

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 3/23/2022

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


TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:04 p.m. in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room	
Old Business	<p>Board to set a date for a public hearing regarding the Myrics St. Project. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated the BAA submitted that they would like to see a new baseball field or rehab the one that exists, as well as a soccer field. They are also looking to put a well, irrigation, lights, electric, a storage shed and benches. There were two different drawings that were presented; one with a new baseball field and the other with a rehabbed baseball field and placement of the soccer field. After taking a look at the initial drawing, Mr. Miller asked about the soccer field placement. Berkley Athletic Association (BAA) member Tabitha McCrohan stated the placement was a way for the soccer field to fit to where they could still put a parking lot and the Historical Commission kiosk there. Andrea Perry of the Historical Commission stated a walking trail and playground are also still in the plan, and within the walking trail there would be botanicals with signs that name the trees. Ms. McCrohan stated the soccer field would be adult sized, and that 2 games at a time could be played for younger children. She noted the areas to play soccer at the middle school aren't fields, and there are lots of holes in them. The new soccer field would be safer for kids.</p> <p>Ms. Martin-Sterling stated the only thing that is required with the grant for this project is a Historical kiosk. Civil Engineer Byron Holmes asked if Ms. Martin-Sterling had received any proposals yet for the job, and she replied that she hadn't. Mr. Miller stated the public was invited to come to this meeting tonight, however it is not a public hearing, rather just a discussion on ideas; no final decisions will be made tonight. He then asked about the maintenance and upkeep of this project. BAA member Andrew Whitmore stated there is a line for irrigation already on the fields, and if they could tie new ones into the existing line it could possibly be more cost effective. Ms. Perry indicated the Historical Commission has applied for a federal ID with the name "St. Yves" somewhere in the title. Mr. Miller stated in order to sign off on anything, getting insurance from the BAA is very important, and that there is an expectation that people who wish to play on these fields will have to pitch in. Ms. Perry stated the Historical Commission had a couple of meetings with the BAA last summer and it was stated they would be responsible for the athletic portion which is the maintenance of the fields/grounds, but the development with the well and irrigation would be a part of the Historical Commission's responsibility. Mr. Larabee stated he would like to get a better vision of where the fields would be, and to make sure the placements are sound with an engineer. Ms. Perry stated she has had many volunteers who have asked to help with excavation, and inquired about having to abide by prevailing wages. Ms. Martin-Sterling answered that if the money was donated and it went strictly toward the labor portion, it would not fall under prevailing wage because it is not the town's money. Since \$200K was granted to the town, the money is coming out of the town and it could be tied into paying prevailing wage. Mr. Miller stated he will check with Town Counsel on this matter. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated once they have a drawing from an engineer, they can come back to the table and set a date for public input.</p>	Information only; no action needed
New Business	<p>Board to review, approve and sign the IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement) between the Town of Berkley and the City of Taunton. This is an agreement between Waste Management and the Town of Berkley that the City of Taunton is requesting regarding the providing of drinking water on Holloway Street. Ms. Martin-Sterling noted Town Counsel has drawn up the agreement, and that 2 motions would need to be made; one to accept and enter into agreement of the IMA, and the other one to grant temporary right of entry for an easement in order for the project to commence. She stated the Board cannot grant an easement without having a Town Meeting vote, and that Town Counsel suggested to withhold putting an end date on it in case it wasn't voted on. The Board voted to enter into the IMA for the process of drinking water, as well as granting a temporary right of entry for an easement.</p>	<p>Larabee to motion to enter into IMA, Cochrane 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Larabee to motion to grant temp. right of entry, Cochrane 2nd, voted.</p>
Town Administrators Report	<p>Town Administrator to update Board on the vote from the Finance Committee on March 10, 2022 regarding capital expenditure debt exclusion. This item has been postponed due to a clerical error; it should read vote from the Financial Advisory Committee on March 10, 2022.</p>	Information only; no action needed.

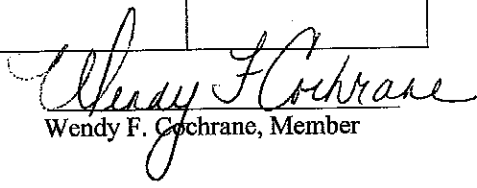
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	<p>Ms. Martin-Sterling discussed the Somerset Berkley Regional High School meeting she attended regarding the Preliminary Budget FY2022-2023. She stated some of the driving forces to the budget for Berkley were the decrease of 18 students; however the town of Berkley's minimum local contribution versus the minimum local contribution for the town of Somerset increased. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated the school's initial proposal when deducting the capital assessment was 3.44%, however, they did reduce it by \$17,605.08 because they received additional school choice money, so the increase came in at 2.91%. The total operating assessment which does include the out-of-district special education tuition budget (newly revised with the additional school choice money) came in at \$2,802,295. Special Education out-of-district came in at \$110,582, which would come out of taxation. The town had appropriated on town floor for last year's special education out-of-district cost at \$145,333, however, circuit breaker money had come in and that got reduced to \$68,640 for a savings of \$76,693. She stated what's coming out of the high school stabilization account would be \$2,691,713, and approximately \$128K will stay in the stabilization account. She noted they are anticipating an increase in Chapter 70 money so this budget could potentially come down. Ms. Martin-Sterling also wanted to make the Board aware that the incoming Freshman class is enormous; they are anticipating approximately 217 Freshman to start in the fall, and that the incoming Freshman class is much larger than the outgoing senior class. Due to these class sizes, decreases in some things may look different next year.</p>	
Finance Committee Update	<p>Mr. Freitas stated that the Finance Committee has started the process with the budget, and that they're going to meet with the Town Administrator on Monday for the bulk of the departments. He noted it is going to be a very tight budget.</p>	Information only; no action needed
Executive Session	<p>1. Board to go into Executive Session for Union and Non-Union Negotiations:</p> <p>2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.</p> <p>3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.</p> <p>1. Board to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.</p> <p>The Board voted to go into Executive Session. The Board also voted to not return to Open Session.</p>	<p>Cochrane to motion to go into Executive Session, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to go into Executive Session, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p> <p>Cochrane to motion to not return to Open Session, Larabee 2nd, voted.</p>


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R. Larabee, Clerk


Wendy F. Cochrane, Member


Heather Martin-Sterling, Town Administrator