

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 2/3/2021

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

TOPIC		ACTION
	Meeting Convened at 6:10pm in the Moitoza – Pettey Hearing Room and via Zoom	
Personnel Board	Taken out of order. Interview with candidate for Temporary Fire/EMS. Mr. Scott Fournier, Fire Chief, stated that this temporary position is to replace someone out sick. He stated that they interviewed 4 other candidates and would like to hire Mr. Christopher Connors tomorrow. The Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Christopher Connors to be the temporary Fire/EMT for Berkley.	Cochrane motion to appoint Christopher Connors, Larabee 2 nd voted
Call to Order	Demonstration from Text My Gov. Mr. Colin Mackey described Text My Gov via presentation. He stated that they only serve government agencies. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she sees a lot of benefits, especially during COVID. She noted that there is CARES money left over to be able to fund this year. There is a \$2,500 annual cost with 50,000 texts per year and texts roll over if not used each year. Ms. Martin-Sterling noted that it is strictly text messages with 400 characters per message. She stated that citizens would have to sign up for it. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Mackey.	Informational, no action needed
Minutes	January 20, 2021 – Regular Session	Cochrane motion to accept, Larabee 2 nd voted
Meeting Mail	Notice from Town Clerk on Annual Town Election. Mr. Miller noted that the Annual Town Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the Berkley Community School 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. The last day to obtain nomination papers is March 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM, last day to submit papers to Board of Registrars is March 19, 2021 at 5:00 PM, last day for Registrars to file certified papers with Town Clerk is April 2, 2021, last day to withdraw or object a nomination papers is April 6, 2021 at 5:00 PM, last day to register to vote for election is April 16, 2021 at 8:00 PM, and pre-election campaign finance reports are due by April 30, 2021. Mr. Miller stated that the offices that are going to be on the ballot are selectmen; 1 seat for 3 years, treasurer; 1 seat for 3 years, Board of Assessors; 1 seat for 3 years, Planning Board; 1 seat for 3 years, 1 seat for 4 years, and 1 seat for 1 year, Board of Health; 1 seat for 3 years, School Committee; 2 seats for 3 years, Library Trustee; 1 seat for 3 years, Cemetery Commissioner; 1 seat for 3 years. Annual Town Meeting will be held Monday, June 7, 2021 and last day to register for to vote for Annual Town Meeting will be May 11, 2021 at 8:00 PM.	Informational, no action needed
Old Business	Board to discuss and vote on reconfiguration of Town Hall offices. Mr. Miller stated that any boards that deal with the public have a window cut out. He noted that the current Board of Health office cannot have a window cut in it because of electrical wiring. He stated that if that is the case, then that office would be more ideal for an office that doesn't deal with the public. He mentioned that moving the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen office into the current Board of Health office might be tight. He also stated that measurements of the current Town Accountant office and the current Board of Health office isn't much different and should be a consideration, as it would open up the current Town Accountant office and would be able to put a window in it. Mr. Miller stated that another concern is the noise by moving the Town Accountant. Ms. Cochrane stated, regarding the Town Accountant moving to the Board of Health office, that noise is a valid concern and doesn't think now is the time to move that office. Ms. Cochrane stated that she believes the Town Administrator should be alone because it is a confidential office. Discussion continued. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that only 1 desk would need to be purchased for the Zoning Board of Appeals and noted that people will move, not desks. She noted that phone lines are easily transferrable. Mr. Miller mentioned that once files and paperwork begin getting scanned in, it will free up a lot of storage space. Mr. Miller read the outline presented from	Cochrane motion to reorganize the town hall reconfiguration as expressed in plan presented this evening, Larabee 2 nd voted

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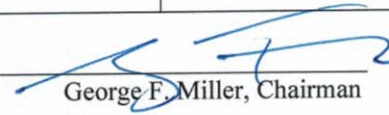
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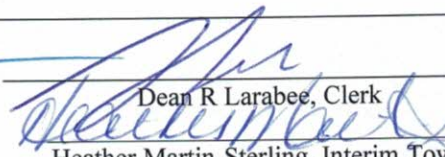
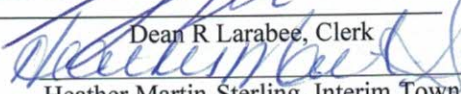
	the Town Administrator into the record. The Board of Selectmen voted to reorganize Town Hall Office Buildings as expressed. Update from Engineer company on Myricks St project. Mr. Miller stated that Ms. Martin-Sterling reached out to the Engineer company that was contracted. The Engineer company stated that they had started but are waiting for additional wet lands to be flagged on the site by Bryon Holmes and will complete the survey when he is done flagging and dependent on weather. Mr. Miller also noted that Mr. Holmes is doing the flagging on a pro bono basis. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Holmes for the donation of his time. Update on Master Plan. Mr. Steve Castelina opened the Planning Board meeting. Mr. Miller stated that he thinks there are many positive things in the Master Plan, but the biggest concern is keeping the town rural. He stated that they shouldn't be approving a master plan that doesn't have town meeting's blessings. Mr. Miller stated that he does not think multifamily housing, cluster zoning, or apartments would pass at town meeting. He also mentioned that he does not think anything regarding public transportation, i.e., GATRA, would not pass, unless it is purely tailored towards seniors. Mr. Larabee stated a few of his concerns and suggested softening the language. Mr. Eric Abreene, from SRPEED, stated that there are no mandates, it is only to help with the implementation and planning process. He also mentioned that the Master Plan is only a draft and they are able to edit or eliminate things to look at different options. Mr. Miller stated that the goal is to preserve Berkley but will also have the most success at Town Meeting. Mr. Paul Megna, Planning Board member, asked what this was costing the town. Mr. Abreene stated that it was \$20,000. He mentioned that the Town did get a Community Compact Grant. Mr. Steve Castelina suggested making it more general and we shouldn't be wishing for things that we don't want or need. Mr. Megna stated, regarding cluster housing, that it would be hard for a town with public wells and septic systems. Mr. Miller stated that right now it would be difficult, but the suggestion was to update the zoning laws. Discussion continued. Ms. Melinda Paine-Dupont stated that nothing could happen until zoning laws change. She also mentioned that the wording is the same used in other towns and that nothing is a mandate. Mr. Miller stated that he wants to make sure it all passes at Town Meeting. He does not think there is a need for certain things, like rental properties. He stated that, for the most part, people move to Berkley for space and single-family homes. He stated that a master plan in Berkley should reflect what the Town can do zoning wise and to slow down residential development. He stated that any provisions should be geared to slowing the rate of development and looking at ways to bring in commercial development that will also provide much needed tax dollars. Discussion continued. Mr. Abreene stated that they extended the public input deadline but only received 3 comments. Referring to the rural policy plan, Mr. Miller stated that it sounds like taking rural areas and making them not rural. He noted that he has not heard people asking for more housing. Ms. Martin-Sterling, on behalf of the Police and Fire Chief, stated that their biggest concern was that no one approached them about their needs. Mr. Abreene stated that he did reach out to the Fire Chief and said that they had some space issues, but did not hear anything from the Police Chief. Discussion continued. Mr. Castelina mentioned with increased housing, increases traffic, and does not think this should happen all over town. He also stated that he doesn't think Berkley should adopt standard language because Berkley is different. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Abreene and the committee for their time.	Informational, no action needed. Informational, no action needed.
Town Administrator Report	Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she had a meeting with the Fire Chief and the Board of Health Chairman, and discussed getting the vaccine in Berkley. Matt Tanis, the town's MAVEN representative, has offered to lead. Ms. Martin-Sterling stated that she has filed the paperwork with the state and is just waiting to hear back. She noted that there would only be 100 vaccines given per week due to the national shortage. She also mentioned that the Town Hall building is set to open on Monday, but the Board of Health recommended staying closed to the public and only by appointment only. Mr. Miller stated that he is still set on opening, except for the Council on Aging. He noted that we are past the rush of taxes and dog licenses. Ms. Cochrane stated that she would like to discuss the Council on Aging opening next meeting.	Informational, no action needed.

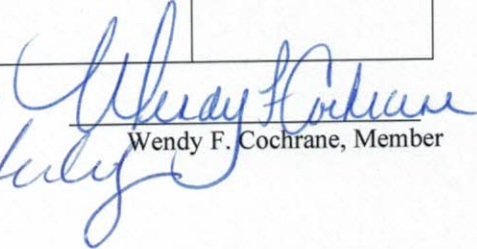
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Public Input	Mr. Larabee mentioned that they Superintendent search committee started last week and interviews will be starting next week.	Informational, no action needed.
Executive Session	The Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn open session and for Board to go into Executive Session under Ch 30 A§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 be returning to regular session. The next meeting will be February 17, 2021.	Cochrane motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session, Larabee 2 nd voted


George F. Miller, Chairman


Dean R. Larabee, Clerk

Heather Martin-Sterling, Interim Town Administrator


Wendy F. Cochrane, Member