

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/17/2021

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:00pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room and via Zoom	
Appointments	Taken out of order. Board to discuss and appoint open Planning Board Seat. Planning Board voted to open their meeting; Mr. Steve Castolina, Mr. Marc Olivera, and Mr. Paul Megna present. It was noted that there were 4-5 possible candidates. Mr. Miller felt it was not crucial to fill the seat at this time as it is not an emergency situation and would take time to interview and would lead into the middle of elections. The Board of Selectmen and Planning Board voted to table the appointment.	Cochrane motion to table, Larabee 2 nd voted
Minutes	January 27, 2021 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to table, Larabee 2 nd voted
	February 3, 2021 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to table, Larabee 2 nd voted
Meeting Mail	Letter from Berkley School Committee on surplus items. The Board of Selectmen voted to file the letter from Berkley School Committee on surplus items.	Larabee motion to file, Cochrane 2 nd voted
	Email from Library on surplus items. Mr. Miller thought that the items may be useful especially with the reconfiguration of Town Hall. The Board of Selectmen voted to file the email from Library on surplus items.	Larabee motion to file, Cochrane 2 nd voted
	Letter from MassDOT regarding MBTA Forging Ahead Service Proposal Environmental Notification Form.	Larabee motion to file, Cochrane 2 nd voted
	Letter from Highway Department regarding snow removal account. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the Town Accountant said the Highway Department was \$7,600 deficit for snow removal. Ms. Martin-Sterling suggested with the 2-day storm approaching, opening up deficit spending. She noted that it is what the Board of Selectmen have done in the past. The Board of Selectmen voted to allow the Highway Department to deficit spend until the end of snow season.	Larabee motion to allow deficit spending, Cochrane 2 nd voted
Old Business	Update on Myricks St Project. Mr. Miller stated that there was no update on the Myrick's St Project.	Informational, no action needed
	Update on Master Plan. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that if the Board is looking to get this on Annual Town meeting in June, she recommended putting some type of deadline for comments and changes. Mr. Miller stated they will strive to have it by next meeting.	Informational, no action needed
New Business	Update on Berkley Public Schools Superintendent search. Mr. Larabee stated that the Superintendent Search Committee met last week and interviewed 5 candidates for the position. He noted that the Committee voted to send 3 of the candidates for a final interview. He stated that the candidates are Jane Daly, current Assistant Superintendent of Chariho Regional School District in Rhode Island, Melissa Ekans-Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Bourne Schools, and Timothy McLaughlin, Principal of Howard School K-6 in West Bridgewater. Mr. Larabee stated that the final interviews will be at the next School Committee Meeting which has not yet be determined. He also mentioned that compensations are still being negotiated.	Informational, no action needed

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	Update on SBRHAS formula. Mr. Larabee stated that the Regional Planning study has been working to address a few items, one being the SBRHS formula. He stated that the formula is being revised to break out of district spend costs, which he noted was a big part of the budget, and a disproportionate amount of those costs are currently coming from Somerset. He stated that the concept of the formula is for special education costs that are born by the delivering K-8 districts to continue to be the responsibility of those K-8 districts. He noted that the current formula change will be a positive for the Town of Berkley. Mr. Larabee mentioned they are still in the process approvals.	Informational, no action needed
Town Administrator Report	COVID-19 Vaccine update. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that the state has not been issued any new orders of the vaccines to local governments. She noted that the order that came out today will start March 1 st and local Boards of Health's and local municipalities will not get any vaccines for 1 st dose but could potentially be getting the 2 nd dose. They are directing people to the mass vaccine locations. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated she is very frustrated with this information. She did mention that there is a new mass vaccine location at the old Circuit City in Dartmouth and will start taking appointments tomorrow. She stated that they are still going to try to still get the vaccines but the state has stopped all local deliveries.	Informational, no action needed
Public Input	Ms. Tabitha McCrohan mentioned that Stop and Shop in Fall River is also doing vaccines.	Informational, no action needed
Personnel Board	Appointment of Council on Aging Director. Mr. Miller stated that they interviewed many good candidates in a joint meeting with Council on Aging. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated she will be starting on Monday. The Board of Selectmen voted to enter into a contract and offer the Council on Aging Director position to Amanda Blais.	Larabee motion to enter into contract and offer the COA position to Amanda Blais, Miller 2 nd voted
Executive Session	The Board of Selectmen voted for Board to go into Executive Session under Ch 30A § 21 (a) 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; review of matter presented, votes may be taken, and will not return to regular session. Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 3, 2021.	Larabee motion to go into Executive Session and not return to Regular Session, Cochrane 2 nd voted

George F. Miller, Chairman

Dean R. Larabee, Clerk

Wendy F. Cochrane, Member

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator