

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 1/6/2020

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	
Minutes	December 9, 2020 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2 nd voted
	December 22, 2020 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to approve, Larabee 2 nd voted
Meeting Mail	Geosyntec Consultants regarding 2020 Berkley Landfill Third-Party Inspection. Mr. Miller explained the report. The Board of Selectmen voted to file.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Letter from Gregory Unger regarding 15 Mill Street. Mr. Unger stated that he has been receiving complaints from his neighbor regarding a drainage issue. Mr. Miller stated that inspection and enforcement issues fall under the Board of Health, he also suggested reaching out to Joe Bisko, the Building Inspector. The Board of Selectmen voted to file.	Cochrane motion to file, Larabee 2 nd voted
	Invitation from School Committee on 2021/2022 Budget Proposal. Mr. Miller read the invitation.	Informational, no action needed
Old Business	Update on Myricks St project. Mr. Miller noted that nothing is in stone and discussed previously talked about ideas regarding the project along with volunteering and fundraising. Mr. Miller asked the Historical Commission to ensure in the next plan drawing to include a proposed area to put these items. Ms. Marge Ghilarducci stated that Byron Holmes did the lineation and stated that the wet lands is wider than the maps show. She also stated that Myricks field and Anthony St do not connect and is unsure if there is even enough room now. She stated that it was not worth sharing the drawing after Mr. Miller asked for it. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that the drawings are null and void because they do not know how much usable land they have. Discussion continued. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that the Berkley Historical Commission (BHC) is authorized to be part of town government and stated that the BHC is empowered to make decisions. Mr. Miller stated that the Board of Selectmen is required to approve these decisions. Ms. Cochrane asked where the money came from. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that it came from negotiations with Jean Fox, State Representative Norman Orrall and Senator Mark Pacheco. Discussion continued. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that this project is primarily for the people living in the Myricks area. Mr. Miller stated that it was a town project. Ms. Martin-Sterling, speaking as a tax payer, asking if her daughter is not allowed to use the field because she does not live in Myricks. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that anyone can use it but it is designed for the children and families of Myricks. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that she feels the Board of Selectmen is trying to take over the project. Mr. Miller stated that the Board of Selectmen cannot turn a blind eye, they have to do their job and make sure things are being done properly. Mr. Miller asked how all of the decisions are being made and reviewed? He noted that all decisions are supposed to be made in a public forum. He stated that there needs to be a posted meeting, a public meeting, and a vote with meeting minutes and not through email like she had previously mentioned. Mr. Miller stated that the Board of Selectmen cannot approve expenditures if the process was not done correctly. Mr. Larabee stated that he thought it was a great vision list, but it needs to do this on behalf of the citizens of Berkley, not just the citizens of Myricks area. Ms. Ghilarducci stated that she will not attend another meeting until she has something on paper that is viable. Mr. Miller asked to not have any engineers do any drawings until they can propose other suggestions to fit different pieces in. He also suggested having a joint meeting publicly posted to discuss further details to see where things can go. The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms. Ghilarducci. Mr. Andrew Whitmore, member of the BAA, asked who is responsible for getting engineers and finding people who are going to do it. Mr.	Informational, no action needed

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	Miller stated that they would like to see the BHC manage the project, but some of that is controlled by law. For example, putting it out to bid. The Board of Selectmen is required to approve expenditures but do have a significant amount of say. Ms. Tabitha Holmes, member of the BAA, stated that the BAA used the fields last year and \$200,000 is not going to cover clearing the land, let alone put in these other ideas and stated that the BAA can sit down and help develop a plan as well. She also asked about volunteer money, donations, prevailing wages regarding the project. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that they didn't have to pay a prevailing wage for the basketball court because it was all volunteered work but would have to if using town money. Ms. Martin-Sterling also noted that the money given was not a gift and not a grant, it was done through mitigation. The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms. Holmes for coming in. Update on reconfiguration of Town Hall Offices. Mr. Miller stated that nothing is in stone or decided on yet, it is just a discussion to see what works best. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that there is a huge need for storage and making full use of the full building. She stated that she had conversations with most department heads. The latest idea is to merge Assessors and Town Clerk in the Assessor's office, move ConCom, ZBA, and Board of Health into the current Planning Board office, moving Tax Collector Clerk to the current Building Inspector's office, and leaving the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Treasurer Clerk in the current office. She stated that current Board of Health office would be utilized as a record retention room. She stated that many Boards are saying there is no room for their records, this will utilize the building in a better capacity. Discussion continued. Mr. Miller liked the idea of centralization. Ms. Kerrie Ann Auclair, ConCom Clerk, stated that she liked the idea of pairing off in different ways to lessen traffic. Ms. Deborah Pereira, Town Clerk, stated that moving her office into a smaller space is not an option and stated that she is very busy during election time, and that she doesn't have access to the vault. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the Town Clerk had shared an office in the past, noting that the Building Inspector was originally in the Town Clerk Office. Mr. Miller stated that Ms. Martin-Sterling can reassess. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that they were possibly going to digitalize records to reduce space. Ms. Auclair asked about the conference rooms. Mr. Miller stated that he wants to keep things open for the future, but noted that both are currently being utilized but would use it for more storage if they chose to eliminate one.	Informational, no action needed
Town Administrator Report	Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the new milage rate was set. She stated that the new rate is .56 from .575.	Informational, no action needed
Public Input	Mr. Joe Freitas stated, referring back to Ms. Ghilarducci using the word 'elitists', that he hopes Senator Mark Pacheco did not use that word to paint a picture of those who serve this town.	Informational, no action needed
Personnel Board	Board to discuss posting of Assistant Town Administrator open position. Mr. Miller stated that this was budgeted in the past and were planning to fill the position but was delayed due to COVID. He stated that they are not adding the position or opening it for any specific individual. He suggested posting in house until filled and externally for 2 weeks. He stated that the pay scale would be \$18-\$20 an hour. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated it should be a salary position but based on that pay grade. The Board of Selectmen voted to post the Assistant Town Administrator position. Board to discuss the expiration of FFCRA. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the federal government decided last year to add an additional 2 weeks to FMLA that ended on December 31, 2020. She stated that she was asked by the school if the town will extend it on their own because of personnel quarantine for COVID reasons. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she reached out to a few surrounding towns and stated the following. Swansea and Dighton extended it ask previously written. East Bridgewater only extended to anyone but first responders. Halifax, Mattapoisett, and Avon did nothing. Lastly, Easton did a modified version; if quarantined due to COVID because of something outside of the work place, the employee has to use their own sick time. If an employee is quarantined due to COVID because of something inside the work place, the town would pay. She also stated	WC motion to post, Larabee 2nd voted Cochrane motion to accept based on Easton guidelines, Larabee 2nd voted.

1/16/2021
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Adjournment	that they can only use the CARES Act for first responders. Ms. Martin-Sterling read the scenarios. Discussion continued. Ms. Cochrane stated that she liked the modified version because it better protects the town. The Board of Selectmen voted to accept based on Easton guidelines. Ms. Cochrane stated that the next meeting with be January 20, 2021. The Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn.	Cochrane motion to adjourn, Larabee 2nd voted
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George F. Miller, Chairman

Dean R Larabee, Clerk

Wendy F Cochrane, Member

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator