

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 03/26/2025

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha K. McCrohan, Chairwoman, Jennifer Vincent, Clerk

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Called to Order at 6:03 p.m. in the Moitoza-Petty Hearing Room	
Public Hearing	<p>Pursuant to Article 23, Section 5, of the General Bylaws of the Town of Berkley, the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Personnel Board, will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025, at 6:05 pm in the Moitoza – Petty Hearing Room at the Town Office Building, One North Main Street, Berkley, Massachusetts. Proposed changes to the rules and regulations shall be posted along with this notice. Regulations may be proposed by any member of the Board of Selectmen, the Personnel Board, elected officials, department heads or employees covered under the Personnel Board bylaw. Interested parties are welcome to attend and comment; persons wishing to be heard should appear on the date and at the time and place designated above. Comments can also be sent to the Board of Selectmen either by mail, c/o Town Administrator, One North Main Street, Berkley, Massachusetts 02779, or via e-mail, to selectmen@berkleyma.us, prior to the date and time of the public hearing.</p> <p>Ms. McCrohan asked is there anyone here to discuss the public hearing? Any matters related to the changes to the personnel rules and regulations.</p> <p>Robert Rose - I have a quick question, it seems to me this puts the power of selection back in the hands of the department heads for hiring of employees. Ms. McCrohan went through the changes for clarity. George Miller stated this could be seen as lack of transparency in the hiring process. Could the finalists be brought forward? Mr. Chabot stated that initial interviews are conducted by department heads for expediency and finalist are interviewed before the board for transparency. Ms. McCrohan – yes we could explore that. Ms. Vincent – I think we should review and revise and bring it to next BOS meeting on April 9, 2025.</p>	Ms. Vincent moved to continue, Ms. McCrohan 2 nd , motion for continuation approved
Personnel Board	<p>Board to accept resignation of Margaret Entwhistle from the position of Library Custodian, effective April 11, 2025.</p> <p>Board to accept resignation of Holly Marchand from the position of Assistant Accountant, effective April 03, 2025.</p> <p>Motion to approve the job posting for Library Custodian, position is 4 hours per week at \$15.72 per hour.</p> <p>Motion to approve the job posting for Regional Public Health Specialist, this is a new salaried position, this is part of the PHE grant for the public health initiative that we are part of and is fully funded from the grant. It is a 40 hour per week salaried position, \$65,000 - \$75,000 per year</p> <p>Motion to table the appointments of Christopher Sullivan to the Finance Committee and Patricia Doherty to the Zoning Board of Appeals until April 9, 2025</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to table, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>

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<p>Appointments</p>	<p>Motion to approve Mark Pettey to the ZBA. Ms. McCrohan said that Mark Pettey is a wealth of knowledge on 40B for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Amanda Leite Mathews 79 Padelford St. asked to speak -“Given my families past experience in a different role at Town Hall we saw an inconsistent application of specific processes”. This individual should not be placed on ZBA, we would respectfully suggest that this is not individual not be placed on the ZBA. (Crystal Dr.) George Miller wished to speak in favor of Mark Pettey, I could always rely on him during his time with the Board of Selectmen. Nobody steps up to serve, everyone can have their own opinion. I strongly recommend him for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mark Horsfall of 73 Padelford St. asked to speak - Also an abutter of the Crystal Dr. and reiterated the sentiments of Ms. Matthews and stated that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not everyone is entitled to their own facts. Best option tonight would be to table. Ms Vincent stated she is not aware of the issue spoken about and would like to do some fact gathering. Ms Mcrohan stated that she didn't know what the issue was when the Crystal Dr. issue started. AL: The issue has stemmed out from several problems, but it comes from one. Lack of a DEP permit. Have to help the Town and the State help. Mark Pettey: At the time, we didn't have conservation bylaw, we were on DEP and they stated it was not wetlands.</p> <p>Motion to appoint Brian Bianchi and Steve Depaola to Library Building Committee</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to table, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion for table approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Board to vote to open Annual Town Meeting Warrant and further to set a warrant closing date and time of Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 at 6:30PM;</p> <p>Board to discuss the possibility of enacting a five member Board of Selectmen. Ms. Vincent - Five member board would be a benefit, there has been a lot of interest amongst residents and we want to provide the opportunity. Ms. McCrohan - Interest in entering into Town politics traditionally started on Finance Committee. If any is interested in joining the Finance Committee, let me know. Dean Larabee 161 Bayview Ave said The Finance Committee is not a prerequisite for the Board of Selectmen. Most of the folks running for the Board of Selectmen has run unopposed. I don't think that there is a need for a 5 member board. Ms. Vincent said I think that people appreciate the transparency and that things are changing. Larabee said I would suggest then that we see how many people run for that seat prior to expanding the Board of Selectmen. Ms McCrohan said that would be a good idea, we can always put it on for November. Jason Perry - State recommended the town move to a five member Board, I think we should start moving forward. George Miller: I agree with Mr. Larabee, most of the time people are unopposed. You risk having three that do not have the best interest of Town in their mind. If you are a Selectmen of three, the workload doesn't go away. More numbers doesn't mean more work to spread out. Larabee - At the moment, 48% of the Town's under 10000 haven't taken the step to a five member Board.</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>No action taken</p>

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<p>New Business (continued)</p>	<p>Board to review and possibly approve recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee and further to sign the FY2026 renewal rate proposal; review of matter, votes may be taken. Discussions were regarding health insurance options. In light of the 15.44% increase in rates, we are proposing to adopt a plan with \$250 and \$300 deductible plan instead a no deductible plan as recommended by the Insurance Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Board to review and sign draft letter of support for the Berkley Public Schools to Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents in their mission for emergency funding for Fiscal Year 2026. Ms. Vincent stated that it is critical that we receive emergency funding. We are at risk of losing 8 more teachers George Miller suggested possibly changing the bylaw to allow Saturday morning Town Meetings.</p> <p>Board to discuss potential projects for FY2026 Executive Office of Economic Development Operating Earmarks and relevant advocacy for the offices of Senator Kelly Dooner and Representative Norman Orrall ahead of the Senate Ways and Means budget process. Ms. McCrohan stated that we need to expand general business area, zoning bylaws changes? Speaking with contractors she was told that Berkley is difficult to deal with. We have very limited hours and availability. Our main revenue streams are housing, we could explore mixed use zoning. Joint meeting on April 10th 2025. Also discussed infusing money into Town Hall and Investment into some of these positions. George Miller asked is there an override? McCrohan stated she doesn't want to see our taxes continue to increase. Vincent said we want to produce alternatives to bring in funds, you can ask for specific earmarks to our local representatives and we should continue to do so.</p> <p>Board to discuss the opening of the FY26 Community Project Funding Portal through the Office of the Massachusetts 4th Congressional District.</p> <p>Board to review proposed changes to the Intermunicipal Agreement between the communities of the Northern Bristol County Health Alliance and, further, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign said agreement; review of matter; votes may be taken</p> <p>Board to review and sign Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission 2025 Seasonal Renewal Certification.</p> <p>Board to review and declare as surplus the following property of the Berkley Fire Department: 2001 International 4900 KME Fire Engine SN: 1HTSDADR01H294095</p> <p>Board to discuss potential for the reinstitution of the Volunteer of the Year; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept recommendations, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>dog day care and dog boarding, can we do a dog park</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to send the letter, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Information only, no action</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p> <p>Information only, no action</p>
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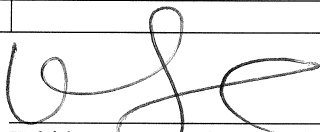
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New Business (continued)	<p>Board to review application for a Special One-Day License to sell Wine & Malt Beverages at the Bay State Beagle Club on May 10th, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM., with transport of liquor on May 9th, 2025 through May 11th, 2025 only; review of matter, votes may be taken.</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>
	<p>1. Board to review Common Use Request of the Friends of the Berkley Council on Aging for a 4th of July Celebration to occur on Friday, July 4th, 2025; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to review and discuss Common Use Request of the Friends of the Berkley Council on Aging for the Annual Berkley Craft Fair to occur on Saturday, September 13th, 2025; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to accept, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to review and discuss Common Use Request of the Taunton East Little League for baseball practices to occur between 5pm and 7pm, Mondays through Thursdays until Thursday, April 10th, 2025. Ms. McCrohan: We've been told that there is a potential conflict between the Berkley Athletic Associate and Taunton East Little League. Devin Fagan: This is my first meeting and I think that I've heard about this volunteerism. There is Middle School fields there is little light back there. Volunteers gave time and money to improve the field. First priority should always be Berkley. You are going to give them some and some to us and it feels like a slap in the face. Vincent: I appreciate that. I think what we're trying to figure out there is a long term solution.</p>	<p>No action taken</p>
Old Business	<p>Board to approve 2025 Seasonal Liquor License Renewal, Common Victualer's License and Restricted Music License for Chamberlain Farm Inc. of 12 Friend Street; review of matter, votes may be taken.</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to approve, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to review and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign FY2024 audit engagement letter between the Town of Berkley and CBIZ CPAs P.C. ; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to table, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion tabled</p>
	<p>Board to continue discussion regarding the MBTA Communities Law; discuss potential action relating to cooperation with communities challenging the Law as an unfunded mandate; discuss potential action relating to planning options for compliance; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to table, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion tabled</p>
Meeting Mail	<p>Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts donation letter.</p>	<p>Filed</p>
	<p>Subject: HERO Act Signed Into Law on August 8, 2024</p>	<p>Filed</p>
Meeting Minutes	<p>Board to approve Meeting Minutes of March 12th, 2025; review of matter; votes may be taken.</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to approve, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>
	<p>Board to approve Executive Session Minutes of March 12th, 2025; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p>Ms. Vincent moved to approve, Ms. McCrohan 2nd, motion approved</p>

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Town Administrator Report	Berkley Community School Project assurances and funding	
Public Input	<p>Tara and Yaniv Didi came before the board to discuss the possibility of opening a small business at 68 North Main St. The business premise is a small boutique dog day care and dog boarding, can we do a dog park as well? Does this need to be rezoned from residential to business? Does it touch a business zone?</p> <p>Pointed then in the right direction, they need to start with the Berkley Planning Board.</p>	
Adjournment	Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 9 th 2025 at 6:00 pm	
Executive Session	The Board voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:58 pm. Roll call vote McCrohan, Aye. Vincent, Aye.	



Tabitha K. McCrohan, Chairwoman

Jennifer Vincent, Clerk

Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator