

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023

Moderator: George Miller
Attendance: 227

Town Clerk: Heather Almy

Called to order: 7:22 PM

Moderator started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator, George Miller made a motion and it was seconded to read the warrant as printed in its entirety, so moved

Article 1 Selectman Freitas made a motion and it was seconded to hear the report of the Finance Committee.

Report was read by Matthew Chabot, Chairman of Finance Committee

Finance Committee

Town of Berkley FY24 Annual Report

Good Evening,

Tonight, the Berkley Finance Committee presents the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. It represents the efforts of the current and former members of the Berkley Finance Committee, as well as the invaluable input of numerous department heads and town officials. The result is a balanced budget that addresses the needs of the community while acknowledging the need for fiscal conservatism.

The economy remains in a difficult position even as the pandemic era draws to a close. Inflation, a term Americans have become quite familiar with, continues to persist despite the numerous Federal Reserve rate increases. The prices for consumer goods rose 4.9% from the end of April 2022 to April 2023 with food prices rising even faster still. Interest rates have soared, exacerbating the higher costs of housing and higher prices for vehicles. While the labor market remains a bright spot, it feels more difficult to afford the basic necessities of life.

Just as our households struggle with rising prices, the Town of Berkley will face a similar challenge. Repair and maintenance line items are straining to keep pace with the cost of materials and labor. Contracted services, such as outsourced special education, will continue to rise more rapidly than Berkley's revenues can match. Replacing vehicles and equipment is becoming more costly with each passing year. Put simply, as long as this economic environment persists, Berkley's costs will outpace its revenue without additional support.

Reducing costs are part of the solution and the final budget represents the reduction of roughly \$250,000 from initial department requests. The Finance Committee has remained committed to keeping only what is necessary in an effort to eliminate the structural deficit. Each department was affected to some degree. Despite these efforts, costs increased substantially \$1,596,028 or 7.2% higher than FY2023. As we move towards budget highlights, there will be some explanation as to why that is and maybe even some optimism for the future.

The debt exclusion for **additional vehicles and equipment** from June 2022 ATM is in the budget for the first year of three. This has provided Berkley's police, fire, and highway departments with crucial tools to do their jobs safely and effectively. Certified free cash will continue to be part of the solution for Berkley's capital needs into the future, but this debt exclusion provided a fantastic head start for future planning. The Berkley Finance Committee recommends a five year capital plan as a comprehensive list for department requests as well as a capital expenditure reserve created from a portion of certified free cash in future FYs.

Budget impact: \$274,938

FY 2024 marks the beginning of payments on **Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School's debt**. In this fiscal year, these payments were handled through a combination of certified free cash and Town ARPA funds. Two crucial points must be addressed. First, Town ARPA funds have been nearly expended and will not be available to assist next year. Second, this year's figure will rise to roughly \$520,000 in FY 2025 and will top \$750,000 by FY2029. This debt must find its way onto a debt exclusion as it is too much for Berkley's free cash to handle alone. This item will be the most significant story of FY2025 and a substantial budget item this year.

Budget impact: \$208,742

Two items for capital expenditure have been included within the FY2024 budget: one for the Fire Department and one under the Public Safety Building. The Fire Department is purchasing canisters for their self-contained breathing apparatuses as their current equipment is coming up for expiration. The Public Safety Building will be undergoing a small renovation as well. These costs have been offset by an increase in the EMS Receipts Reserve Account of \$200,000. These purchases do not affect taxation and these items are not likely to recur in the following fiscal year.

Budget impact: \$200,000

One additional growing expense should be identified in the FY2024 budget: Out of district and outsourced special education. The growth in cost for special education has merited a few recommendations from a reserve account to a stabilization fund, but this committee is not committing to any step at this time. Combined expenses increased for Somerset-Berkley Regional and Berkley K-8 by **\$161,310** for these items.

These are the largest ticket expense increases for Berkley's FY2024 budget with a more comprehensive list included in the supplemental sheet. Alone, they account for over half of Berkley's cost growth this year.

Other major items include:

- Berkley K-8 school spending rose \$202,546, a modest 2.45% increase. This represents a reduction in their initial request of \$50,000.
- Bristol Plymouth's operating budget grew \$95,197, a 9.82% increase.
- Bristol County Retirement is up \$66,335, a 8.53% increase.

Numerous minor changes were made to the final budget, but Fincom has decided to recommend modest increases for many of the smaller boards in the Town of Berkley. Some have been level funded for years and it felt necessary to do something for the individuals that serve their community.

A final item deserving attention, that has yet to make a direct budget impact, is outstanding contract negotiations. Three collective bargaining units are up at the end of this fiscal year, (police, dispatch, and clerical) and these will have a significant effect on the final numbers. Regardless of the outcome, expenses are slightly understated until their completion.

Berkley's revenue narrative remains similar to previous fiscal years with the local tax levy and natural growth doing the heavy lifting. Chapter 70 aid grew by \$82,982, a flat 2% increase. While this remains inadequate for Berkley's needs, it is something of an improvement over what we've come to expect. Smaller revenue streams were a subject of significant discussion and some were revised upward for FY2024. Motor vehicle excise and others saw moderate increases, but these can be volatile and so Fincom recommends these remain conservative estimates.

In the vein of being fiscally conservative, the final major recommendation of FINCOM for the FY2024 budget season is the transfer of \$477,916 into stabilization from certified free cash. This fund has grown under the guidance of the FAC and Finance Committee over the recent past, and provides a valuable cushion in the event of an emergency and helps maintain the town's bond rating.

In conclusion, Berkley Finance Committee supports *warrant articles 2 through 6*. We would also like to thank our former members of Fincom and the Select Board, department heads and elected officials for coming out to our public hearings and helping build this budget. A big thank you to the people of Berkley for public input and for participating tonight. We spend a lot of time discussing figures and trends, but Berkley's future ultimately rests in people coming out and being engaged in the community. To that end, Berkley Fincom is looking to add a few new members, so if you found all of this finance talk exciting, I may have a volunteer opportunity for you.

It has been an honor to serve the town of Berkley.

Matthew Chabot, Chairman

Michele Hamilton, Secretary

Certified Free Cash Year-over-year

FY 2023

Certified Free Cash	\$1,019,894
November Town Meeting	-\$174,892
Free Cash Balance for June ATM	\$845,002
Balance for Replace Enging 1	-\$367,281
Snow and Ice	-\$81,806
OPEB Contribution	-\$22,444
Voting Tabulators	-\$15,500
Operating Free Cash	-\$225,000
Balance Rollover	\$132,971
Balance	\$0

FY 2024

Certified Free Cash	\$1,144,750
Bristol/Plymouth Interest	-\$27,742
OPEB Contribution	-\$35,000
Snow and Ice	-\$17,258
All Contractal Allocation	-\$250,000
Dump Truck	-\$80,000
Operating Free Cash	-\$256,834
Stabilization	-\$477,916
Balance	\$0

Summary of Largest Expense Increases and Backcharges

Retirement of Debt					
Bristol Plymouth High School	N/A	N/A	\$ 181,000	\$ 181,000	
Multiple Use of Equipment	N/A	N/A	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
Interest					
Bristol Plymouth High School	N/A	N/A	\$ 27,742	\$ 27,742	
Multiple Use of Equipment	N/A	N/A	\$ 24,938	\$ 24,938	
Fire Department					
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	N/A	N/A	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
Public Safety Building					
Station Renovation and Repair	N/A	N/A	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
School Spending					
K-8 Out of District Special Education	\$ 152,000	16.70%	\$ 25,388	\$ 177,388	
SBRHS SPEDD Outsourced/Residential	\$ 110,582	122.92%	\$ 135,922	\$ 246,504	
K-8 Health Insurance	\$ 918,685	5.30%	\$ 48,655	\$ 967,340	
K-8 School Spending	\$ 8,261,472	2.45%	\$ 202,546	\$ 8,464,018	
S/B HIGH SCHOOL ASSESS.	\$ 2,694,331	3.17%	\$ 85,386	\$ 2,779,717	
B/P/ REGIONAL SCHOOL	\$ 969,035	9.82%	\$ 95,197	\$ 1,064,232	
Pensions					
BRISTOL COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$ 777,334	8.53%	\$ 66,335	\$ 843,669	
Backcharges	\$ 889,931	14.90%	\$ 132,615	\$ 1,022,546	
				Selected Items Growth	\$ 1,475,724
				Total Cost Growth	\$ 1,596,028

