

# MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 07/02/2025

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Called to Order at 6:00PM in the Moitoza Petty Hearing Room	
Personnel	<p>Board to accept resignation of Joseph Martin from the Berkley Highway Department.</p> <p>Board to consider posting for the newly Treasurer/Collector position and to consider structure of future screening committee; review of matter; votes may be taken</p> <p>The Board briefly discussed the possibility of a screening committee, but elected to postpone until at least the conclusion of the Principal Assessor hiring.</p>	<p><b>Motion to accept;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p> <p>Discussion only, no action taken</p>
Appointments:	<p>Board to consider and potentially appoint Zach Horsfall, a senior at the Florida Institute of Technology studying computer science, interested in streamlining processes and web development, and Malena Almy a Public Relations and Communications at University of Rhode Island, expressed interest in social media management and crisis communication, to the summer social media internship program. Discussed the roles and responsibilities of the interns, including the creation of a schedule and the first meeting.</p> <p>Board to consider and potentially appoint the following applicants to the Fiscal Task Force: Christopher Sullivan, Nancy Thompson, Kate Simons, James Medeiros, Amanda Rotondi, and Rob Cole, with appointments to expire June 30, 2026. The task force aims to address financial challenges and bring diverse expertise to the committee. Discussion on the responsibilities of the task force, including meeting schedules and the use of a Microsoft Office drive for information sharing. The Board moved to appoint all the listed individuals except Mr. Medeiros, who could not attend.</p>	<p><b>Motion to appoint;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p> <p><b>Motion to appoint;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p>
New Business:	<p>Board to authorize the Chair to sign a petition for special legislation, as approved by the Berkley Annual Town Meeting on June 2, 2025, requesting the General Court to establish a process for the recall of elected officials.</p> <p>Board to authorize the Chair to sign a petition for special legislation, as approved by the Berkley Annual Town Meeting on June 2, 2025, requesting the General Court to grant five (5) additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on-premises.</p> <p>The Board moved to authorize the signature of each petition for special legislation</p> <p>Board to review letter from the Office of the Town Clerk regarding the Special Town Election Calendar. The board reviews and approves the special town election calendar, including key dates for nomination papers and elections, including key dates for nomination papers and elections.</p> <p>The special town election calendar includes several key dates: nomination papers can be picked up next week, with the last day to submit papers being September 5th at 5pm. September 19th is the last day to register to file certified papers, September 23rd is the deadline to withdraw or object to nomination papers by 5pm, October 15th is the last day to register to vote, October 20th is the last day to request a vote by mail ballot, October 17th is when the pre-election campaign finance report is due, and the actual election will be held on October 25th from 10am to 6pm at the community school. A post-election campaign finance report will be due on November 24th. The calendar will be posted on the town website and shared via newsletter and Facebook pages.</p>	<p><b>Motion to accept;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p> <p><b>Motion to accept;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p>

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	<p>Board to discuss Berkley Senior air conditioner drive; review of matter; votes may be taken</p> <p>The air conditioner donation drive is off to a strong start since launching last Friday, with three units already donated—one by a local resident and two from the Berkeley Police Association. The initiative aims to provide relief to seniors in need, and the first unit has already been installed. No strict age verification is required, and community members are encouraged to refer anyone in need of an air conditioner to the organizer or Christa at the Council on Aging. The team is excited about the impact and hopes more people will help spread the word.</p>	<p>Information only; no action taken</p>
Old Business:	<p>Board to formally recognize Berkley students Nevaeh Noel, Angela Giardini, Holly Ferry and Madison LaFrance who received honors representing Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School in DECA and SkillsUSA competitions.</p>	<p><b>Motion to table;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p>
Meeting Mail:	<p>Letters of support for the interim police chief Arthur Newhook are now central to the process of selecting the next chief of the Berkeley Police Department. As of July 1, he is officially serving as interim chief, with two formal letters of support submitted and several community members voicing their approval at the last meeting. The City Council will be discussing the position and the next steps for moving forward in the coming month.</p> <p>Nevaeh Noel, a student from Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School and lifelong Berkeley resident, who wrote a heartfelt letter advocating for the implementation of sidewalks in town. Nevaeh emphasized the importance of sidewalks for pedestrian safety, noting that many roads in Berkeley are narrow and pose risks to both walkers and drivers. Nevaeh's thoughtful observations underscore the urgent need for safer pedestrian infrastructure in town.</p>	<p><b>Motion to file; TM moved, JV second, motion approved</b></p>
Meeting Minutes:	<p>Board to approve Meeting Minutes of June 17th, 2025; review of matter; votes may be taken</p> <p>Board to approve Executive Session Minutes of June 17th, 2025; review of matter; votes may be taken</p>	<p><b>Motion to accept;</b> TM moved; JV second; motion approved</p>
Town Administrator Report	<p>On Saturday, June 28th, flooding at Berkley Middle School led to an immediate water shutoff for the school and nearby municipal buildings. While partial restoration occurred after initial repairs, a secondary failure was later found, with full service expected by Thursday, July 3rd, pending expansion tank replacement -- though further issues may arise. Superintendent Ryan, the Berkley Highway Department, Director of Facilities Charles Bueche, and maintenance staff were praised for their rapid response. The Town is pursuing emergency repairs and working with its insurer on possible coverage, while acknowledging the aging infrastructure and the urgent need for long-term investment. The incident caused the Berkley Public Library to remain closed all week and highlights the risk of more severe disruptions during the school year. Temporary restrooms have been installed, and building operations are being closely monitored.</p> <p>The Town is actively progressing in its search for a new Principal Assessor, with the position posted for three weeks and a solid pool of qualified applicants. The screening committee has chosen candidates for first-round interviews scheduled for the week of July 14th, after which at least two finalists will be recommended to the Personnel Board for further evaluation before a final appointment is made. Coordination with the Board of</p>	<p>Information only; No action taken</p>

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Executive  
Session:

Board to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; review of matter; votes may be taken.

Board moved to enter executive session at 6:29PM

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

\*Next Scheduled Meeting is Wednesday, July 16th, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.\*

Tabitha K. McCrohan, Clerk

Jennifer Vincent, Chairwoman

Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator