

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 4/15/2020

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: George F. Miller, Chairman Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00pm at Moltoza -- Peutey Hearing Room	
New Business	<p>Taken out of order Annual Town Election; Town Clerk suggested postponing Town Election until June 27, 2020. Mr Miller wanted to know the rationale behind pushing it out to June 27, 2020. Mr Miller stated that this is an uncontested right. Town Clerk suggested most of the poll workers are of an older population. Mr Miller asked how many poll workers would be required. Town Clerk stated 10. Mr Miller wanted to know if it was not postponed would the Clerk be physically able to go ahead with the election as planned. The Clerk stated in the state the MA is in right now she doesn't feel comfortable having it May 9. Mr Miller asked what is we pushed it out and then there was a relapse and we couldn't have it again. The Town Clerk state she personally didn't want to put herself out there right now. Mr Miller feels there is probably a low turnout due to it is an uncontested race as well as the effects of COVID-19. Ms Cochrane stated her opinion of postponing the elections. Her opinion that June 27 was not a good time. She stated other selectmen's stated that we are in a unique situation because we are only 2 selectmen and would her term be extended. And what would happen if one of them happens to get sick what would happen. Mr Miller stated there is no mechanism that is put in place if they had only 1 selectman. Mr Miller feels a shorter extension would be more beneficial, any maybe take a look at it again. He asked is there a time frame that a decision needs to take place. The Town Clerk stated it is 2 weeks. The Clerk stated it needs to be within 20 days from postponed election for notice. Ms Cochrane asked if we could extend it at least 1 week. Mr Miller was unsure if we were within the 20 days. Town clerk stated it would work because we are only at April 15, 2020. Mr Miller asked he we went a week out and then decided in 2 weeks that it needed to be extended it if it would affect the Town Clerk at all. He would rather do it in increments instead of right to the end of time. Ms Cochrane asked how early voting would work. Town Clerk stated it is only done by mail. Mr Miller stated move it a week, and then if we need to we will move it again and if need be again. But feels in increments it is better.</p> <p>Town Clerk wanted them to vote on the times the annual election would take place. Town Clerk stated least amount of time is 4 hours. Both selectmen agreed they think that is a great idea.</p>	<p>Cochrane made motion to move Annual Town Election to May 16, 2020, and to amend the hours to 10am – 2pm Miller Second, voted.</p>
Minutes	<p>Minutes March 4, 2020 Regular Session</p> <p>Minutes March 4, 2020 Executive Session</p> <p>Minutes March 18, 2020 Executive Session</p>	<p>Cochrane motioned to approve, Miller second, voted</p> <p>Cochrane Motioned to approve, Miller second, voted</p> <p>Cochrane Motioned to approve, Miller second, voted.</p>
Old Business	<p>Joint Petition with TMLP and Verizon, Mr Miller asked if we had to do a public hearing. Town Administrator stated we did the certified letters for public notice per instructions from TMLP but we tabled making a decision because we had an abutter that was not happy. Town Administrator reached out to TMLP the pole will not be placed on anyones property and that it is to replace the pole on the opposite side of the road. Town Administrator reached out to Mr Flint and told him that conversation.</p>	<p>Cochrane motioned to approve a joint petition with TMLP and Verizon for a new joint pole location EL29-S S Main St Elm St, Miller 2nd, voted.</p>

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Update Berkley Botanicals They have received their full approval from the state to start moving towards construction.

New Business

Annual Town Meeting, Mr Miller stated that he spoke Steve from the Planning Board as to what the Planning Board is looking to put on the Warrant. 1st Article is rezoning a part of Padelford St, the 2nd Article is to make the Planning Board members terms from 3 year to 5 years. 3rd Article is called Corner Lots and Zoning Paul Bouchard has a good bylaw that would solve this problem. Mr Miller asked if Steve checked with Council regarding the 5 year term. Steve stated that it used to be 5 years and then it went to 3 years. Planning Board member stated that every other surrounding town is 5 years. Mr Miller wanted to know how long it would take to get the articles written up. Steve asked when we would want them. Mr Miller stated sooner rather than later. Steve stated he would get them to the Town Administrator. Town Administrator quoted MGL that states because we have not posted the Warrant the Board of Selectmen has the authority to postpone the Annual Town Meeting. If the Warrant was previously posted then the Moderator has the authority to postpone the meeting. Mr Miller would like to see how thing would unfold and not necessarily make that decision now. Town Administrator stated she didn't feel there was a zero chance of being able to get a quorum with 100 people within social distancing. Mr Miller felt we could make this decision in a couple of weeks from today because we would like to get more information. Town Administrator felt if the decision was made on April 29, 2020 to postpone at that point puts timing issue that would need to be considered. Ms Cochrane suggested having a meeting in a week to see if we have more guidance. Town Administrator stated most surrounding towns have rescheduled until the middle of June or end of June. Mr Miller would like more information from the State prior to making a decision with moving the Town meeting. Town Administrator stated it is not just a social distancing for an Annual Town Meeting that we will not have a State Financial Budget to even have a Town Meeting. Ms Cochrane suggested having a meeting next week and seeing what more information that has been released. Mr Miller did agree with the Town Administrator that it is highly unlikely that we will have a June 1, 2020 meeting.

Cochrane made a motion to table setting a date for Annual Town meeting until next meeting April 22, 2020, Miller second, voted.

Signing of Annual Town Election

Cochrane made a motion to sign the warrant for Annual Election, Miller 2nd, voted.

Update on Town Finances, Town Administrator gave an update on the House Ways and Means public Hearing. State Treasurer optimistic about the "Rainy Day" Fund the State has. MTS stating we are going to lose approximately Billions of dollars in lost revenue. i.e. sales tax, lottery etc. The main thing they are looking at is the bounce back on the economy weather that is a V, U, W, L. What does that mean for a town? Could be that we may not see number until after June 30. We could see loss of Tax Revenue. As of FY20 we are ok as for FY21 we are still unknown. Cole Cassidy is closed not sure how that will affect the SBRHS assessment if we have more students going there. Discussions continued regarding the SBRHS budget and how that will affect Berkley's budget. Mr Miller would like to have a joint meeting with Somerset and us regarding the current budget process.

Informational no action required.

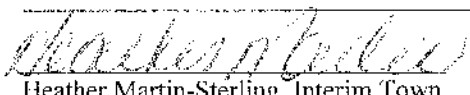
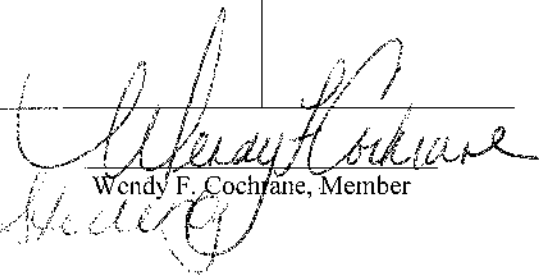
Request for common Use from Berkley Firefighters Association.

Cochrane motioned to approve the Common use to the Berkley Firefighters Association for June 21, 2020 7am - 5pm pending Police & Fire Chief Approval and pending social distancing, Miller 2nd, voted.

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		Cochrane motioned to approve the Common use to the Berkley Firefighters on Aug 16, 2020 from 7am – 5pm pending Police and Fire Chief approval and social distancing, Miller 2 nd , voted.
	Berkley Public Schools surplus items	Cochrane motion to wave any rights to the Berkley Schools surplus list, Miller 2 nd , voted.
Town Administrators Report	Brown Bag will happen this month. Mr Miller wanted to know if there was anyone that we would like to thank publicly. I stated there is lots of people helping with groceries, making masks, Fire Department making goodie bags, an individual that dressed up as the Easter Bunny.	Information no action required.
Public Input	Mr Miller addressed and email that was received by Valerie Murraray regarding the LMCC, LLC informational meeting that was scheduled in Taunton. The reason for this meeting was that the CCC changed how the meeting notice was supposed to be advertised and it needed to be 2 weeks and not 1 week so they were required to hold another meeting and issue another legal notice. If there are any other questions they should take it up with CCC.	Informational only no action required.
	Meeting adjourned next scheduled meeting April 22, 2020 at 10am on Zoom	Cochrane motioned to adjourn, Miller 2 nd , voted.

George F. Miller, Chairman
Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town
Administrator
Wendy F. Cochrane, Member