt for the high school gets put into the capital operating budget and not the capital.</p> <p>Review of edited Master Plan. Board discussed.</p>	
Meeting Mail	<p>Letter from TEC Associates regarding Mass Coastal Railroad 2021. Larabee mentions an email he received with concerns about making sure the pesticides being used are safe. Miller asked the Town Administrator to review with the Board of Health with these concerns and keep the board notified with the outcome.</p>	<p>Motion to table made by Larabee, Cochrane 2nd, voted</p> <p>Motion to file made by Cochrane, Larabee 2nd, voted</p>
Public Input	<p>Letter from SPREDD regarding MPO Nomination process. Looking for a representative from The Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>Joseph Freitas, 18 Country Lane, states there is no public restrooms on the ball field and people need some form of facility for the community. Freitas suggests we get a porta-potty. Miller stated the board will look further into this issue.</p>	<p>Motion to table made by Cochrane, Miller 2nd, voted</p> <p>Information use only</p>
Personnel Board	<p>Board to approve and sign Fire Chief, Scott Fournier contract effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024</p> <p>Board to approve interview and hire Planning Board Clerk. Town Administrator states she received an email that the Planning Board will not be attending, and the approval was not needed at this time.</p>	<p>Motion made by Larabee, Cochrane 2nd, voted</p> <p>No Action Needed</p>

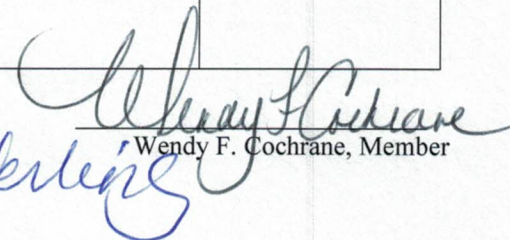
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Executive Session	Executive Session...discussion to not hold Executive Session. Executive Session was not held.	Motion made by Larabee to go into executive session, Cochrane 2 nd , voted Motion made by Cochrane to not hold execute session, Miller 2 nd , voted
Adjournment	The Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn at 8:46p.m.	Motion made by Miller to adjourn, Cochrane 2 nd , voted


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R Larabee, Clerk

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator


Wendy F. Cochrane, Member