

TOWN OF BERKLEY

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

BERKLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SOUTH MAIN STREET, BERKLEY, MA 02779

The special town meeting of November 16, 2015, as called for by warrant, duly posted by The Board of Selectmen on November 02, 2015, was called to order by the moderator, John Blake, at 7:46 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer funds for various governmental departments, or act thereon.

Motion by Gilbert Pontes to hear report seconded by Wendy Cochrane

Edgar Hoak explains that there are no extra funds to be allocated or transferred at this time from Fiscal Year 2015 thus no adjustments to the current budget as set forth at the Annual Town Meeting in June 2015.

Motion to Table, seconded by public body.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 32B S 20 in order to establish an "Other Post Employment Retirement Benefits Liability Trust Fund" for the purpose of holding appropriations to offset the anticipated costs of premium payments for or direct payments to be made to retired employees and eligible spouses or dependents of deceased employees of the Town and further to vote appropriate a sum or sums of money for the purpose of funding said trust, act thereon.

Motion made by Wendy Cochrane, seconded by Edgar Hoak to see if the town will vote to approve OPEB as written in this article.

Steve Nassiff, 11 Osprey Drive, asks why we are doing this. What is the purpose and where is this \$160,000 right now. Edgar Hoak explains the reason for OPEB and that he does not have the name if the institution where the funds are located at this time.

A vote was called for by the Moderator. The motion carried to accept Article 2 as motioned by a majority vote as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with MGL Ch. 59, Sec. 38H to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Tax Agreement with Southern Sky Renewable Energy, LLC for a period of up to twenty-five (25) years, and to approve said agreement under which Southern Sky Renewable Energy, LLC will pay the Town a sum of money per year relative to a 28 acre +/- portion of the parcel of land located at 54 County St, Berkley, related to the proposed construction and operation of a Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation with an expected nameplate capacity of approximately three point six (3.6) megawatts, said Tax Agreement is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, and further to allow the Board of Selectmen to negotiate any amendments necessary to said Tax Agreement to reflect any changes in the size of the parcel of land up to 30 acres so long as the payments reflected in the Tax Agreement rise commensurately; or act thereon.

Motion by George Miller, seconded by Edgar Hoak to see if the town will accept Article 3 as written. Edgar Hoak explains the project and location, dump behind Dunkin Donuts. He explains it is a great way to raise revenue, any way to raise revenue.

Warren Sylvester, 29 Holloway Street questions the project. Lisa Mead, town counsel, explains why we need the town to vote before we have the project ready to go. We need a reuse permit. Frank McMann, representative from Southern Sky Renewable Energy, explains the permit process and the planning involved before moving forward with the project. Mark Demoura, asks if Waste Management will collect any monies from this. Answer is yes, explains in 1981 the state deemed

the land unbuildable. This is a great way to use the land to generate revenue. Mr. Demoura states that solar panels are hazardous and cause pollution. Steve Castellina, floor, explains his previous involvement with solar panels in town and that Southern Sky Renewable Energy has experience with building on landfills. George Miller explains the monies that the town will receive and the planning processes and various boards the Southern Sky Renewable Energy must go through to begin this project. The money is vital to the funding of the town. Mr. Sylvester questions whether oil used is cancerous. Mr. McMann discusses the type of oil used is vegetable oil, not at all cancerous, very safe. Question from floor, how many more solar farms are we going to allow? George Miller states he feels they are a better option than a warehouse, no fumes or pollution, solar is safe, successful and generates money. Joan Blake, Sanford Street adds that this property is privately owned and that they can ultimately do what they wish with the property. Moderator motions to vote, seconded majority vote, adopted.

ARTICLE 4: A petition Article submitted by Patrick Kleinen, Spokesman, 42nd Street Neighbors: To see if the Town will vote to accept 42nd Street and 42nd Street West, which are streets located in the approved subdivision plan named Fieldstone Landing and drainage areas associated with them as public ways, or act thereon.

Patrick Kleinen approaches the floor, motions to table article 4, seconded. Unanimous, tabled.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to listen to a report from **K-8 Strategic Planning Committee**, or act thereon.

George Miller motions to hear report, Edgar Hoak seconds.

Tom Lynch, Superintendent, Reads report for K-8 Strategic Planning Committee. Objective is to examine what the school department has lost as far as positions and programs and determine what it needs for new positions and prioritize them.

Second critical objective of the committee is to determine how the schools can best build a sustainable budget that the town can afford. The committee plans to survey parents to learn what their priorities are for the school department and for the Town of Berkley. The K-8 Strategic Planning Committee will produce a plan for the School Committee to review and hopefully support. We will then share it with the entire town.

Mr. Moderator announces he sees some Scouts in the audience and offers to sign their participation papers for badges.

Wendy Cochrane reads announcements from Celebrations Committee regarding upcoming events. Thanksgiving dinner for those in need, food collections at the Town Hall and December 6, 2015 Lights on Ceremony.

Moderator motions to adjourn, seconded by public body. Dismissed 8:28PM

ATTENDANCE 104

A True Copy Attest

Deborah Pereira
Town Clerk