

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 1/9/2019**

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: George F. Miller, Chairman Heather Martin-Sterling, Clerk

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:05 pm at Town Hall Hearing Room, 1 North Main St.	
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes for December 12, 2018 – Regular Session</li> <li>- Minutes for December 19, 2018 – Regular Session</li> </ul>	Tabled until Selectman Cochrane is present made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
Meeting Mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Miller read aloud the notice from the Town Clerk regarding May 11, 2019 Annual Town Election.</li> </ul>	Informational – No action taken
Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board reviewed a letter from Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School regarding informational meeting to review progress with MSBA and BP. Miller asked Mr. Coutinho if he was going to attend, he stated he was going to try. Miller suggested that one of them should go. Joe Freitas stated FinCom is going to attend. Meeting is not open to the public. Freitas will post. Mr. Coutinho stated that Chairman and Vice Chairman should be more than enough since they didn't anticipate FinCom holding a meeting.</li> <li>- Board met with Michael Mizrahi of Berkley Botanicals for a presentation and proposal for marijuana cultivation/sales. Location is near the old landfill and solar farm near two highway exits. They are willing to work with Police and Fire to alieve any concerns they might have. Will have devices that check for fraudulent ID's. Perimeter will be monitored by a service 24-7. Miller asked that in thinking back to the previous agreement made with a marijuana cultivator there is language in legislature that stated they can only gain revenue from sales for so long from cultivators, is that true for sales as well? Mizrahi stated he was not sure and would have to check into that. Miller then asked about over saturation. Mizrahi stated he would say that over the next two years you will see an increase. But, then as other facilities open you will see a decrease. Miller inquired about employees. Mizrahi 10-15 full time positions. They would hold a job fair to fill those positions. With two high-end managerial positions with potential benefits, and potential to enroll in healthcare. 3,500 sqft. building to include retail and processing. Looking for about 50 parking spaces. Miller asked him about his background. Mizrahi replied he had an overseas import business prior to, real estate managed properties, owned a restaurant at one of his properties. Miller wanted to let the other Selectmen review what was presented before a letter of support.</li> <li>- Meeting with Council on Aging to appoint Loretta Marshall. Board appointed until June 2019.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to file made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted</p> <p>Informational – No action taken</p> <p>Motion to appoint made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted</p>



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## New Business

- Joint meeting with Finance Committee to review budget process for FY2020. Joe Freitas, Chairman spoke to the Board. FinCom will be attending the MMA Conference. MMA is looking at a 2.9% growth. The FinCom sent out a budget letter to the Town with projected dates as far as budget turn-ins and meet and greets. FinCom is going to have some stringent rules on going above the 2% increase. If the municipalities stay at 2% they expect the School Department, Highway, etc. to stay with that as well and the Town will be in good shape. Freitas has no doubts that the financial team will do what is best for the Town. He wants the Town to understand that the funds from the new marijuana cultivation and bank that came to Town are not monies that they are being considering in the budget. FinCom would like to budget long term as would Miller. Freitas stated that the Town has been taking advantage of the clerical staff at the pay that they have been receiving and we should try to bring them up to a rate that is comparable to the surrounding Towns. Not to mention the elected officials go above and beyond. He would like to use the monies collected from the parcels the Treasurer and Mr. Coutinho have worked on wisely toward the future of the Town. 10% of the operational budget should be in the stabilization account and we are working towards that. Freitas would like to have quarterly reports from the departments which will help them see what is being spent where and forecast easier. He also noted that FinCom has four openings if anyone is interested to please reach out to either himself or Mr. Coutinho.

Informational – No action taken

- Board voted the mileage rate reimbursement for calendar year 2019 at the IRS rate of .58 per mile. Miller questioned the deadline to submit mileage.

Motion to raise the current mileage rate of .50 cents up to the IRS rate of .58 cents per mile made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted

- Review contract with Town of Lakeville to utilize Lakeville Animal Control Shelter

Motion to table made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted

- Contract with SRPEDD for a District Local Technical Assistant Grant at \$33,000 and Municipal Contract with SRPEDD for Master Plan assistance at \$17,000, and Contract with SRPEDD for Community Compact Best Practice grant funding at \$30,000. Mr. Coutinho stated that SRPEDD would like to know where the Town is at with the Master Plan Committee. The Town needs people that are residents as well as Town employees to sign up and be a part of this. Also, someone from the FinCom would be nice. This is more for the elected officials and residents to say where they would like to see the Town go. Freitas stated that a Master Plan is only as good as how diverse the Mater Plan Committee is. We need a diverse group of people, single moms or dads that stay home taking care of their kids, young, older, sports people, historical people, etc. Miller noted that if residents don't step up then the Committee will end up all elected officials and then the residents will complain when they decide they don't like something, yet they didn't step up when asked.

Motion to accept the contract for the District Local Technician Grant, Master Plan Assistance grant, &amp; Community Best Practice funding made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted



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Town  
Administrator's  
Report

- Mr. Coutinho noted that he has been working on the insurance issue with MIIA and the schools. There is an issue with the square footage at the moment.

Informational – No  
action taken

Personnel  
Board

- Review contract for Rachel Nickelson for the Assistant Town Accountant / Administrative Assistant position.

Motion to accept  
contract with Rachel  
Nickelson for  
Assistant Town  
Accountant /  
Administrative  
Assistant made by  
Sterling, Miller sec.  
– Voted

Soil Board

- Letter from Gilbert Pontes in response to Written Warning of Noncompliance for Soil Conservation Permit #2018-1. Miller asked where the other letters were for the months that his permit was in effect. Pontes is supposed to send in a letter each month on the 30<sup>th</sup> stating how much material was removed and where it went along with the receipts backing up that letter. Miller requested a letter be sent to Pontes for noncompliance for the second time. Board would like a hearing scheduled for the next Selectmen's meeting. Sterling was concerned where the material was being brought and did they have a permit.

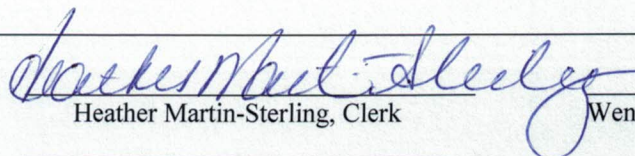
Board instructed  
Town Administrator  
to schedule a  
hearing for Pontes  
regarding Permit  
#2018-1

Meeting Adjourn

Motion to adjourn  
made by Sterling,  
Miller sec. – Voted

Next Regular Meeting January 23, 2019

  
George F. Miller, Chairman

  
Heather Martin-Sterling, Clerk

  
Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Alan G. Coutinho, Town Administrator