

# MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 5/1/2019

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:05 pm at Moitoza - Pettey Hearing Room, 1 North Main St.	
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes for April 17, 2019 – Regular Session</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to table made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p>
Meeting Mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board reviewed Massachusetts Coastal Railroad's 2019 yearly Operational Plan from TEC Associates.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to file made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board read a letter from Carolyn Blackmar regarding Somerset Berkley Regional School District FY2019 budget. No additional funds required from the Town of Berkley.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to file made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p>
Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with Highway Surveyor regarding expanding highway building #1. Rose stated that they have been struggling for years down there especially with vehicles and starting them in the winter outside. They have had to use torpedo heaters to help start the vehicles diesel engines because it is too cold for them to start. There's no room to work on vehicles and he would like to add on another 50 feet to the current building. He would also like to bring the building up to date with the fire systems. He has already had a talk with the Fire Chief. Miller asked what the form of the building was. Rose replied a basic barn type building. Rose would like to take a few years to complete the project. One year to let the concrete work/foundation settle, then do the walls the next year, and the roof the next. Currently they use a waste heating oil system to heat and luckily it is big enough to use for the expansion. Miller asked about prices for a foundation. Rose replied he had three figures told to him of 22k, 14k and 16k. These were initial inquiries not out for bid. Miller thought it was a great idea. Rose then spoke about how they currently start the vehicles next to where the secretary is and would like to minimize exposure to employees. Rose stated he already has the funding from a previous project to cover the foundation expenses. And that he reached out to State on Ch. 90 monies and they told him he can use the money to purchase things that will house the equipment that is used for fixing the roads. Rose noted that this year they received 261k from Ch. 90 so they could take 20k or 30k from it and still have money left for roads. Sterling asked about a true turn around and cost estimate. Rose stated as a best guess building materials estimate 40k for lumber less doors. It should house four to five vehicles depending on vehicle size. Sterling asked if a ballpark with foundation 80k sounds about right and Rose replied yes. Miller noted this has the least impact on residents and sounds like a good way to go.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to allow Highway Surveyor to move forward with the expansion of building #1 made by Cochrane, Sterling sec, - Voted</p>
	MEETING TAKEN OUT OF ORDER	

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New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Business #2 - Request from Highway Surveyor to declare surplus items to go to auction. Rose provided the Board with a list of items/vehicles he would like to send to auction. It would cost the Town nothing to do so and it would get the Town a much larger return.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to declare surplus items made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p>
Appointments Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with Finance Committee to review FY20 budget recommendations. Freitas started by thanking the members, Town Administrator and Town Accountant. He then went on to state that a lot of things went into the budget that caused significant increases such as new hires in the Treasurer's office, Town Accountant's office, cost of living increases, COA Director position, Transfer/Recycling costs to the Town, Police cruiser to keep the fleet up, and K-8 went up 3.04% but they settled on 148k less than they requested. Freitas stated how important it is to contribute to OPEB if the Town get additional monies. Miller pointed out that the Town has increased public safety as well as additional coverage for EMS on Sunday's.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to accept the FY20 budget as presented by Finance Committee made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p>
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and discuss #2 and #6 Wye Street. Miller stated he didn't feel the buildings would be beneficial to the Town even if they were moved by the MBTA and he would like to pass on them.</li> <li>- The Board was presented with a letter from the Town Administrator regarding mitigation for the South Coast Rail Project. Cochrane asked if it was possible to have our Representative called in to see if he could help. Mr. Coutinho stated he would contact Orrall and Pacheco as well as cc them on the letter being sent to the Project Manager and the General Manger.</li> <li>- Board discussed the Volunteer of the Year Award. Sterling would like a citation given as well as have a memorial board placed in the Town Hall with names. Miller noted the Town could do a citation for now until a board can be done for the Town Hall. They would like to present the first one at the November meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to relinquish the properties located at #2 and #6 Wye Street made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p> <p>Motion to approve letter made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p> <p>Motion to open nominations at the end of August/September made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted</p>
New Business Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board had a discussion regarding an illuminated Town sign to be placed in front of the Town Hall. Mr. Coutinho stated that the issue may be that it is not allowed per the Town Zoning Bylaws. Miller stated he doesn't agree and wants to see about a variance or contact Counsel and possibly change the Bylaw. Mr. Coutinho gave several estimates for signs and options:</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>1) 18'H x 6' W - \$70,000</p> <p>2) 7'H x 5.5' W - \$48,000</p> <p>3) 5.5'H x 18" W - \$15,000</p> </div>	

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Mr. Coutinho noted that if he wanted the sign it would have to come out of free cash which was meant to go into the stabilization account. Miller would like to put the \$48k on the warrant Article #2. Cochrane thought it was way too much to spend on a sign as did Sterling. Cochrane wanted to make sure that if they put the money on Article #2 and it gets approved at Town Meeting that they do not have to spend it all if possible and that there would be another vote prior to purchasing a sign. Mr. Coutinho stated that they do not have to spend all of it. Freitas spoke up and stated that he was concerned that the \$48,000 would come from the money that should be going into stabilization as recommended and that was what they had voted. Freitas also stated that he felt that there were better ways to spend that money wisely. He also stated that as he had said earlier if there was extra money it should be placed into OPEB and that the timing is not right for the sign and as a citizen he feels that it does not show financial responsibility. Miller disagreed.

Motion to place \$48,000.00 on the warrant to be spent out of available funds made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted

- Common use request from the Friends of the Berkley Library for the Touch-a-Truck event to be held on July, 27, 2019.

Motion to approve event on the common made by Cochrane, Sterling sec. – Voted

Public Input

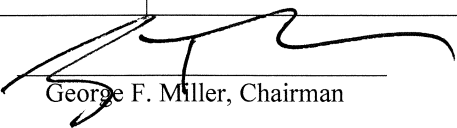
- Cochrane wanted to take the opportunity to speak about Miller since it may be his last meeting as Selectmen. She joked about when they first met and went on about what he had done so much for the Town. She stated how thankful she was to be a Selectperson with him and that she had so much respect for him as a man, Selectman, and friend. She thanked him for his service to the Town, and how he doesn't take credit for all the things he does for the Town. She stated that it was a pleasure to work with him and she would miss working with him if he does not get re-elected. Miller thanked her for her kind words.

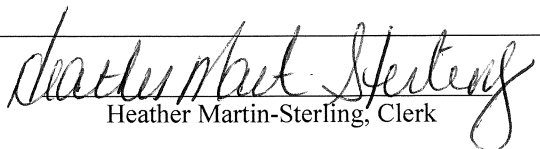
Informational – No action taken

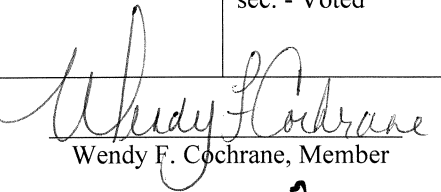
Meeting Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting May 15, 2019

Motion to adjourn open session and go into executive session and not to return to open session made by Sterling, Cochrane sec. - Voted

  
George F. Miller, Chairman

  
Heather Martin-Sterling, Clerk

  
Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Alan G. Coutinho, Town Administrator