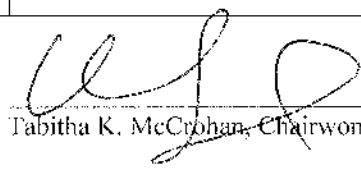
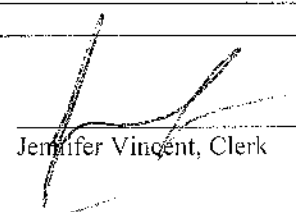


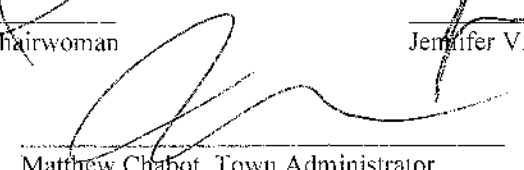
# MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 05/27/2025

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Called to Order at 10:04 a.m. in the Moitoza Pettey Room	
	<p>Board to attend monthly Department Heads meeting in advance of Annual Town Meeting; review of matter; votes may be taken</p> <p>Town Administrator Matthew Chabot (MC) led a detailed discussion of the upcoming town budget and warrant articles. MC presented the final budget recommendation of \$25,521,173 noting that the budget now fully reconciles in the operating tab and is ready for town meeting review. Chabot explained that this budget relies on general stabilization funds -- roughly \$470,000 allocated to support the school budget and \$260,000 for the town side. He stressed how critical it is to communicate the implications if these reserves are not used; departments would face deep cuts, and services could be significantly impacted. Chabot made clear that while reserves like general stabilization are often perceived as department-specific, in reality, they support the town as a whole.</p> <p>MC fielded a question about the Town's bond rating. Berkley currently holds an A1 rating from Moody's—slightly lower than the Commonwealth's Aa1 but still stable. During the competitive BAN sale for the school project, the Town secured a favorable net interest rate of 3.32%.</p> <p>MC does not believe our stabilization usage will negatively affect our ability to pay excluded debt, but I will follow up with a more definitive answer for those interested.</p> <p>MC also previewed a few key warrant articles.</p> <p>Article 16, which proposes rezoning three parcels into the general business district, is expected to stir some debate. However, MC tied it to the town's broader economic development strategy, suggesting that the move is essential to foster growth and reduce the tax burden.</p> <p>Article 18, dealing with firearm policies in municipal buildings, was identified as a citizen petition—not town-led—meant to address legal concerns about concealed carry without triggering felony charges. Similarly, a proposed noise ordinance, also a citizen-driven effort, is anticipated to spark strong opinions and will require municipal enforcement if passed.</p> <p>Toward the end of the meeting, Chabot shifted focus to security, mentioning the need for low-cost measures like panic buttons, particularly during vulnerable periods such as early voting. He reminded attendees that citizen petitions, while a vital part of democracy, can introduce abrupt policy shifts that town leadership must be prepared to manage. He emphasized again how essential it is to clearly communicate with the public and department heads as the town heads into the final budget and warrant article decisions.</p> <p>MC mentioned that flyers will be available on Town Meeting night promoting the TextMyGov service (including QR codes for sign-up) and announcing the shutdown of the legacy website. After Annual Town Meeting, the website banner will update to reflect the full transition to townofberkleyma.gov.</p>	Information only; No action taken
Adjournment	Adjournment at 11:09 AM	

  
Tabitha K. McCrohan, Chairwoman

  
Jennifer Vincent, Clerk

  
Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator