

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/2/2022

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:01p.m. in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room	
Minutes to be approved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes 2. January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes 	Larabee to motion to approve, Cochrane 2 nd , voted.
Personnel Board	<p>Board to post position for Council On Aging Director. Ms. Cochrane has abstained from voting due to being a member of the COA. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated this position could be filled by mid to late March 2022 at 25 hours a week. The job description would remain the same. Ms. Martin-Sterling will post the job on Monday, February 7, 2022.</p> <p>Board to vote to accept resignation from Stephen Castellina of the Planning Board. Mr. Miller proceeded to read the resignation letter. He also stated that Mr. Castellina will continue in his role until the next election, and was appreciative of his willingness to serve. Ms. Cochrane motioned to accept resignation from Mr. Castellina effective as of the next Town Election May 7, 2022.</p> <p>Board to vote on pay scale grid for Part-Time Civilian Communications Department. Chief Scott Labonte was present to discuss grid. He stated there are 2 different pay scales between Dispatchers and Police Officers, and although the steps and grades are similar, the pay rates are not; the Part-Time Dispatchers would max out higher than Reserve Police Officers. Chief Labonte stated when the state of Massachusetts passed the Police Reform Law, they were no longer able to utilize Part-Time Reserve Police Officers. As a result, the Department had to hire Civilian Dispatchers. Mr. Miller mentioned there was some discussion about Regionalization of Dispatchers but noted there would be no cost savings associated with it. Chief Labonte agreed. Ms. Cochrane stated there could be a cost savings if the City of Taunton and other communities joined, and that there would be mutual aid right away. Chief Labonte stated the Department already has mutual aid agreements with every surrounding community to Berkley through SEMLEC. He stated SEMLEC is also in the middle of reprogramming their radio frequencies where they can call for backup on that 1 frequency throughout all surrounding communities as well.</p> <p>Board to hire and appoint Gregory Haarala to Full-Time Patrolman position for a one-year probationary term, 1st 5-month term to expire on June 30th, 2022. Chief Labonte stated that Mr. Haarala comes with experience, and that he has already been to the Full-Time Police Academy. Mr. Haarala's experience comes from working as an Environmental Police Officer, and he has also worked for the Plymouth Police Department.</p> <p>Board to hire and appoint Scott Raudonaitis to Reserve Police Officer for a one-year probationary term, 1st 5-month term to expire on June 30th, 2022. Chief Labonte stated the Department will utilize Mr. Raudonaitis for patrol and dispatch. Mr. Raudonaitis gained experience working as a Reserve Police Officer in Westport. Chief Labonte stated Mr. Raudonaitis is not eligible for the Bridge Academy as of yet due to the alphabetical placement of his last name. Chief Labonte stated Mr. Raudonaitis retains his certification for the additional time until he is given the opportunity to attend the Bridge Academy, and at that point obtain Full-Time Police Officer status.</p> <p>Board to hire and appoint Kobey Imbert as a 911 Signal Operator for a one-year probationary term, 1st 5-month term to expire on June 30th, 2022. Mr. Imbert was not present at the meeting to be hired and appointed. This motion has been tabled until the next BOS meeting.</p>	<p>Larabee to motion to post position, Cochrane abstained, Miller 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to accept resignation; Larabee 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to max part-time pay grid to step 5, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Larabee to motion to hire & appoint; Cochrane 2nd, Martin-Sterling, Labonte, & BOS voted.</p> <p>Larabee to motion to hire & appoint; Cochrane 2nd, Martin-Sterling, Labonte, & BOS voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to table hiring, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p>
Meeting Mail	<p>Board to review letter from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Local Election Districts Review Commission. This letter is in regard to the re-precincting of all the communities in the Commonwealth, and has only affected one street in Berkley.</p> <p>Board to review letter from Berkley Public Schools regarding 2022/23 Budget Proposal – Rescheduled. This letter is in reference to a meeting that has already occurred.</p>	<p>Cochrane to motion to file, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to file, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p>

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	<p>Board to review letter from the Office of the Town Clerk regarding the Annual Town Elections Calendar. Mr. Miller proceeded to read the list of meetings/elections within the letter.</p>	<p>Cochrane to motion to file, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Board to discuss key access to board members for the Town Hall. Mr. Miller stated it would be too complicated to keep track of all the keys, and that the Town Hall should continue the same policy where just the chairmen of the boards have keys. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated everyone's key also has access to the alarm codes, and that there is no way to track them.</p> <p>Board to review and approve Common Use for Vendor Fair with local companies to raise money for the BAA on May 22, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., contact person is Tabitha McCrohan. Ms. Martin-Sterling noted the Police Chief signed off that the fair may need a Police Detail.</p> <p>Board to discuss possible parking lot abutting 10 Babbitt Way, request from Judith Plogger. Judith Plogger was present, and spoke about land that has been cleared behind and beside Babbitt Way, which is being rented by Mr. Rodrigues. She stated a connection was made between Mr. Lund's (owner of rented land) and Mr. Rodrigues's driveways to that piece of property. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated she spoke with Mark Pettey, chairman of the Conservation Commission and Building Inspector Joseph Biszko about this property. According to Mr. Pettey, years ago there was a road that was dug into a hill between Saints Way and Babbitt Way. Over the years it has been washing away, so they are putting gravel down to prevent it from eroding. It was determined there was nothing that required any action to be taken by either Mr. Pettey or Mr. Biszko. Ms. Plogger expressed concerns about people parking behind her property come spring time. Mr. Miller told her he would have Ms. Martin-Sterling reach out to Town Council to see if what the Rodrigues's are doing is legal according to the Town of Berkley's by-laws, and to see if an agricultural business could use another parcel of land that it does not own for parking purposes.</p> <p>Karen McSweeney, of 6 Saints Way, asked the Board if Mr. Lund, who owns the property, need any conservation clearance. She also stated concerns of traffic going up and down Saints Way and Babbitt Way with young children living nearby. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated Mr. Pettey has been to that property and determined everything they were doing was legal and there was no parking lot being built.</p> <p>Jonathan Amate of 2 Saints Way was present at the meeting. He questioned if land owner's intention was to lease out the land for a parking lot, if it would be fair to say he is establishing a business in a residential zone. He stated it was put on record on April 28, 2021 by Mr. Rodrigues's attorney that they are leasing land for parking purposes. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Martin-Sterling to have Adam Costa from Town Council to look into this matter. Mr. Amate stated Mr. Rodrigues's 2nd attorney on September 29, 2021 stated that the Rodrigues family has nothing to do with that land. He is concerned Mr. Rodrigues is not taking the proper steps with the Town with trying to establish a business.</p> <p>Mr. Miller asked if anyone at the meeting present for the discussion of the property had any pictures/possible drone footage of the site with them, to which a few said yes, but not on their persons during the meeting.</p> <p>David Barwick of 6 Babbitt Way was present. He stated it wasn't gravel being put down on the property, it was crushed asphalt, which there is a big difference. He stated he has drone pictures of the property when asked by Mr. Miller, but not with him at the meeting. Mr. Barwick asked Mr. Miller about a follow up conversation he was supposed to have with Mr. Biszko according to the Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2021. Mr. Miller asked which activities were in question during that time period, to which Mr. Barwick stated children's amusements and soccer games. Mr. Miller stated those activities can be considered agricultural. He stated that Mr. Barwick needs to take specific complaints to the Building Inspector. He also stated the Town Council will be consulted with about the situation, and as of now the property is being operated as an agricultural use.</p> <p>Board to discuss upcoming union negotiations schedule for Police, Communications and Clerical. Mr. Miller suggested that 1 member of the BOS should participate in negotiations with the Town Administrator, and that it would be helpful for Ms. Martin-Sterling. He also</p>	<p>Information Only; no action needed</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to approve Use, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Information Only; no action needed</p> <p>Information Only; no action needed</p>

