

# MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/20/2019

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00 pm at Moitoza - Pettey Hearing Room, 1 North Main St.	
Soil Board	<u>Hearing regarding Third Written Warning of Noncompliance on Soil Conservation Permit #2018-1 for 180R Bayview Ave., Berkley, MA 02779</u>	Motion to continue the continuation of the third written warning of noncompliance on Soil Conservation Permit #2018-1 to February 27, 2019 at 6:00pm made by Sterling, Miller sec. - Voted
Minutes	- Minutes for February 6, 2019 – Regular Session	Motion to table minutes made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
Meeting Mail	- Request from Sun Multisport Events, LLC for the Annual Triathlon through Berkley	Motion to approve donation from the Sun Multisports and the event made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
	- Letter from Highway Surveyor requesting authorization to remove snow in excess of appropriation	Motion to approve additional \$50,000 to the snow removal account made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
	- Letter form Bristol County Advisory Board regarding supplemental budget. Sterling will be attending the upcoming meeting for the Bristol County Advisory Board	Motion to file made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
	- Letter from Superintendent of Schools regarding MSBA Statement of Interest form for the Berkley Community School. Miller questioned the money put aside. Sterling stated that it was just for the lights. Freitas stated they were given \$235,000 for that project. Board stated they are in agreeance.	Motion to submit the Statement of Interest made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
	- Letter from the Council on Aging regarding donation from the Friends of the Council on Aging. Board would like things coordinated with the Building Inspector and to waive the permit fee.	Motion to accept the gift made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted
Old Business	- Letter from Planning Board regarding Ferry Lane road construction. Miller read the letter aloud where the Planning Board stated they have notified Malloch Construction to stop all work on the road and they would suggest the Board do the same. Sterling reiterated what the Planning Board stated regarding the letters the Selectmen had sent in the past. She also noted that	Motion to file made by Sterling, Miller sec. – Voted



**MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/20/2019**

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

the road is below sea level and the Highway Surveyor at the Planning Board she attended stated that it would cost too much money and man power to maintain a road like that if not built properly.

- Board reviewed candidates for the Master Plan Committee and appointed the following:

- Donna Leary
- Marge Ghilarducci
- Cindy Speer
- Rob Rose
- Joe Callahan
- Jenifer Andrews
- Eric Arbeene
- George Miller

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

- Email from Cabot Risk regarding adjusted property values. Mr. Coutinho noted that the state and MIIA are requiring that property be insured at 100% value now which was a substantial increase to the Town. Miller thanked Mr. Coutinho for catching the error in the previous square footage as he saved the Town apx. \$15,000 a year.

Motion to approve  
adjusted property  
values made by  
Sterling, Miller sec.  
- Voted

- Board reviewed and signed the Business Associate Contract with MIIA.

Motion to accept the  
Business Associate  
Contract with MIIA  
made by Sterling,  
Miller sec. - Voted

**New Business**

- Mr. Coutinho presented the FY2020 Board of Selectmen budget review. They tried to adjust many of the Town's issues that were put off for years. Everyone did their best to break it all down. The budget itself is only up 3%. One of the things that the Town needs to do is get used to getting a new cruiser each year. Mr. Coutinho doesn't know if it will make the final cut, but it is in there. Mr. Coutinho stated it is all the same pretty much except for him. Last year he was entitled to the bump up but he did not take it then. The item that is not addressed but he put the Administrative Assistant is up 2% like the rest of the Town. However, Mr. Coutinho stated that he felt it would be wise for the Town to make that position a salaried position with a contract that way they won't have to worry about benefits and all of that in the future. The Town Accountant is up a bit but that is due to the new Assistant Town Accountant salary. Mr. Coutinho and Miller both felt that it was very much necessary to get an Assistant in that office. There is only so much you can throw at one person to get done. The Town Accountant does an amazing job but it was time to get her help in there. Mr. Coutinho explained the costs of Legal. The Board discussed the possibility of having a flat fee for the year vs. an hourly fee. Miller prefers the hourly rate. Public Safety was down 7% due to major repairs last year. Police Dept. budget is up 12% due to the \$56,000 for the new cruiser. Mr. Coutinho stated that in the past you really couldn't see how things were running due to the way the budget was requested and they are working on it. The overtime account in the past was grossly under at \$22,000 which

Town  
Administrator's  
Report



**MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/20/2019**

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

New Business  
Cont.

does not work especially when you consider when the Town had a missing resident. Things need to be higher when you take into account the mandatory by union contract which brings it to \$140k. That is required to pay. That is a real number of where it is supposed to be. This is contractual union overtime. Fire Chief Fournier spoke about their budget with the Board. He discussed the new OSHA laws and 24-7 Paramedics. Fournier read a letter to the Board. Fournier would like an assistant, Mr. Coutinho felt it was not the time for that. Miller asked Labonte if he had an assistant that helps her. Labonte replied no. Fournier stated his EMS Coordinator does help him do some stuff he does not do. Miller asked if any of the others could help with the administrative tasks. Fournier replied probably not. Fournier would like an Administrative Assistant not just someone that can type a letter. Mr. Coutinho then went over the EMT line item. The Town has only three full-time Paramedics to service the Town. Mr. Coutinho stated the Town cannot roll and ambulance without two people in it. Mon-Fri 8-4 most of the time the Town has an EMT there with the Paramedic so they can go to the calls. One the other times and days they have to tone out to get someone to come down so the ambulance can roll out to the call. Sundays are all on call with just EMT and no Paramedics. Mr. Coutinho would prefer to two people on at all times. In order to cover all those shifts that would have put that line item at \$180,000 dollars. He just didn't think they could justify that. Just to cover the bare minimum totals an additional \$75,000. Mr. Coutinho stated it looks like a lot of increase at first but it is minimal when thinking of the quality of service for advanced life support it will bring to the Town. Mr. Coutinho asked Chief Fournier what the increase in software was for. Chief replied for automation and it is paid annually. Town Accountant Kathy Avilla asked about the cost and the maintenance agreement and if it is going to be \$7,500 a year. Chief replied yes there is no purchase price it is this price annually. Communications Dept. level funded permeant positions. Everything else is level funded. Coutinho stated he thought it would be nice if the Celebrations Committee had some money for the Town in case they want to celebrate anything. Municipal lease was dropped giving more money. Workers Comp and Liability Insurance won't come in to the Town until late. Coutinho would like to give the Board a week to digest the budget and place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Informational – No  
action takenTown  
Administrator's  
Report

- Mr. Coutinho gave an update on South Coast Rail railroad crossings in Berkley. Mr. Rose, Mr. Coutinho, and the chief went out to several crossings in Berkley. Originally wanted to close off Cotley Street with fencing but they decided that would not work so it will become a full crossing with lights and all just as the one near Adams Lane. The tracks on Myricks has one track now but it will have two. Myricks will now have four tracks with lots of lights. Selectman Sterling noted that on Myricks is a horrendous place to have four tracks. Coutinho then noted that there will eventually be multiple trains passing each other too. Labonte stated that there will be four tracks two going to Fall River and two going to New Bedford at 79mph. There are six trains per peak time.
- 

Informational – No  
action taken



**MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/20/2019**

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

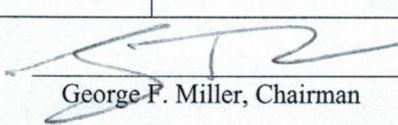
Town  
Administrator's  
Report Cont.

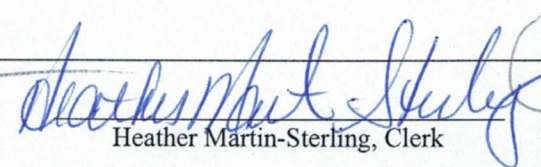
They are suggesting they are going to close the roads on a Friday night working around the clock and open the road that Monday Morning per crossing, except Myricks where they aren't sure how long that will take. There will be detours set up.

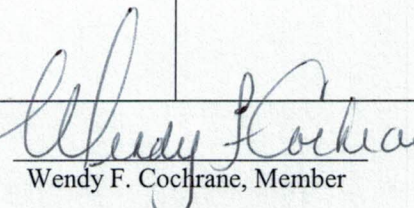
Meeting Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting March 6, 2019

Motion to go into  
Executive Session  
and not to return to  
Regular Session  
made by Sterling,  
Miller sec. - Voted  
unanimous

  
George F. Miller, Chairman

  
Heather Martin-Sterling, Clerk

  
Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Alan G. Coutinho, Town Administrator