

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 7/22/2020

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: George F. Miller, Chairman Dean R. Larabee, Clerk Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:04pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room and via Zoom	
	Legal Notice the Board is considering reducing the quorum of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting in accordance with the Special Act signed by the Governor on June 4, 2020. The meeting to consider this matter will be held on July 22, 2020 at 6pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room, 1 N Main St., Berkley, MA. Board of Selectmen: George F. Miller, Dean Larabee, Wendy F. Cochrane read into the record by Selectman Cochrane. Mr Miller thanked Mr John Blake (Moderator) for coming. Mr Miller went on to say we are only doing this on a temporary basis due to COVID-19 and is recommended to reduce to 25 people. Ms Cochrane, and Mr Larabee also agreed. Mr Blake asked if they were recommending 25 and Mr Miller said yes, he was originally thinking 50 but a recommendation of 25 just to make sure because of the current health crisis. Discussion continued. Mr Miller asked if the meeting will be also on Zoom. The Town Administrator stated no that you would need a court order to have the meeting on Zoom.	Cochrane motion to reduce the quorum for July 27, 2020 Annual Town Meeting to 25, Larabee 2 nd , Voted
Minutes	Minutes June 24, 2020 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion with changes, Larabee 2 nd , voted
	Minutes July 8, 2020 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to accept, Larabee 2 nd Voted.
	Minutes July 8, 2020 – Executive Session	
	Minutes July 14, 2020 – Executive Session	
Appointment	Arlene Medeiros to Cultural Council	Cochrane Motion to appoint until June 2020, Larabee 2 nd , Voted.
Old Business	Update on Annual Town Meeting – Mr Miller asked what the update is the Town Administrator stated that she spoke with Jeff Cody about the sound and he has worked it out to have sound in both the Cafeteria and the Gym to make sure the chairs will be 6' apart and the front table will be 10' away from the front row. Mr Blake said if you are not speaking at the front table you will have to be wearing a mask and we will need a custodian to wipe down the microphone after each use. Mr Miller asked if there are any regulations that you are required to wear a mask if you are sitting at the front table.	Informational no action needed.
	Update on the Opening of Town Hall and resuming Wednesday evenings – Mr Miller asked the Town Administrator if I have spoken to any departments. Ms Martin-Sterling stated that she has not spoken to anyone regarding the Wednesday evening, but they have been open for about a week and a half and the volume is low of people coming into Town Hall. Ms Martin-Sterling stated that she recommends resuming Wednesday evenings starting next week as it was an off week for meetings. Mr Miller asked if there has been any more discussion about having a Officer checking people in and there has not been. Ms Cochrane stated they are still seeing a large amount of Tax Payers still mailing and using the drop box for the tax bills that are being paid. Discussion continued.	Larabee motion to resume Wednesday evenings starting July 29, 2020, Miller 2 nd , Cochrane abstained voted.
New Business	Marge Ghilarducci 2020 Commonwealth Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women – Ms Ghilarducci is attending via Zoom. Mr Miller read the accommodation into the record so we can acknowledge Ms Ghilarducci with her accomplishments. The Board members congratulated Ms Ghilarducci	Informational no action needed.

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Update on Planning Board Public Hearing regarding rezoning areas of Padelford St – Donna Leary confirmed it is 7 lots from residential to commercial the vote was 2 in favor 1 not in favor 1 abstained.

Informational no action needed.

New Assessment from Somerset Berkley Regional High School – Town Administrator stated that the Regional School Committee reduced the budget in the Assessment in the Town of Berkley's favor. With a decrease of \$78,000.00 Ms Martin-Sterling continued to stated that even with the reduction we had missed the Abatement and Exemption of back charges. Mr Miller asked if there was a reason it was missed. Ms Martin-Sterling stated that it just happened to be caught while putting together the motions for town meeting.

Larabee motion to approve new assessment from SBRHS new front sheet for budget FY21, /Cochrane 2 voted.

Board to discuss how Special Education for outsourced students is handled in the Berkley K-8 District. Mr Miller asked the Town Administrator if she could elaborate. Ms Martin-Sterling went on to state this was discovered during the current budget cycle and that large increase from the assessment on the SBRHS was partly from a large increase in the SPEDD costs. Ms Martin-Sterling stated that the driving cost for outplaced out of district SPEDD cost is a cost that is not something that can be predicted or planned. It is a cost that is dictated to us outside of the district. Even though we are 2 separate districts we are still K-12 all members of the Board agreed. Ms Martin-Sterling went on to explain that she reached out to our K-8 to see if we had any students that was the driving force of the approximate increases of \$500,000.00. Currently Berkley has 2 students on the K-8 side that was going into their freshman year that did contribute to a portion of that increase. The Town Administrator also stated that she is aware of a large increase on the Somerset side of things for FY22 for outsource Special Education Students. Ms Cochrane asked if we are a region and we are paying for our 2 students and Somerset has 10 students are we paying 28% of their students. Ms Martin-Sterling said yes we are. Ms Martin-Sterling suggested in the new agreement that has to be written maybe we change how the students are handled at that point. Somerset is estimating about 1 million dollars and under the assessment Berkley would be responsible for 28% of that and we will only grow out assessment at 3%. Mr Miller asked Mr Larabee if this has been discussed in their current regional meetings. The discussion continued. Mr Miller asked when the current agreement expired. Mr Larabee explained it doesn't expire but was reviewed 5 years ago and was never completed or sent to town floor, but that we should be looking into that now especially with a large increase coming up. Discussion continued. Melissa Abrego Director of Special Education for Berkley K-8 stated that it has been 5 years since we as a Town sent an out placed student to the district. Ms Abrego stated that we do try to keep our numbers very low and have a much lower percentage of students to other towns and try to keep our students in district as much as we can. She stated that she does share with them from time to time who was going and what the cost is so there is no surprises. Thomas Lynch, Superintendent stated that our Special Ed staff at the direction of Ms Abrego does a remarkable job in keeping our students in house. And that they were able to reduce the K-8 budget because the students went to the district and we had a student move out of the district. Discussion continued. Ms Martin-Sterling stated the reason for this conversation was to educated the tax payers on how this happens and that it is out of the control of the Board of Selectmen or the school district. Discussion continued

Informational no action needed.

Board to approve winning bid of the lighting project – Mr Lynch said he would like the Board to accept the bid from Young Electric which came in at \$168,298.00 which includes all inside lights and outside lights.

Cochrane motion to accept the bid from Young Electric, Larabee 2nd, voted.

Board to discuss potential zoning by-law change regarding Heli-pad – Mr Miller stated that this has been withdrawn and the Planning Board will be opening and closing the public hearing and would not be holding it and we will be withdrawing it at Town meeting as well.

Informational no action needed.

Personnel Board

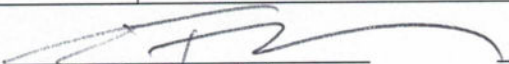
Taken out of order Interview Candidate for Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic – Mr Miller asked for him to introduce himself Joseph Inacio – Mr Miller asked if Chief Fournier had any comment and he did not. He did state the Joey was a part of our junior firefighter years ago Ms Cochrane stated she thinks the Joey will be a great asset to the town and is happy to see him as a full time Firefighter/Paramedic. Mr Miller asked if he would still be on the force in Brewster and he said no Berkley would be his full-time job and would give up Brewster.

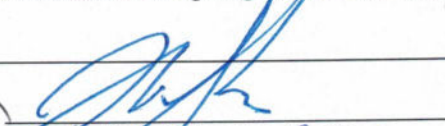
Cochrane motion to appoint Joseph Inacio as a FT FF/Para, Larabee 2 Voted.

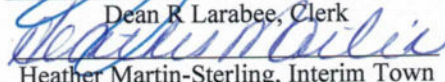
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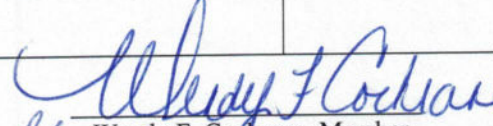
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Town Administrators Report	Just to let them know I will be putting on the agenda for the next meeting that there has been an inquiry on the purchase of 34 Green St and just wanted to give the board a heads up.	Informational no action needed.
Public Input	Aiden Pollock is on Zoom and wanted to give an update on the Berkley Clean up project. Aiden gave the official report of the June Berkley Town Clean up they had 46 volunteers and they picked up approximately 1,392.5 pounds of trash. Most of the trash was nips sold at the Common Store approximately 100 – 300 pounds of trash. Approximately 712 pounds of trash on Cotley St for illegal dumping tires, TV they picked up 25 tires at Cotely St. Mr Miller asked if Aiden could send the Town Administrator a written report so that we could pass it on to the Highway Surveyor. Mr Miller asked if this helped contribute to his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout, he said it did. Mr Miller would like to know when they would be doing that, he stated early Fall possibly in October. Mr Miller asked if he could let us know when he does get that so we may be able also give him a public citation.	Informational no action needed.
Personnel Board	Vote and Sign contract for Town Assessor Gary Hoitt Vote and Sign contract for Building Inspector Joseph Bizsko Town Administrator indicated there was a comment on Zoom from Deborah Peirera wanted to know how the contract was written and can be discussed. Ms Cochrane asked which contract. Deb stated the Town Assessors contract Mr Miller asked if she had a question on a specific provision of the contract or the entire contract. She stated in a comment the entire contract read. Ms Cochrane read the contract Cochrane motion to adjourn next schedule meeting August 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Larabee 2nd, voted.	Cochrane motion to accept contract as written, Larabee 2nd voted. Cochrane motion to accept contract as written, Larabee 2nd voted.


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R. Larabee, Clerk


Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator


Wendy F. Cochrane, Member