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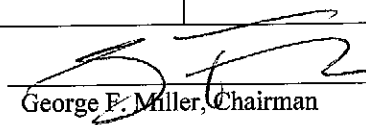
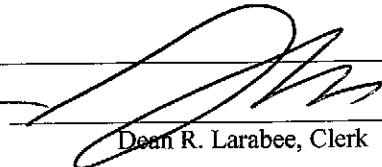
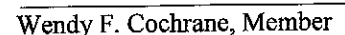
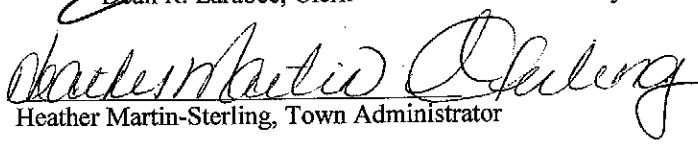
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	<p>suggested someone from the Town Council should participate as well. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated she had participated in Clerical negotiations with the former Town Administrator. Ms. Cochrane stated they could ask Attorney David Gay of Gay & Gay Attorneys at Law to participate. Mr. Miller stated he wants all the people making decisions all in the same room at the same time as to not slow down the process. He also suggested someone from the FAC participate. Joseph Freitas, Chairman of the FAC stated he is not against the idea of someone from the FAC participating, if it is what the BOS warranted. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated she does see the benefit on potentially having Attorney Gay participate, but is concerned with his availability and fees he would charge. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Martin-Sterling to reach out to Attorney Gay tomorrow to see if he is available and obtain quotes for the rates he would charge.</p> <p>Board to vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,820,365.57 to the High School Tuition Stabilization Account for FY2023. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated this is an annual vote the BOS has to make, and whoever is going to make the motion read it as it is. Mr. Larabee moved to appropriate on February 2, 2022 the sum of \$1,860,048.36 and \$960,317.21 to be added to the High School Stabilization Account; for a total of \$2,820,365.57.</p> <p>Board to review and sign Commonwealth of Massachusetts Standard Contract Form for the Town of Berkley Cultural Council. Mr. Larabee has abstained from signing due to having a family member on the Council.</p> <p>Board to discuss jackets for board/committee members and employees with the Town of Berkley logo. These jackets would be made available to Assessors, Conservation Commission, and any Town official that would need to physically go to locations/areas within Berkley for Town business. Mr. Miller suggested vests with the Town logo might be the cheaper route and they're all season. He asked Ms. Martin-Sterling to look into ordering vests for official town business only.</p> <p>Board to discuss update regarding K-8 Regionalization with Somerset. Mr. Miller stated the BOS expressed their concerns with the funds for Regionalization during a Zoom meeting held on January 25, 2022. The Town of Berkley is not spending funds to participate, and is not in support of regionalization, as was realized at the Special Town Meeting in November. He stated the total savings for Berkley would be about \$400K, and that savings would be from the dismissal of the Superintendent, as well as cuts to the Central Office staff. Mr. Larabee stated years ago, the Regional Planning Board had looked at regionalization as a possible solution to financial issues as a result of the stabilization account being downsized. He stated there was an abundance of data that couldn't be put into a formula or spreadsheet to get it to make sense; every formula the Regional Planning Board tried turned out a different number each time. Mr. Freitas agreed financially that regionalization is not in the best interest for the Town of Berkley.</p> <p>Board to review and approve letter from Town Counsel regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Patrick Higgins. Mr. Miller stated he is appreciative of the letter and Mr. Higgins' attention to detail.</p> <p>Board to review letter from Highway Surveyor dated February 1, 2022 regarding the depletion of the Snow Removal Account. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated she signed off on the report for the depletion and no vote had to be taken on it by the Board. She stated this is brought in front of the Board usually by the end of the winter season, but the state of MA has always allowed this particular account to go negative. Mr. Miller stated this was unanticipated by the Chair and was given for informational purposes. Ms. Cochrane thanked the Berkley Highway Department for doing a great job in the last snowstorm.</p>	<p>Larabee to motion to appropriate, Cochrane 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to sign, Larabee abstained, Miller 2nd, voted. Information Only; no action needed</p> <p>Information Only; no action needed</p> <p>Larabee to motion to approve, Cochrane 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Information Only; no action needed</p>
Town Administrators Report	<p>Board to discuss the scheduling of a meeting for the Myrics St. Field Project and the Common Baseball Improvement Committee. Ms. Martin-Sterling suggested the Board meet with the BAA and the Historical Commission separate from a regular BOS Meeting due to how lengthy it will be and the fact that it's contract negotiation season. She suggested to</p>	<p>Information Only; no action needed</p>

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	<p>possibly meet on February 23, 2022, that way she could get a quote/estimate of the cost by then and have a more detailed conversation around the projects.</p> <p>Board to review quote proposed for the Town of Berkley by Access Information Management Corporation for digital storage. Ms. Martin-Sterling has been looking into doing electronics record retention for the Town. She stated it was confirmed with the auditor that this is something that can be paid for with ARPA funds. This company can electronically index records and store them in their facilities. This company does work with other municipalities. The town is able to request hard copies when needed, and can also set up the destroying of records and send the town a certificate of destruction. They are also on the MA approved vendor list. The initial cost is \$11,222, at a monthly cost of \$206 per month, which can be added to the data processing budget. Mr. Larabee stated to make sure any extra charges will be negotiated. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated this is just a quote and not a contract.</p>	<p>Information Only; no action needed</p>
Finance Committee Update	<p>Mr. Freitas stated we are going into the budget season. He has reviewed the Cherry sheets, and noted there wasn't a huge windfall for the Town of Berkley. Mr. Freitas stated after reviewing the State of the State Address with Governor Charlie Baker, both Chapter 70 Aid and State Aid went up \$20K respectively. The Town of Berkley will not be receiving any funds from the state. He noted the regionalization of Police and Communications would be cost saving only in the first 4 years, then the money would run out. Mr. Freitas also touched on the Snow Removal Account issue and its impact on available funds. The next FAC meeting will be held on February 7, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Information Only; no action needed</p>
Adjournment	<p>Ms. Cochrane motioned to adjourn meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 5:00p.m.</p>	<p>Cochrane to motion to adjourn, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p>


George F. Miller, Chairman
Dean R. Larabee, Clerk
Wendy F. Cochrane, Member
Heather Martin-Sterling, Town Administrator