Somerset Berkley Regional,
Common Size Estimates

Operating Budget	FY23-24 Adjusted Prelim Budget	Percentage of Budget (Less Special Education)	Berkley Common Size Estimate
Salaries	\$11,190,466	66.62%	\$1,851,767.01
Technology	\$482,558	2.87%	\$79,852.35
Special Education	\$1,864,423	N/A	N/A
Professional Development	\$71,555	0.43%	\$11,840.72
Textbooks and Library	\$25,255	0.15%	\$4,179.13
Educational and Office Supplies	\$323,113	1.92%	\$53,467.84
Competitions	\$47,425	0.28%	\$7,847.76
Guidance, Health and Security	\$103,878	0.62%	\$17,189.44
Regular/Homeless Transportation	\$364,453	2.17%	\$60,308.66
Athletics/Student Activities	\$276,038	1.64%	\$45,678.00
Maintenance	\$658,680	3.92%	\$108,996.52
Employee Benefits and Insurance	\$2,995,125	17.83%	\$495,624.91
School Choice/Charter School	\$259,641	1.55%	\$42,964.67
Total - Less: Special Education	\$16,798,187		

Berkley SBRSD Assessment	\$2,779,717
Berkley Enrollment	258
Per Pupil Less: Special Education	\$10,774.10

*Adjusted preliminary budget figures valid as of public hearing on March 21st,2023. Common size estimate *does not* reflect actual spending, merely intended as a rough itemization of Berkley’s assessment.

TOWN OF BERKLEY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPENDING

County Allotment	\$1,153,898.44
County ARPA Spending	\$755,072.16
County Remaining	\$398,826.28

Federal Allotment	\$717,084.00
Local ARPA spending	\$581,052.03
Local Remaining	\$136,031.97

Total Allotment	\$1,870,982.44
Total Spending	\$1,336,124.19
Total Remaining	\$534,858.25

ARPA Projects

Project Name	Description (Between 50 to 250 words)	Department	Date of Request	Expected Project Start Date	Amount
Berkley Emergency Response Communications Project	Police, Fire and EMS radio and emergency communication transmission systems	Fire Department	6/1/2022	6/15/2022	\$117,511.90
Berkley School Communications Project	School phone system upgrade	School Department	6/17/2022		\$49,774.00
Berkley Fire/EMS Cardiac Monitors	Cardiac Monitor upgrade	Fire Department	6/8/2022		\$53,147.36
Berkley Holloway St. Drinking Water Project	Water line improvement on Holloway St	Town Administrator	1/18/2023	completed	\$51,947.50
Holloway St. culvert replacement	Undersize culvert replacement, with headwalls and guardrails	Town Administrator	1/30/2023	completed	\$82,691.40
Berkley Fire Department Ambulance		Fire Department			\$400,000.00
Intrivo Diagnostics COVID Tests	COVID tests		2/14/2022		\$4,408.00
DPW Dump Truck/Plow	2024 Freightliner 114SD Dump truck and equipment with plow	Highway Department			\$246,940.03
Bristol Plymouth Debt	Hold				\$181,000.00
COA Video					\$9,730.00
Storm Water	Hold	TA			\$138,974.00

Article 2 Selectman Cochrane made a motion and it was seconded that the Town transfer and appropriate from available FY23 funds the following amounts:

Appropriate from Free Cash to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Snow and Ice Account | \$ 17,258 |
| 2. OPEB Account | \$ 35,000 |
| 3. Personnel Board | \$ 250,000 |
| 4. Highway Department Vehicle | \$ 80,000 |
| 5. Stabilization Account | \$477,916 |

And transfer:

1. \$ 10,000 From 940-570-5740 (Insurance Premiums) to 151-570-5300 Legal Services
2. \$ 20,300 From 940-510-5110 (Wages) to 210-510-5110 Police Wages
3. \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Ambulance User Fees Account

Explanation: This appropriates available FY23 funds for the Snow and Ice deficit, put funds into the OPEB or the Other Post Employee Benefits account, provides \$250,000 into the Personnel Board Line item for funding for multiple years of contracts and negotiations, funds a Highway department vehicle, and puts funds into the stabilization account. The transfer will cover deficits in the legal defense account, and police salaries for the 1 year union contract.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

Article 3 Selectmen McCrohan made a motion that the Town fix salaries and compensation of elected officials, appointed officers and employees and that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, and transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide for the payment of said salaries and compensation, a reserve fund, and for the charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town departments for the twelve (12) month period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, all as set forth in the budget presented by the Finance Committee, and summarized as follows:

from taxation of	\$6,313,666
from Ambulance User Fees	\$ 575,000
Totaling	\$6,888,666

Explanation: This article will fund all town departments, board, commissions, for the fiscal year.

FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET (BY DEPARTMENT)

FY2023
ACTUAL
APPROP

REQUEST
FY2024

FINCOM
RECOMM

DEPARTMENT NAME

RESERVE FUND

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	25,000	25,000	25,000
Total	25,000	25,000	25,000

DEPARTMENT NAME

MODERATOR

ACCOUNT NAME

Stipends	102	102	102
Expense	3,200	3,200	3,200
Total	3,302	3,302	3,302

DEPARTMENT NAME

SELECTMEN

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	11,545	12,000	12,000
Salaries	91,935	91,300	91,300
Expense	11,043	14,800	14,800
Total	114,523	118,100	118,100

DEPARTMENT NAME

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	1,330	1,330	1,330
Total	1,330	1,330	1,330

DEPARTMENT NAME

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	89,295	81,000	81,000
Expense	32,250	30,600	30,600
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	121,545	111,600	111,600

DEPARTMENT NAME**ASSESSORS**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	11,545	12,000	12,000
Salaries	31,371	31,371	31,371
Expense	42,415	48,670	48,670
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	85,331	92,041	92,041

DEPARTMENT NAME**TOWN TREASURER**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	31,698	34,198	34,198
Salaries	44,628	44,928	44,928
Expense	20,815	21,765	21,765
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	97,141	100,891	100,891

DEPARTMENT NAME**TOWN COLLECTOR**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	31,698	34,198	34,198
Salaries	31,508	31,508	31,508
Expense	15,615	16,500	16,500
Capital Outlay			0
Total	78,821	82,206	82,206

DEPARTMENT NAME**TOWN COUNSEL**

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	46,568	50,000	50,000
Total	46,568	50,000	50,000

DEPARTMENT NAME**DATA PROCESSING**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	0	0	0
Expense	88,818	88,818	88,818
Capital Outlay	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	93,818	93,818	93,818

DEPARTMENT NAME**TOWN CLERK**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	31,698	34,198	34,198
Salaries	21,542	24,000	24,000
Expense	6,700	7,250	7,250
Capital Outlay	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	60,940	66,448	66,448

DEPARTMENT NAME**ELECTIONS & REGISTRATIONS**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	7,500.00	5,000.00	5,000
Expense	9,600.00	7,100.00	7,100
Capital Outlay	-	-	-
Total	17,100	12,100	12,100

DEPARTMENT NAME**PLANNING BOARD**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	938	1,200	1,200
Total	938	1,200	1,200

DEPARTMENT NAME**TOWN BUILDINGS**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	12,000	12,000	12,000
Expense	39,747	35,000	35,000
Total	51,747	47,000	47,000

DEPARTMENT NAME**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	67,239	68,400	68,400
Capital Outlay	6,000	106,000	106,000
Total	73,239	174,400	174,400

DEPARTMENT NAME**POLICE DEPT.**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	1,385,264	1,326,905	1,326,905
Expense	128,515	129,768	129,768
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	1,513,779	1,456,673	1,456,673

DEPARTMENT NAME**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	151,448	171,750	171,750
Expense	69,610	74,910	74,910
Capital Outlay	10,000	110,000	110,000
Total	231,058	356,660	356,660

DEPARTMENT NAME**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	500,480	522,200	522,200
Expense	75,150	84,700	84,700
Capital Outlay	2,500	4,000	4,000
Total	578,130	610,900	610,900

DEPARTMENT NAME**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	44,548	42,130	42,130
Expense	1,750	2,750	2,750
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	46,298	44,880	44,880

DEPARTMENT NAME**COMMUNICATIONS DEPT.**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	331,697	354,756	354,756
Expense	17,315	25,095	25,095
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	349,012	379,851	379,851

DEPARTMENT NAME**ANIMAL CONTROL/DOG OFFICER**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	23,900	24,500	24,500
Expense	2,570	2,670	2,670
Total	26,470	27,170	27,170

DEPARTMENT NAME**FORESTRY**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salary Elected	3,417	3,520	3,520
Expense	20,000	21,000	21,000
Total	23,417	24,520	24,520

DEPARTMENT NAME**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	68,221	70,721	70,721
Salaries	503,724	522,132	522,132
Expense	370,055	380,050	380,050
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Total	942,000	972,903	972,903

DEPARTMENT NAME**VETERANS GRAVES**

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	1,250	1,750	1,750
Total	1,250	1,750	1,750

DEPARTMENT NAME**STREET LIGHTS**

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	4,000	4,000	4,000

DEPARTMENT NAME**CEMETERY**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	371	600	600
Expense	7,500	8,500	8,500
Total	7,871	9,100	9,100

DEPARTMENT NAME**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries Elected	2,292	3,000	3,000
Capital Outlay			
Total	2,292	3,000	3,000

DEPARTMENT NAME**COUNCIL ON AGING**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	26,000	26,000	26,000
Expense	9,715	10,115	10,115
Capital Outlay			
Total	35,715	36,115	36,115

DEPARTMENT NAME**VETERANS DEPARTMENT**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	8,487	8,487	8,487
Expense	4,500	4,500	4,500
Veterans Benefits	40,000	40,000	40,000
Total	52,987	52,987	52,987

DEPARTMENT NAME**LIBRARY DEPARTMENT**

ACCOUNT NAME

Salaries	117,660	118,933	118,933
Expense	37,733	40,017	40,017
Capital Outlay			0
Total	155,393	158,950	158,950

DEPARTMENT NAME**CELEBRATIONS 6692**

ACCOUNT NAME

ACTUAL
EXPENDACTUAL
EXPENDACTUAL
APPROP

Expense	1,000	1,500	1,500
Total	1,000	1,500	1,500

DEPARTMENT NAME**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

ACCOUNT NAME

Expense	100	200	200
Total	100	200	200

DEPARTMENT NAME**MISCELLANEOUS**

ACCOUNT NAME

Town Fuel	100,000	100,000	100,000
SRPEDD	1,231	1,399	1,399
In-LINE OF DUTY INJURY FUND	3,000	3,000	3,000
Unfunded Liability	30,000	20,000	20,000
Total	134,231	124,399	124,399

DEPARTMENT NAME**PENSIONS**

ACCOUNT NAME

BRISTOL COUNTY RETIREMENT	777,334	843,669	843,669
MEDICARE	180,000	190,000	190,000
Total	957,334	1,033,669	1,033,669

DEPARTMENT NAME**HEALTH INSURANCE**

ACCOUNT NAME

BLUE CROSS/ BLUE SHIELD HEALTH	430,000	444,765	444,765
FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN	0	0	0
Total	430,000	444,765	444,765

DEPARTMENT NAME**LIABILITY INSURANCE**

ACCOUNT NAME

INS. PR. DIS.-FIRE-POL. ACC. H	56,516	58,777	58,777
LIABILITY INSURANCE	79,390	84,545	84,545
Total	135,906	143,322	143,322

DEPARTMENT NAME**WORKERS COMPENSATION**

ACCOUNT NAME

FRINGE BENEFIT/CHARGES	14,313	16,916	16,916
Total	14,313	16,916	16,916

DEPARTMENT NAME**UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

ACCOUNT NAME

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	5,000	5,000	5,000

DEPARTMENT NAME**RETIREMENT OF DEBT**

ACCOUNT NAME

TOWN OFFICE BLDG	160,000	165,000	165,000
SBRSD HIGH SCHOOL	370,668	367,098	367,098
DEBT BP High School	0	181,000	181,000
Multiple Use of Equipment	0	250,000	250,000
Total	530,668	963,098	963,098

DEPARTMENT NAME**INTEREST**

ACCOUNT NAME

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING	39,675	37,275	37,275
SBRSD HIGH SCHOOL	211,294	191,314	191,314
Multiple Use of Equipment	0	24,938	24,938
BP High School	0	27,742	27,742
Total	250,969	281,269	281,269

DEPARTMENT NAME**SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS 3325**

ACCOUNT NAME

Berkley School	8,261,472	8,464,018	8,464,018
Salaries Elected	938	1,200	1,200
K-8 Out of District Special Education	152,000	177,388	177,388
K-8 Transportation and Insurances	1,644,441	1,715,059	1,715,059
S/B/ High School Assessment	2,694,331	2,779,717	2,779,717
B.P. Regional High School	969,035	1,064,232	1,064,232
Bristol Aggy. Assesment	137,950	137,888	153,547
SBSRD Taxation	110,582	246,504	246,504
Total	13,970,749	14,586,006	14,601,665

GRAND TOTAL	21,271,285	22,719,039	22,734,698
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No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 4

Selectman Freitas made a motion that the Town raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide for the payment of, the outlays of the following Town governmental accounts for Debt Service for the twelve (12) month period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024: all as set forth in the budget presented by the Finance Committee:

RETIREMENT OF DEBT

Town Office Building	\$165,000
SBRSD High School	\$367,098
Bristol Plymouth High School	\$181,000
Multiple Use of Equipment	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$963,098

INTEREST

Town Office Building	\$ 37,275
SBRSD High School	\$ 191,314
Bristol Plymouth High School	\$ 27,742
Multiple Use of Equipment	\$ 24,938
TOTAL	\$ 281,269

from taxation of \$ 1,035,625
 from ARPA funds \$ 181,000
 from Free Cash \$ 27,742
 Totaling \$ 1,244,367

Explanation: This article will fund the obligation of the Towns borrowing debt, and interest.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 5

Selectman Cochrane made a motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, and transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide for, the payment of the outlays of the following Town School related expenses for the twelve (12) month period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024:

School, Departments

Berkley School Spending	\$ 8,464,018
Salaries Elected School Committee	\$ 1,200
K-8 Out of District Special Education	\$ 177,388
K-8 Health Insurance	\$ 967,340
K-8 Transportation	\$ 617,680
K-8 Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 47,307
K-8 Liability Insurance	\$ 82,732
Bristol Plymouth Reg. Voc. H.S.	\$ 1,064,232
Bristol Aggie. H.S. Assessment	\$ 153,547
For a total from free cash of	\$ 256,834
For a total from taxation of	\$11,318,610
Totaling	\$11,575,444

Explanation: This article provides the funding necessary for the Berkley K-8, Bristol Plymouth H.S., and Bristol Aggie H.S. for the fiscal year.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 6 Selectman McCrohan made a motion that the Town approve and raise and appropriate and transfer funds for its assessed share of the Somerset/Berkley Regional School District Budget for fiscal year 2024, as follows:

From High School Stabilization of	\$ 2,779,717.00
From taxation	\$ 246,504.00
Totaling	\$ 3,026,221.00

Explanation: This article will provide funding for the SB Regional High School District for the upcoming fiscal year.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 7 Selectman Freitas I move that the Town authorize expenditure limitations for the following revolving funds pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, to be expended in accordance with Article 35 of the General Bylaws: wiring inspector, \$10,000; gas inspector, \$10,000; plumbing inspector, \$10,000; Board of Appeals, \$5,000; Planning Board, \$10,000; Soil Conservation Board, \$5,000; Board of Health, \$60,000; Police Department, \$200,000; and School Department, \$60,000.

Explanation: This article provides for the authorization of expenditure limits for the listed department accounts for the fiscal year.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 8 Selectman Cochrane made a motion I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of any funds allocated by the Commonwealth and/or federally aided programs for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of Town roads.

Explanation: The article allows for the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for any funds received from the Commonwealth and or any federally aided programs for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of town roads. The town regularly receives Ch 90 funding for roads which the Selectmen need to accept.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 9 Selectman McCrohan made a motion that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to hire one or more of its members to do annual tax maintenance on real and personal property and to set the fee paid to said members at \$15.00 per parcel, said funds to be paid from the Annual Tax Maintenance Account.

Explanation: The article will allow the Assessors to appoint one or more of its members to do the annual tax maintenance on real and personal property that needs to be completed during the year.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 10 Selectman Freitas made a motion that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Ch. 126 of the Acts of 1988, amending Sec. 4 of Ch. 73 of the Acts of 1986, to allow an additional exemption which shall be for all exemptions and none of which shall exceed 25% of said exemption for which they qualify in Fiscal Year 2024.

Explanation: The legislation referenced in this article authorizes towns, by town meeting vote, to allow property tax exemptions exceeding the minimum exemptions otherwise available under state law. These exemptions are specified in the legislation, and include those available to veterans, seniors aged 70 or older, the blind, certain surviving spouses, etc. This article has been voted annually for several years.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 11 Selectman Cochrane made a motion that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Health to appoint one or more of its members as agents(s) of the Board of Health as well inspectors and sanitation inspectors and to set the dollar amount for said agents' Inspector fees as follows: \$75.00 per perc hole, \$100.00 per well inspection, \$150.00 per sanitation inspection, \$75.00 per food service inspection, \$75.00 per pumper truck inspection, \$75.00 for other miscellaneous inspections when a license or certificate is required.

Explanation: This will set the rate of pay for each inspection that the Board of Health Inspectors are required to complete.

No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 12 Moderator announced he was advised a motion will be made to move Article 12 to be heard after Article 13.

Planning Board Member Marc Oliviera made a motion to move Article 12 to be heard after Article 13. No discussion, Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 13 Moderator announced a motion will be made to move Article 13.

Planning Board Member Marc Oliviera made a motion to move Article 13 to be heard after Article 16. Resident Voter P. Abdallah asked the reasoning. Discussion of the reasoning was heard. M. Oliviera made a motion to move Article 13 to be heard after Article 17. Motion carried unanimously

ARTICLE 14 Selectman Cochrane made a motion that the Town hears the report of the Berkley Public Library Board of Trustees.

A slideshow presentation was shown. Library Trustee Members Carla Ross-Lyman and Megan Silva, Library Director Carol Buote, & Director of Friends of the Library Danielle Nicolet explained the possible process of constructing a new library. They asked all to get involved.

ARTICLE 15 Selectman McCrohan made a motion that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Berkley by adding a new Article 28 thereto, entitled "Wetlands Bylaw," the complete text of which is contained in the Annual Town Meeting handout entitled "Regulations, Bylaws, & Policies for Berkley Massachusetts," as revised through May 3, 2023.

Explanation: This article would create a new “Wetlands Bylaw” in the Town of Berkley, as reflected in the handout entitled “Regulations, Bylaws, & Policies for Berkley Massachusetts,” as revised through May 3, 2023. The Bylaw is proposed by the Conservation Commission, and has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

A slide show presentation was shown. David Patrick a member of the Conservation Commission explained about the new By-Law being presented. Mark Pettey Conservation Commission Member and Kerrie-Ann Auclair Conservation Commission Secretary also commented. Fire Chief Scott Fournier felt this was a good thing to protect the land. Resident Voters: A. Pontes, A. Houtzager, & J. Callahan were in favor, P. Abdallah & D. Mclaughlin had concerns, & N. Zager explained he was in favor but some things needed to be reworked. Selectmen Freitas asked about his concerns. D. Larabee made a motion to move the question motion carried unanimously. No further discussion Motion carried unanimously. Approved

ARTICLE 16 Moderator announced Article 16 is going to be tabled.

Selectman Freitas made a motion to pass over Article 16. Atty. Adam Costa explained since Article 15 was approved no deed to discuss Article 16, can pass over. Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 17 Town Administrator K. Partridge made a motion to table Article 17.

G. Faria explained the “Right to Farm” needs an Agricultural Commission which needs to be voted on by the Board of Selectmen. K. Partridge amended the motion to postpone Article 17 indefinitely. Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 13 Selectman Freitas made a motion that the Town vote to amend the Berkley Zoning By-Law, being Article 21 of the Town’s General Bylaws, by deleting the existing Zoning By-Law in its entirety, excepting only the Town’s official Zoning Map, and by substituting there for a new Zoning By-Law, the complete text of which is contained in the Annual Town Meeting handout entitled “Berkley Zoning By-Law, Draft 9 March 7, 2023.”

Explanation: This article would replace the Town’s existing Zoning By-Law with a new, recodified Zoning By-Law, as reflected in the handout entitled “Berkley Zoning By-Law, Draft 9 March 7, 2023.” The new By-Law is the result of a cooperative effort by the Planning Board and its Special Legal Counsel.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Planning Board Member M. Oliviera made a motion for a floor amendment to restore Sec. 8.1 in Article 13. Explanation: Sec 8.1 is for Accessory Apartments which was removed and now needs to be reinstated. Motion to amend the Article carried unanimously.

Planning Board Member Marc Oliviera stated the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend to approve Article 13 as presented. Attorney Mark Bobrowski presented for the Planning Board.

Amendments:

Krista Celia, resident voter made a motion to change Zoning By-Law Article 3.2 D 23.& 24. R- BOS to N

Called for a vote, motion carried unanimously, Approved.

No further discussion, Motion carried unanimously, Approved

ARTICLE 12 Selectman McCrohan made a motion that the Town vote to amend the “Official Zoning Map Town of Berkley,” referenced in the Berkley Zoning By-Law, by rezoning the following lots as part of and to be included in the General Business District: 27 Locust Street (Map 11 Lot 37); 29 Locust Street (Map 11 Lot 38); 31 Locust Street (Map 11 Lot 38-02); and 37 Locust Street (Map 11 Lot 38-1).

Explanation: This article would rezone the referenced properties for inclusion in the Town’s General Business District, **TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED.**

Planning Board Member Marc Oliviera stated the Planning Board voted unanimously to not recommend this article.

No further discussion, Motion defeated unanimously, Failed

A motion was made to adjourn and it was seconded.
Time adjourned 8:53PM

A True Copy Attest

Heather J. Almy
Town Clerk