

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 02/26/2025

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:02 p.m. in the Moitoza-Petty Hearing Room	
Appointments	<p>Finance Committee Appointing Authority Tabitha McCrohan took the item out of order. George Miller commended Ms. Andrea Grillo for stepping up in a challenging time, noting that she was "overqualified," which is a positive attribute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to Appoint Andrea Grillo to the Finance Committee 	GM moved to appoint; Michele Hamilton second, motion approved
Personnel Board	<p>Board Vote on Resignation of Allyson Heap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to accept the resignation of Allyson Heap: 	JF moved to accept, seconded by JV, motion approved
Personnel Board	<p>Creation of Float Clerk Position</p> <p>Mr. Chabot reviewed the decision not to immediately repost the administrative assistant position and instead utilize existing hours. Mr. Freitas suggested waiting until the new fiscal year to make a decision, while Ms. Vincent supported the idea of a Float Clerk. Ms. McCrohan noted the importance of flexibility in personnel assignments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to table the creation of the Float Clerk position: 	JF moved to table, seconded JV, motion approved
Personnel Board	<p>Internship Program Discussion Ms. McCrohan highlighted the benefits of low-cost intern positions and their alignment with university programs. Mr. Chabot asked if it was necessary to review and approve a posting. Ms. McCrohan said that it was not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to reach out to colleges and universities to establish internship opportunities: 	JF moved to authorize, JV seconded, motion approved
Appointments	<p>Board to appoint Samantha Rachel Cardin as Dispatcher:</p> <p>TM asked Ms. Cardin what motivated her to become a Berkley dispatcher to which Ms. Cardin replied that she was a Freetown dispatcher. Ms. Cardin had been a part-time dispatcher for seven years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to appoint Samanatha Rachel Cardin as a Berkley Police Dispatcher 	JV moved to appoint; JF seconded, motion approved
Appointments	<p>Board to appoint Ava O'Neil as Dispatcher:</p> <p>TM asked Ms. O'Neil what motivated her to become a dispatcher. Ms. O' Neil stated that was excited to try dispatching to discover if she would like to make it a career.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to appoint Ava O' Neil as Berkley Police Dispatcher 	JV moved to appoint, JF seconded, motion approved

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New Business	Library Building Committee discussion of next steps in planning and design phase <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to table discussion	JF moved to table, seconded by JV motion approved
New Business	Personnel Board Policy Revisions <p>Mr. Chabot discussed briefly some of the substantial changes to revised Personnel Board Rules and Regulations; including the addition of personal days, the period in which it could be taken, clearer definitions of appointing authorities, and the addition of elements of the prior health insurance policy into the appropriate section of the Rules and Regulations. He further acknowledged that the changes were substantial and that it would take some time for review, which is favorable as the Board requires a public hearing which would require some time to schedule. JV commented that that was acceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to schedule a public hearing on March 26, 2025, to revise the Personnel Board Rules and Regulations	JV moved to schedule, seconded by JF, motion approved
New Business	Berkley Common Committee Updates <p>Mr. Freitas presented plans for improvements to the Common, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Gaga Ball pit proposed by Scout James Bianchi• Playground renovations funded by donations.• A future Veterans Memorial.• A reconfiguration of the ballfield.• A mobile stage for community events project led by Scout Thomas DePaolo• A proposed quarter-mile walking track.• Motion to approve the Eagle Scout projects	JV moved to approve; JF seconded, motion approved
New Business	Library Trustee Vacancy <p>TM commented on the untimely passing of Ms. Carla Lyman and that this had created a vacancy in the Board of Trustees. JF commented as well that Ms. Lyman was friends with everybody and embodied civility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to place the Library Trustee position (two-year term) on the local election ballot:	JF moved to place, seconded JV, motion approved
Old Business	EOHLC Letter Discussion <p>Ms. McCrohan read the letter outlining concerns from the community forum. The Berkley Board of Selectmen suggested that the Town Administrator reach out to other small communities opposing the MBTA Communities Law and the Auditor's office for a fiscal impact analysis. Mr. Robert Cote shared updates on legal challenges by other towns regarding the law. Ms. Vincent suggested collaborating with other towns, while Mr. Cote emphasized potential financial and legal implications.</p> <p>Board did not take action on this item, but asked the Town Administrator to draft a letter to the State Auditor's office for their review at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.</p>	No motion; information only

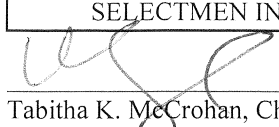
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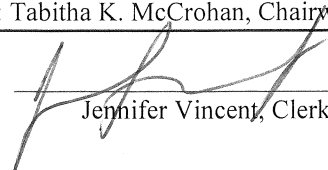
Old Business	<p>Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) Bylaw Review</p> <p>Richard Moroff supported revising the bylaw to encourage volunteer participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. McCrohan confirmed interest from potential new members. Discussion will take place on finalizing wording before placing it on the warrant. <p>Discussion about potential warrant opening dates; likely in open session at the next Board meeting.</p>	No action; information only
Meeting Mail	<p>Meeting Mail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to file the SRPEDD annual report: Approved. Motion to file Comcast Form 500 and Annual Notice Filing. Approved. 	JV motion to file; JF second, approved
Meeting Minutes	<p>Meeting minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve collected meeting minutes and executive minutes: February 5th, 2025 (Open and Executive), February 12th, 2025 and February 13th, 2025. Approved. 	JV motion to approve; JF second, approved
Report of Town Administrator	<p>Town Administrator's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on South Coast Rail project. 	Information only; no action
Finance Committee Update	<p>Finance Committee Update</p> <p>The Finance Committee discussed budget constraints and funding challenges, posited potentially changing zoning bylaws to encourage economic development and expressed concerns over road maintenance and snow removal due to funding shortages. Michele Hamilton emphasized the town's "bedroom community" mindset and the need for financial sustainability. Mr. Freitas agreed that a multi-pronged approach is necessary, incorporating cost savings and economic development. Ms. Vincent emphasized that every department must evaluate sacrifices to balance the budget.</p>	Information only; no action
Public Input	<p>Ms. McCrohan proposed creating an application process for Opioid Settlement Funds.</p>	
Executive Session	<p>Executive Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion 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. <p>The Board moved into executive session at 7:35 p.m.</p>	Motion to enter executive session: JF aye, JV aye, TM aye

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Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator